

## **Walker 1111**

### **Chapter 1111 Life In The Echo Conch Kingdom**

This was the first time Lin Mu was seeing the Echo Conch kingdom and estimated that the size of the entire kingdom was about the same size as that of Wu Lin city. Though there were also some smaller islands around the main island. But they weren't big enough to be called cities or anything.

At most, these islands could house ten to twenty houses, but not much. From what Lin Mu learned about the Echo Conch kingdom, the lower class of the people that would be the same as the peasants would live on these smaller islands. And those that were even poor would not have actual land to live at all.

Rather, these people would have to make do with their boats.

In an island nation such as the Echo Conch kingdom, every inch of the land was valuable and expensive. Even on the main island, the ones that could live either did so temporarily or were rich enough to stay there permanently. There was also a tax system in the kingdom which made it so that those who did not have the permission to stay on the main island permanently would have to pay the kingdom a certain amount for each day that they stayed on the main island.

Of course, most of the trades here happened in goods and one didn't necessarily need to use hard currency or coins to pay the tax either. Many fishermen and traders had this tax cut at the time of the entry and whenever they sold their goods.

'No wonder the smuggling trade is so popular here. With a daily tax like this, not many would be able to afford it. And those that live on those smaller islands don't have the proper supply of water and other necessities either.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The only source of fresh water was on the main island and came from two main places. First was the underground spring, that was protected by the kingdom's own guards. This was said to be the protected supply of water, and only the royal court had access to it. Other than this, there was the lake located in the center of the island.

This was the main supply of the entire kingdom, and everyone would buy this water. There were channels dug out from its sides that would be used to water the few crops that grew here. Because the land was very rare and precious, the crops that were grown in this land were not common grains or vegetables either.

Instead what grew here was a special kind of beans. These were called as Mist Echo Beans and were a kind of spirit herbs too. What was unique about them was that they didn't need spirit qi rich areas to grow, but rather the unique soil that existed in the Echo Conch kingdom. These Mist Echo beans were used to refine oils that were used in alchemy.

But other than this, the Mist Echo Beans had other uses too. For example, the dried and fermented flowers of the mist Echo beans had hallucinogenic properties and could give one an euphoric high when consumed. There was also a special wine distilled from the fresh flowers that was high in demand.

These were the high value cash products of the Echo Conch kingdom that they specialized in. Though if it were not for the fact these things didn't really affect cultivators, there was no way the Echo Conch

kingdom would have been able to keep all this safe to themselves. Rather, these products were something that the mortals used the most.

Lin Mu also observed the commoners and their lives before checking the cultivators that were in the kingdom.

Another thing that was special about the Echo Conch Kingdom was that there were no cultivation sects here. Nearly all cultivators of the kingdom instead worked for the Royal court or the royal family as they were the only ones that had the cultivation resources. The sales and trade of cultivation resources was almost monopolized by the royal court and if someone wanted to do any business related to it, they would need to get permission from them.

This was also one of the reasons why the alliance had not suspected of Gu Yao hiding here. With all the power being in the hands of the Echo Conch kingdom's royal court, he would have to either control them all or get official permission. Either of those would have resulted in him being found out.

Lin Mu saw less than four hundred cultivators in the entire kingdom and the number of core condensation realm cultivators was a measly thirty.

"Three Nascent soul realm cultivators in the entire kingdom. One is in the palace, one is in the hidden courtyard behind the royal palace and one is... in the water?" Lin Mu observed the 'experts' of the kingdom.

He could understand the two cultivators in the palace and behind it, but the one in the water made him feel strange.

"What's he doing over there?" Lin Mu extended his spirit sense and saw an old man.

His body was surrounded by an air bubble, and the runes were also present around it. It was evident that he was using some spirit tool to keep the water away. Though the state of the old man wasn't exactly fine. There were several injuries on his body and even teeth marks!

~SHUA~

Deep in the water some distance from the kingdom, a large fish was swimming around. It had sharp teeth and its cultivation base was also at the Nascent soul realm. This fish and the old man were seemingly in a battle, but neither of them were coming out on top.

But while Lin Mu was observing it all, he heard something from the ships near the area.

"Oh? He's the royal general of the kingdom?" Lin Mu heard from the conversations of the soldiers.

They seemed to be worried and could see blood in the water appearing from time to time.

### **Chapter 1112 A Helping Hand**

There were soldiers in the ships surrounding the area where the old man and the fish were fighting. They were apparently here to kill the aquatic beast that had been causing trouble in the past few months. And since this beast was also at the Nascent soul realm, the royal general of the kingdom had to come here personally.

No one else was a match for the beast. Lin Mu watched the old man fight for a while before seeing him retreat in defense.

~REEEE~

An inaudible sound wave spread from the fish that the old man had been battling. The sound wave moved through the water uninterrupted and spread in a wide area. Lin Mu narrowed his brows as he guessed what was happening.

The old man reacted quickly to and directly rose up from the water.

"RETREAT!!!! I REPEAT RETREAT!!!" The old man shouted loudly.

His words sent the soldiers into a frenzy as they quickly raised the anchors and turned their ships around.

~SWOOSH~

Unfortunately for them, they were a little too late. Out of nowhere, waves as tall as ten meters appeared!

Several such waves surrounded the ships and slammed into them.

~BOOM~

One of the ships directly cracked from the impact and many of the soldiers on it fell to the ground.

Lin Mu who saw it all, observed the tens of thousands of fishes hidden in the waves. These fishes looked the same as the one that was fighting the old man, except they were much smaller in size, with the smallest being less than a pinky finger in size.

"That Nascent soul realm fish can actually control its spawn to raise waves like these? Aquatic beasts are truly on a different level." Lin Mu muttered before flicking his finger as a gray blur shot out from it.

Back in the ocean, the old man looked at the ships in anger.

"DAMN YOU ALL BEASTS!" He shouted in rage.

He could see that from the ship that had sunk, over half of the soldiers were already dead and were being feasted upon by the fishes.

In a small kingdom like the Echo Conch kingdom, man power was valuable as well, especially skilled manpower like the soldiers that needed quite a few resources and effort to train.

~SWOOSH~

The old man tried to attack the Nascent soul realm fish, but it was faster than him in the water. It easily dodged his attack and controlled its spawn to attack once more.

Several tall waves rose in the air, this time even bigger than before.

The soldiers who watched it all were left terrified and frozen in despair.

"Is this our end?" they wondered.

~SHING~

Unknown to them, a gray streak had suddenly entered the water.

~SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~

Suddenly, the waves turned red, as if roses were blooming within them!

"What?" the old man was confused too.

His spirit sense spread around and detected something. Snapping his neck to the back, his eyes locked onto a particular spot.

"How?!" The old man was stunned to see the foe that he had been battling was already dead.

The corpse of the Nascent soul realm fish floated up, its head having been pierced and a finger thick hole present there now. The large waves that had formed earlier had disappeared as well and melded back into the ocean, leaving behind patches of blood that were rapidly fading away in the water.

"We... we're safe?" the soldiers couldn't believe their eyes.

One moment they were in the jaws of death and could only watch on in despair, and now they were free.

The old man was the same, but he quickly composed himself. He picked up the corpse of the Nascent soul realm beast before returning to the biggest ship.

~thud~

The corpse fell on the deck of the ship, while the old man landed as well.

"What happened, general?" the commander of the ship asked.

But the old man didn't answer him. Instead, he cupped his hands and raised them in the air.

"This old man thanks great senior from the bottom of his heart!" the old man exclaims loudly.

His voice was heard in all the ships nearby. The soldiers who heard this were surprised at first but quickly followed after the old man.

"WE THANK GREAT SENIOR FOR SAVING US!"

Everyone stayed in the same position for about a minute before the old man assumed his normal self.

"Who saved us, general?" the commander asked in a low voice.

"I don't know either... but from the way they acted and how swift they were, they should be a great expert." The old man replied.

"Huh? Is there someone from the sect visiting us?" the commander asked.

"No... there are none. This should be a passing expert who decided to help us on a whim." The old man answered.

"Then the great senior is truly benevolent." The commander said with gratitude.

While this was all happening, Lin Mu stood several kilometers away with a plain expression. A thin gray blade floated beside him, stained with blood.

Waving his hand, Lin Mu stored it away and looked in the direction from where the swarm of fishes had come from.

"Did you sense it too, Little Shrubby?" Lin Mu asked.

"Mhmm... that aura is similar to the mutant beasts." Little Shrubby replied.

"Hmmm... if those fishes had traces of their aura, it means they have been staying somewhere close to a 'Reborn'. It does make sense, Gu Yao wouldn't stay calm without a contingency plan." Lin Mu spoke.

"But if there is a Reborn there, then... the node of the plane should be there as well. I doubt Gu Yao would let the reborn be without his control." He guessed.

This was the reason why Lin Mu had decided to help out the old man and the soldiers. He sensed a hint of mutant beast aura from the fishes and upon killing them, all the auras hidden within their bodies was released.

This helped him get a proper trace of the aura and estimate where the said reborn might be hidden. After all, Lin Mu's duty as a world's ordained was to eradicate all traces of the invader, which would include the Reborn as well.

Finding a node to the plane was simply an additional bonus.

### **Chapter 1113 A Peak Dao Treading Realm Reborn**

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby moved to where the node was supposed to be at.

"It's underwater huh..." Lin Mu muttered and looked at little Shrubby.

He knew that Little Shrubby had a dislike of water and wouldn't be as good of a help to him there. Lin Mu only needed to get rid of the reborn there anyway and get a trace of the plane's node.

Once he had the trace, Lin Mu would be able to open a portal to the plane anywhere.

"Wait for me here, Little Shrubby." Lin Mu spoke.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied and watched Lin Mu rapidly descend.

~SPLASH~

Lin Mu's body hit the water and the armor of the Mortal Strengthening scripture prevented him from getting drenched. He continued to sink in the water before spreading his spirit sense and going in the direction where he sensed the aura of the reborn from.

The depth of the water in this area wasn't as deep as where the general of the Echo Conch kingdom had fought the fish beast. This area was a lot closer to the main island of the Echo conch kingdom and thus the land mass was greater.

In less than a minute, Lin Mu ended up reaching the bottom of the ocean. There were coral everywhere and vibrant marine life spread all over the ocean floor. It was colorful and looked rather beautiful.

"This is nice." Lin Mu muttered as he moved towards a particular area.

The area was a trench hidden between two ridges. There were corals hiding the opening of the trench and thus, most people might just miss it. And even if they did notice it, it wasn't like they would know that a reborn was hiding there either.

Lin Mu quickly entered it and directly sank to the bottom. With his great weight, there was no problems of floating around randomly or being pushed by the water currents. He was like a heavy anchor, immovable.

Once Lin Mu was at the bottom of the trench, he could see the water had turned a darker shade.

"This doesn't seem good..." Lin Mu furrowed his brows.

He said this because he could sense the tainted water attribute spirit Qi here. While Lin Mu couldn't absorb it, he could still sense it due to his experience with the Glacial Shell Snail queen flesh before.

In addition to the water attribute spirit Qi, which was always present in the ocean, he also sensed something else.

'The aura of the invader is tainting the water and in turn, affecting the aquatic beasts that live here. Guess this is another effect we didn't know before.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The Reborn he had encountered before were all on land, and thus there was no way for their aura to affect the others easily. Unless and until they directly touched or came in contact with others, they wouldn't infect them.

But in the ocean, where almost everything was in contact with water, the aura was being directly infused into it and spreading to others. The only plus point was that it was diluted and wouldn't affect other beasts easily.

Lin Mu followed his spirit sense and saw that there was a tunnel leading to some place from this trench. Continuing through this tunnel, Lin Mu eventually reached a wide open area.

"There's actually air here?" Lin Mu was surprised.

~shua~

Lin Mu ascended upward and left the water. He could see that he was in a wide cave, much like the ones he had seen the reborn in before. There were runes carved on all the wall and a sealing formation array was also established.

But that was not all, as Lin Mu could see a platform that was partially covered with water and partially dry.

It was on this platform that the being he had been looking for was sleeping. The beast was strange and certainly mutated, hanging a long body like that of a shark, but also the claws of a land beast.

Then there was its mouth that was filled with thousands of sharp teeth and tentacles that were attached to the sides of its mouth.

Its skin was black and tarry, just like that of the other reborn and a repulsive aura was rising from it.

"Ugh... this is the worst of them all." Lin Mu muttered.

From the aura that he was sensing from the reborn, he could at least tell that this reborn was the strongest he had ever seen.

'It should be at least equivalent to that of a peak Dao Treading realm expert...' Lin Mu estimated.

Such a being would be terrifying if it were released out in the open ocean. Lin Mu could only imagine the level of devastation it would spread.

"And that's not all... this cave... is also located right below the main island of the Echo Conch kingdom." Lin Mu realized after using his spirit sense to get a better measurement of the area.

Lin Mu's gaze lingered over the reborn as he assessed it for a bit.

"Let's get rid of it then..." Lin Mu said before blinking and appearing closer to the beast.

He raised his hand and pointed it at the beast.

"MELD!" Activating the ring's skill, Lin Mu manipulated the space.

~SHUA~

With Lin Mu's improved control over the space and increase comprehension, he could sense the fine changes and easily split the being apart several times.

"STORE!" once Lin Mu was sure that the being was finely chopped and would have a hard time regenerating, he stored it away in the ring.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a breath of relief after getting rid of the beast.

'The spirit Qi expenditure surely does increase for beings with greater cultivation base.' Lin Mu thought as he measured his spirit Qi.

The ring had used higher than normal spirit Qi for meld as he had killed a peak Dao Treading realm equivalent being. Lin Mu was sure he could have directly beaten it up too, but didn't want to risk the beast escaping or damaging the area.

After all, they were underneath the ocean and under an island. It was fine if a reborn caused havoc on the land, but here, if anything happened, there was a great chance the entire echo conch kingdom might just sink.

Lin Mu was well experienced in collateral area damage, having done a lot of it himself. With the experience of breaking literal mountains with his fists, Lin Mu knew the Reborn would have no problems sinking the entire kingdom.

With the beast gone, Lin Mu saw the runes appearing in the air.

"So they are linked with the beast... but with it gone, they having nothing to target." Lin Mu muttered.

"You can take this chance to tap into them. See if you can find a direct link to the plane where Gu Yao is hiding." Xukong suggested.

"I will senior." Lin Mu nodded and quickly used his spirit sense to link up with the exposed nodes of the formation array.

With the main dependant subject of the formation array gone, it was like an armor without a person inside. Lin Mu soon traced the layers and accessed the formation nodes.

"I got it." Lin Mu said after a few minutes, having discovered something.

"What is it?" Xukong asked.

"Just like we thought. Gu Yao wasn't going to let a reborn go without his control here. He kept the formation array that sealed the reborn linked with another smaller formation. This one had traces of spatial disturbance around it." Lin Mu replied.

"Good! Now you can simply use that to get the right coordinates." Gu Yao stated.

"Indeed." Lin Mu nodded his head and walked up to a certain part of the cave.

There were a few obscure runes written here and were arranged into a formation. This was none other than the part linking the sealing formation array to the hidden plane.

Lin Mu placed his hand over the formation and let the ring do the rest.

~hum~

The ring hummed, and spatial disturbances appeared in the air. Lin Mu could literally see the air flicker and tear.

"That should be enough." Lin Mu took his hand off the formation after the ring hummed again.

"Let's return to Little Shrubby now." Lin Mu said before directly flying up and phasing through the solid ground.

A minute later, he had left the ocean and appeared next to Little Shrubby.

"You're back. Did you find it?" Little Shrubby said.

"I did. We were correct." Lin Mu replied.

"Time to kill then?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Time to kill indeed..." Lin Mu said as a cold light flashed in his eyes.

He closed them for a moment before opening them again. His spatial perception activated and allowed him to see the weaker points in the space.

Lin Mu wanted to keep his point of entry a little farther from the Echo Conch kingdom, as there was a chance that he might end up damaging it when he would destabilize the plane.

After a few seconds of looking around, Lin Mu found a spot half a kilometer away from the main island that had a weakness in the spatial fabric.



"There, that should be good enough." Lin Mu pointed before Little Shrubby carried him there.

Lin Mu pointed with his hand and activated the ring.

~SHUA~

~RIP~

Spatial energy spread from the ring and showed its effect. The air in front of Lin Mu trembled before a long black tear appeared in it.

Lin Mu expanded his hands and the black tear turning into a black crack, which eventually turned into a portal!

### **Chapter 1114 Restricted Spirit Qi And A Room Of Impure Yin Qi**

With the portal having opened stably, Lin Mu first peered into it. After all, he didn't know where the portal would lead to in the hidden plane. All Lin Mu knew was that it would link to it, but the exact location of it would be unknown.

'Don't want to walk literally into a prison of some sort...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Extending his spirit sense into the portal, Lin Mu did a quick sweep of the area.

"What is this place?" Lin Mu found the area inside the portal to be very strange.

'My spirit sense is restricted?' Lin Mu was surprised.

No matter how much he tried to extend his spirit sense, it was as if trying to swim in mud. Even with the full force of his spirit sense, Lin Mu could only look around the immediate area around the portal.

"What's the issue? Is there a formation array restricting you?" Xukong asked.

"No... I don't think it's a formation array. The feeling is different. It's as if... there is something other than spirit Qi filling that area, making it hard for my spirit sense to move. It's also dense... as if a drop of water in a pool of mercury." Lin Mu explained.

Xukong's expression furrowed as he thought of possible options.

"How about you try a recording spirit tool and see what's inside first?" Xukong suggested.

"Yeah, I can try that." Lin Mu replied and took out a small mirror that was about the size of a palm.

It was a spirit tool that had formations that could record the scenes that were reflected on it. This was a rather expensive spirit tool and was classified as a high grade spirit tool. Lin Mu had obtained it from the Ripple Mist sect earlier.

He had several of these, but this one was the best of them and also the most durable. Which was important since Lin Mu didn't know what was hidden behind the portal.

~shua~

The small mirror entered the portal being held in Lin Mu's hand and stayed there for a few seconds, while Lin Mu turned it around. Once he was satisfied, Lin Mu pulled it back and activated it.

~shing~

A faint light flickered on the mirror, before a scene appeared on it.

"What's this?" Lin Mu looked at the micro which showed an empty room filled with dark smoke.

The smoke swirled around and let him glance at the empty room from between the smoke wisps. After a few seconds, Lin Mu also saw a closed door on one end of the room.

Xukong who also saw it though was surprised.

"That's Yin Qi..." Xukong revealed.

"THAT'S YIN QI?!" Lin Mu exclaimed, as this was different than he had seen.

"Indeed... it's impure from though. Similar to the crystal from the ruins. Though there is certainly something else added to it as well." Xukong replied.

"I see... still we can enter it if it's just that." Lin Mu said.

"If something does happen, you can always escape the place." Xukong reminded. "Keep your ring ready."

"Yes senior." Lin Mu said before looking at Little Shrubby. "I'll enter first, and tell you if it's safe."

"Okay!" Little Shrubby responded in agreement.

Lin Mu nodded his head and entered the portal.

~shua~

He could feel the spirit Qi touching his skin disappearing and replacing it was the impure yin Qi. It felt like there was a weird gas hovering around it.

"Ugh... this is worse than the ruin." Lin Mu muttered as he activated the mortal strengthening scripture at full power.

It was surprising that the impure yin Qi could still affect him over the armor and even his gold skin. Usually they would prevent anything that could harm his body from reaching him. But this seemed to be rather different.

But now, Lin Mu could at least look at the room properly.

"There are vents on the sides." Lin Mu noticed what looked like grill plates attached to the sides of the ceilings.

"Not just that, there are runes inscribed too." Xukong spoke up.

Lin Mu raised his brows and approached the walls to check closely, finding that it was true.

"Without spirit sense it's hard to perceive them." Lin Mu muttered and tried to read the runes.

After five minutes, he could make sense of it and realized what the runes were for.

"A channeling formation and a circulation formation? Is this room an exhaust?" Lin Mu wondered.

He had seen these formations being used in the refinement halls where alchemical pills or spirit tools were refined. Often times volatile and toxic fumes would be produced from them, that would need to be removed.

These formations would help in that and would send the fumes to another closed room that would be the exhaust room. Here they would either be stored in some other container or be purified if it was possible.

"Doesn't seem like there is any secondary processing here." Lin Mu said seeing the impure yin Qi just floating around.

"There is also a possibility that they simply have no way to process it further." Xukong replied.

"Mmm... that could be it too." Lin Mu said as he walked towards the door.

He held the hand and tried to move it but the door wouldn't budge. It wasn't just that the door was physically locked, but rather there was a formation sealing it.

"Time to take the wall then." Lin Mu casually said before he phased through it.

~huu~

Lin Mu could breathe fresh air again and found himself to be in an open corridor.

"Who're you?" A voice was heard from behind him.

Lin Mu's eyes snapped towards the voice before he blinked and appeared next to the person.

"UGH!" The man grunted in pain as his neck was clasped in Lin Mu's hand.

He looked at the man from top to bottom and checked him with spirit sense.

~CRACK~

Then a second later, Lin Mu tightened his grip, breaking the man's neck.

"Another tainted soul..." Lin Mu muttered as he stored the corpse in the ring.

### **Chapter 1115 The Gu Legion's Hidden Plane**

The person Lin Mu had just killed was not wearing the Gu Legion's normal robes, thus he was unsure of who the man was. But after seeing that the man also had the muddy Qi that would occur due to the pills of grace, he didn't give him a second to live.

"So they also have core condensation realm cultivators here." Lin Mu discovered.

The man who he had just killed was at the core condensation. Even after the information he had gotten from Wu Hei and Jiao Fang about the hidden plane, there was no concerned information about the people that were actually here.

The information was highly restricted and even the higher ups of the Gu legion might not know it accurately.

'Gu Yao has gotten careful with how much information is spread to his subordinates.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

~SHUA~

His spirit sense spread out and quickly started to observe everything. The first thing Lin Mu found was that the room he had come out of from, was just one of the many exhaust rooms. There were over twenty such rooms along the corridor here, and all of them seemed to be linked to another hall that was some distance away from here.

Along with this, there were many other personnel working here. None of them were wearing the normal Gu legion robes, though. They were a different design of robes and were possibly workers that took care of this place.

This entire area was actually a single building that was contained within a large formation array dome. Lin Mu's spirit sense was restricted from leaving it and he realized that forcefully breaking it will trigger other alarm and restraining formations.

"This place is armed to the teeth... and secure too." Lin Mu said after checking the formation array in detail.

"It is the headquarters of a major force, so that was bound to be so." Xukong replied.

"Hmm... Seems like it was wise to be cautious. If I had entered from some other place instead of the node, I might have triggered the other detection formations. But since this place is isolated separately to keep the impure yin Qi contained, it prevented them from sensing me." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

"Indeed. Also, Little Shrubby might not be able to enter here, if it is like this." Xukong added.

"Oh yeah, that's right. It is better if I keep him out." Lin Mu nodded his head.

Lin Mu closed his eyes and send a message to Little Shrubby using their link.

"You'll have to wait outside, Little Shrubby. The security here is too high. I'll inform you if I need you." Lin Mu spoke.

"Alright! I'll wait here. Call me whenever you want!" Little Shrubby replied without an issue.

Lin Mu knew that he wasn't restricted from opening a portal, and could call in Little Shrubby from pretty much anywhere. The only issue would be the chaos that came after that would be beyond his control.

Lin Mu quickly made his way to the border of the formation array, which was also the compound wall of the building.

"This'll take a bit of an effort." Lin Mu said as he got to unraveling the formation array.

He didn't want to dismantle or break it, but simply make it so that he could phase through it.

It took Lin Mu ten minutes before he was able to create a vulnerability in the formation array that allowed him to pass through it.

~shua~

Lin Mu activated Phase and passed through the compound wall and appeared outside in the midst of what looked like a city!

Lin Mu immediately sank into the ground so as to avoid anyone seeing him. His spirit sense had already picked up on many Gu Legion members that were going about on their duties.

'Thankfully, this building was built on the periphery of the city, or others would have surely seen me leave.' Lin Mu thought to himself as he observed everything.

He moved around and checked the different buildings and found that most of them were protected by the same kind of formation array that could prevent spirit sense from entering it.

Lin Mu spent about two hours wandering around and hearing the conversation of the Gu Legion members. These two hours were enough for him to increase his knowledge about the Gu legion by leagues!

He got to see several documents and records of the Gu Legion that were pretty much kept in open. Lin Mu only had to bypass the formation array to enter the buildings and read them.

Five more hours later, Lin Mu now knew exactly what Gu Yao had been doing.

"A Yang Qi pool... He intends to balance the Yin Qi with Yang Qi and breakthrough to the Immortal Ascension realm and directly reach the immortal realm?" Lin Mu felt shocked up reading it.

"Is... is this viable senior Xukong?" Lin Mu was at a loss.

"Hmm... it is indeed viable. Though it would have been the same as any cultivator cultivating spirit Qi. He is definitely using something else as a catalyst for it all. Simply Yin and Yang Qi won't help him make a breakthrough to the Immortal Ascension realm.

After all, he needs to comprehend Dao Traces from a Dao Embryo too." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu thought over it as for a few minutes, when it finally struck him.

"The invader!" Lin Mu exclaimed in his mind. "He must be intending to use the same method he used on the Dao Treading realm cultivators he helped breakthrough!"

"That... might be it. If it is a Dao Embryo that is already derived from the invader like those cultivators from before, then he might really be able to do something like this. But this also means that the Invader might be on a different level than we thought.

Even for Immortals, helping a spirit Qi cultivator rapidly improve is not a simple task. They would still need to comprehend for years on their own." Xukong explained.

### **Chapter 1116 Gu Yao's Intentions**

The possible chance that Gu Yao might have found a way to use the invader to rapidly increase his cultivation base was a bit unnerving to Lin Mu. While he was fully confident in being able to deal with Dao Treading realm experts, it wasn't the same for the Immortal Ascension realm ones.

Especially one that would be as strange and sly as Gu Yao. There would be no lack of unknown abilities that Gu Yao might end up with. There was always a chance that they might be able to threaten Lin Mu.

And even if Lin Mu himself was safe, there was no guarantee that the people he cared for and the world would be safe from it.

"We need to hurry and find the Yang Qi store. That pure yang crystal I got from the destroyed base should have been one of them." Lin Mu said recalling the red crystal he had fed to the grey egg.

While Lin Mu hadn't found much information about that headquarters yet, there were still some slivers of it present here.

And from those documents, Lin Mu learned that the headquarters in the Eastern Ming Dynasty was actually the original test site for Gu Yao's experiments. Unfortunately, it had exploded and the man had to move it all away.

Still, the man had evidently learned from failures and was already growing beyond that.

"Are you going to do as before? Rip this plane and set it free in the void?" Xukong asked, seeing that Lin Mu's thoughts were changing.

"I will be doing that... but I need to make things a bit more secure. If Gu Yao is really able to make use of that invader, there is no guarantee that he won't also learn how to navigate the void from it.

We have seen that the avatar of the invader escapes into the void, and have a particular location they go to.

What if I destabilize this plane and uproot it from the Xiaofan world, but then Gu Yao still completes his breakthrough and returns for revenge years later?

I can't let that happen..." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

"Hmm... that is indeed possible. You are right, removing a problem from the roots is the best choice." Xukong agreed.

"I won't leave any avenues for Gu Yao to survive. I'll take away all that he has along with his life and then throw away this plane entirely." Lin Mu replied.

Xukong nodded his head in response finding Lin Mu's words to be satisfactory.

'He's improving his mentality little by little.' Xukong thought to himself.

Lin Mu didn't pause after this and quickly began the next step of his plan. After having surveyed the buildings here, he had already learned of Gu Yao's location. It was none other than a large courtyard in the back of the city.

At first, Lin Mu thought that the man might be in the large palace looking building in the center of the city but then learned that it was actually the main 'office' of the Gu Legion.

The actual residence of Gu Yao was someplace else.

The man did visit the office before, but these days he had been in seclusion for the most part and thus had not been seen. And it wasn't like the members of the Gu Legion would question him either.

They worked for him and not the other way around.

Then there was also the fact that Gu Yao had a chain of orders readied for his subordinates and they had a lot to work on considering that their side was currently losing.

Lin Mu was making his way towards Gu Yao's courtyard when he saw a group of high ranking Gu Legion members going there as well.

"They are at the Dao Treading realm..." Lin Mu noticed and furrowed his brows.

While he didn't fears fighting them, if they were here Lin Mu knew something must have happened.

~shua~

Lin Mu stopped at the Barrier around the courtyard and was forced to watch the high ranking Gu Legion members enter.

"Dammit..." Lin Mu cursed as he looked at the formation array blocking him.

He quickly tried to unravel the formation just enough to make an opening for him to pass through. Thankfully the practice from earlier buildings had made him a bit used to this type of formation array and he finished it in less than five minutes.

'Yes!' Lin Mu quickly entered through the gap that had opened up for a moment.

He needed to be careful with it since the formation would have rung an alarm due to movement.

Lin Mu kept his spirit Qi fluctuations contained within his body and also sealed his aura, leaving no chance for others to detect him.

Speeding through the ground using Phase, Lin Mu swept through all the rooms, eventually finding the high ranking Gu Legion members standing in the central hall of the courtyard. The courtyard was pretty large too, having nearly thirty rooms and seven halls!

And in the main hall, Lin Mu sensed the spirit Qi fluctuation of four people. Three of them were the High ranking Dao treading realm members of the Gu Legion he had seen outside, and the final one was far stronger than them.

The faint spirit Qi fluctuations coming from the fourth person were filled with a malicious aura that Lin Mu could feel.

"Gu Yao..." Lin Mu muttered as his eyes sharpened.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu peeked his head out from the very corner of the hall, from behind a chandelier. He made sure that there was no way to see him, and only let a single eye peek out from the gap.

The area that he was peeking out from was right behind the chandelier too thus it was very dark and masked by the bright light of the lamps, preventing others from noticing him easily.

"The Zither Wind alliance has fallen, my lord... our links are also disappearing."

### **Chapter 1117 The Yang Qi Pool**

Gu Yao who had a cold and calm expression on his face, looked at the three Dao treading realm Gu Legion members.

"And what are you doing for that?" Gu Yao asked calmly.

"We... we tried to repel some of the Long Cloud Alliance people, but we failed. For some reason, they always know where we are hiding and there are no signs of our intel being leaked out either." One of the Dao Treading realm members replied.

"We even investigated whether there was any spy among us, but there are none. After all, Lord's control over everyone simply makes it impossible." Another man replied.

"Hmm..." Gu Yao rubbed his beard, thinking to himself. "And what of the top three sects?" He questioned.

"They... they're against us now. We can no longer make use of our previous pawns to hide our origins. All of them have been captured and interrogated. I've even heard that the Sky Precepts sect has authorized the use of Soul Searching Techniques." The third Dao Treading realm member answered.

"So it has finally come to that..." Gu Yao said as a smirk appeared on his face.

"My lord..." The three Dao Treading realm felt nervous with Gu Yao's expression.

"What... should we do? Should we call the tribal council?" One of them asked.

Gu Yao stayed silent though, and only after a minute did he speak.

"No... there is no need." Gu Yao replied.

"B-but, my lord... if we don't then..." The others tried to speak, but were interrupted by Gu Yao.

"I said there is no need!" Gu Yao raised his voice. "I'm close to success anyway. Just stay put for now, we shall have the final laugh soon." He added.

~gulp~

The three Dao treading realm Gu Legion member's gulped down their saliva and nodded their heads.

"If you say so Lord Gu Yao." They said. "What should we do in the meantime then?" one of them asked.

"Just stay put and get the rest of the members ready. My previous orders of making more Dao Treading realm cultivators are still in effect. With the Zither wind alliance gone, we will need them more than ever." Gu Yao answered.



"We are already at a saturation point though my lord. If we increase the refinement rate of the pills anymore, we will drain the the entire source we have accumulated." The Dai Treading realm Gu Legion members spoke.

"That is not an issue anymore. Use all that we have left! Drain all the pools of Yin Qi! We are going all in from this point onwards!" Gu Yao stated firmly.

"AS YOU COMMAND MY LORD!" The Dao Treading realm members said.

"Go off now, I'll prepare for my part now." Gu Yao dismissed them.

~SHUA~

He waved his hand and a formation array suddenly appeared.

"Huh?" Lin Mu was startled by it and realized that it was a teleportation formation.

'Where is he going?' Lin Mu frantically tracked the traces of spatial disturbance caused due to it and saw that it was actually going deeper into the ground.

'Of course he would keep it down there. That's just his style at this point.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He glanced at the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members who left and focused back on the task at hand. They weren't as important right now and the main goal was to stop whatever 'success' Gu Yao was looking forward to.

Lin Mu waited for a bit till the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members left, before going deeper into the ground.

But at a certain point, Lin Mu ended up getting blocked.

"What?" Lin Mu was surprised.

Carefully using his spirit sense without alerting anyone, Lin Mu realized that he was blocked by several barriers that had been set up in rows.

"One... two... ten... twenty... thirty? He set up thirty barriers?!" Lin Mu was shocked.

It wasn't just the number of barriers that surprised Lin Mu, but also the quality of them. Each of them was as tough as the main sect protecting barriers and even with his full power would take several attempts to break.

The number of barriers that had been set up would certainly take a ton of resource to build as well.

'Now we know one of the uses that Gu Yao made of all the resources he seized...' Lin Mu thought to himself as his brows furrowed.

He let his spirit sense wander and go around the entire barrier, discovering that it was in the shape of a sphere.

"This'll be hard to get into..." Lin Mu muttered to himself as he tried looking for other avenues of entering.

~SHUA~

And just as he was doing this, he felt a wave of energy appearing from somewhere.

"Wait a second..." Lin Mu's spirit sense moved to track the energy and discovered that it was actually entering the barriers.

"How can it enter it?" Lin Mu wondered and observed it.

After about a minute, Lin Mu saw that the runes were actually operating in a rather different way. Instead of blocking the energy, they were letting it enter and replace the spirit Qi they were composed of.

This energy moved layer by layer, getting milder with each layer.

"Is he... filtering this energy?" Lin Mu guessed.

The energy that was coming was certainly strong, but also impure. Lin Mu could tell that there was both Yang Qi and Yin Qi mixed into it.

"He's really doing as we suspected. And this must be the catalytic method he devised for it." Xukong stated.

"Indeed... but we can't let this progress." Lin Mu said as he raised his fist.

"Wait," Xukong interrupted Lin Mu.

"What senior?" Lin Mu paused.

"Don't break the barriers right away. It will take Gu Yao a while to absorb it all. Why don't you take advantage of it? The Pool of Yang Qi should be nearby." Xukong suggested.

Lin Mu's eyes glowed lightly, as he knew exactly what to do.

He tracked the energy waves and soon appeared in another section that was located half a kilometer away.

"So this is the Yang qi pool..." Lin Mu muttered, looking at the large reddish orange pool.

### **Chapter 1118 Draining The Pool**

The Yang Qi pool was actually smaller than Lin Mu had originally expected. The Yin Qi pools that he had seen so far had been very large, going so far as to be nearly a hundred meters wide.

But the Yang Qi pool was merely two meters wide.

"No... it's not just the size... the Yang Qi in it is very pure too." Xukong spoke up.

Lin Mu came closer to the Yang Qi pool and kneeled next to it. The Reddish Orange fluid in it was none other than the Liquefied yang Qi. While there were still some impurities in it, they were greatly reduced from before.

"The concentration seems lower than that of the crystal we saw before though, senior?" Lin Mu replied.

"This might be the only way he could stabilize it perhaps or keep it in a state in which it could actually be utilized. That crystal we saw before was highly condensed, but also difficult to use directly.

But this liquid Yang Qi is the perfect material to be utilized." Xukong explained.

"I see..." Lin Mu said and curiously extended his hand towards the pool.

His finger lightly dipped into the reddish orange liquid for merely a moment when Lin Mu felt burning energy entering through it.

"ARGH!" Lin Mu cried in pain and quickly pulled his finger back.

Looking at the finger, red veins had popped up on it, despite the gold skin. The Yang Qi had drilled into his finger without so much as even caring about the defense of the gold metal.

"How is this possible?" Lin Mu was surprised at seeing his defenses being breached.

"Pure yang Qi like this is extremely dangerous to be absorbed. There is a reason why nearly no one uses pure Yang or Yin Qi for cultivation. Balance is very important for cultivators and even if they use elements to cultivate, there is still a certain level of it maintained in their bodies.

But when pure Yang or Yin Qi is used, that balance will be tilted and the cultivator will suffer. Even you can't make use of the Yang Qi like that. This is also the reason why Gu Yao is utilizing the barriers as filters. It would allow the Yang Qi and Yin Qi to mix and get balanced before being assimilated by him." Xukong explained.

"I understand now." Lin Mu nodded his head. "But then the egg... how can it directly absorb Yin Qi and Yang Qi? Is it not harmed by it." He asked.

"That is something we will only know after the egg hatches. By now I'm sure the beast born from it won't be normal. If it can already absorb Yang Qi and Yin Qi like this, it is bound to be one of the few exceptions that can absorb them freely." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows, but was only more curious about the egg.

~shua~

Flipping his hand, the grey egg appeared in it.

~Tremble~

And as soon as it did, the egg shook as if excited for something.

"Oh? It reacted really quickly." Lin Mu said as he saw the egg shaking.

~HONG~

Then a moment later, a wave of energy spread from the egg as it got incredibly cold!

Lin Mu almost dropped it from his hand, but the egg automatically floated up.

~SHUA~

The egg flew toward the Yang Qi pool and sank into it.

"This..." Lin Mu was left surprised.

~SPLASH~

A vortex formed in the Yang Qi pool and all the liquid Yang Qi started to swirl. A minute later, the level of the liquid Yang Qi started to fall visibly.

"That's very fast!" Lin Mu was stunned.

As if the stopper at the bottom of a tub was removed, the liquid was rapidly spinning and being drained.

In just five minutes, nearly half of the Yang Qi had been depleted.

And while this was happening, Gu Yao was unaware of the danger that was about to fall on him.

He continued to cultivate within the isolated space. The balanced Yin and Yang Qi floated in the air, looking like streaks of smoke coming from joss sticks.

Right now the color of the smoke was grey and looked almost the same as normal spirit Qi. Gu Yao mediated in a specific pattern and the Qi would be pulled towards him. It would then enter his body through his nostrils as well as through his pores.

His cultivation base was also improving by the second, his aura rising.

'Just a bit more...' Gu Yao thought to himself. 'The Qi accumulated in the pools should be enough for me to not just breakthrough, but also reach the very peak of the Immortal Ascension realm. Then I just need a little more help from that thing and I'll be an Immortal!'

But soon he felt something was wrong.

"Huh?" Gu Yao's eyes opened wide as he felt a tearing pain in his body.

~COUGH~

"What?!" Gu Yao almost screamed upon coughing out blood.

But that was not all, as the blood he had spat out became black and turned into mist. It was now that he saw the Qi in the air that was no longer grey.

"HOW! WHAT IS HAPPENING!? THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!" Gu Yao exclaimed, seeing the black gas spread in the air.

He knew what it was, but didn't know how it was here.

"Why is Yin Qi spread like this? Is the Filtering barriers not working?" Gu Yao said anxiously.

He checked the formation arrays but found it to be hard. The Yin Qi was increasing more and more, and he couldn't stop it from entering his body anymore. It was directly forcing its way into his skin and raging in his meridians.

The Yin Qi was cold, but was being restrained by his body and cultivation base.

'I won't have long like this...' Gu Yao reckoned.

If he didn't solve the issue quickly, there was a great chance he might be overwhelmed by the Yin Qi!

### **Chapter 1119 Time To End**

"It's almost gone..." Lin Mu said while observing the Yang Qi pool.

The liquid in it had gone down considerably and barely a couple of inches were left at the bottom of the pool. The Grey egg was sitting in the center of it, while the liquid Yang Qi continued to swirl around it.

"It's vitality is increasing exponentially." Xukong spoke up.

Even he could sense the presence inside the egg now and knew that the egg was finally reaching the stage at which it would be fully developed.

~BOOM~

And just as the grey egg finished absorbing all the Liquid Yang Qi, an explosion happened in the distance.

"What was that?" Lin Mu said before he felt the chaotic energy spreading.

Lin Mu shivered lightly, as he felt the Yin Qi trailing his skin.

"We need to leave... this does not seem right." Lin Mu said and quickly grabbed the egg.

The grey egg no longer felt too hot or too cold. Instead, it was the perfect temperature and strong vitality could be felt coming from it. Lin Mu tried using his spirit sense to probe it, but was still unable to penetrate the shell.

~throb~throb~throb~

Still, there was something else that Lin Mu felt from the egg now.

"Are those... heartbeats?" Lin Mu said, feeling a bit awed.

"Indeed... with such a strong heartbeat, the beast should be close to hatching." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu looked forward to the hatching of the egg, but stored it away for now. He had more pressing things at hand after all.

"Time to get rid of Gu Yao." Lin Mu said as a cold expression appeared on his face.

~SHUA~

But just as he was about to leave the underground space, he sensed a spatial disturbance.

'It's coming from everywhere... are they escaping?' Lin Mu wondered and hurried out.

And when he finally appeared on the surface, he saw a scene of devastation.

"NOOO!!!!"

"ARGH!!!"

"RUN!! RUN!!!"

Cries and shouts could be heard all around as the Gu Legion members ran around.

"The yin Qi is wreaking havoc!" A few of the higher ranked members of the Gu Legion alarmed everyone.

Lin Mu narrowed his eyes as he saw black gas that was spreading everywhere. A layer of frost would settle where it passed before the objects started to wither and crumble. The effect of Yin Qi as strong as this was too profound and even the Dao Shell realm members of the Gu Legion were helpless.

With each passing second, tens of cultivators died while their cries echoed in the plane.

"I need to find Gu Yao. The others don't matter now..." Lin Mu said as he quickly flew to the residence of Gu Yao.

The Gu Legion members didn't even pay any attention to him, despite the fact that he passed from right in front of them. They were simply far too busy and trying to save themselves.

Thus, even if they realized that Lin Mu was an outsider, they still would not care much.

~Huu~

Upon reaching the residence, Lin Mu took a deep breath and pulled his right fist back.

Energy spun in his arm while his aura rose freely. Lin Mu no longer hid his presence and alarmed everyone in the city.

"WHO'S THAT!?" The Gu Legion members, that were a little further from the Yin Qi tainted area pointed.

"HOW DID YOU COME HERE!?" It didn't take long for the Dao Treading realm members of the Gu Legion to spot Lin Mu either.

They all flew towards him, the intent to kill visible in their eyes. They weren't going to capture him or interrogate him. There was no use for all that. Their orders were clear and solid: Kill all those that are not known in the city.

And Lin Mu with his vastly different robes and appearance, was certainly not of the Gu Legion. Not to mention, the spirit Qi waves coming from him were very strong, easily matching that of the Dao Treading realm.

But at the same time, they seemed a bit different. If they used their spirit senses to observe it they would realize that while the spirit Qi fluctuation were strong, they were merely so in quantity and not quality.

Though the Aura coming from Lin Mu's body would further confuse them, as it was even stronger than that of a normal Dao Treading Realm Cultivator.

"A peak Dao Treading realm expert? How can there be anyone else other than Lord Gu Yao here?" Someone questioned.

"Are they some elder from the tribes?"

"NO! They are not from the Tribes and not from our Legion either!" The Dao Treading realm elder taking the lead, declared.

His eyes narrowed as the face of Lin Mu made him think of a particular man.

"HE IS THE ONE WHO DESTROYED THE WEST OCEAN SECT!" The other Dao Treading realm elder shouted, having identified Lin Mu's face.

The Gu Legion members who heard this were stunned and froze in place. They knew how strong an expert was if they could eradicate a sect all on their own. And now one such expert was right here in their base, intending to kill them.

Lin Mu paid no attention to them, though.

His Fist was ready, and a massive energy could be felt from it.

"Boulder collapsing Fist: Third Form- FLAMING DEVASTATOR!" Lin Mu used twenty percent of his stores to power this attack.

~SHUA~

A searing heat spread from his fist at that moment, as a flaming ribbon of energy shot out from it. It burned brightly, making it hard for one to look at it with their naked eyes. But the blinding light disappeared quickly too, with the flaming ribbon disappearing into the building below.

~KABOOM!!!!~

Once the assault on their eyes was stoooped, the assault on their ears began. The loud explosion tore apart ear drums of most that heard it. Only Lin Mu was fine with it, as his defenses were simply too high.

The energy from the ribbon spread like a spider web all over the ground, and over a kilometer wide area was covered with them, red streaks being visible all over it

### **Chapter 1120 Gu Legion Eradicated!**

Lin Mu's spirit sense was fully spread and was allowing him to observe everything that was happening. He could see the expression of all the Gu Legion members here, but he still could not sense Gu Yao.

'Its too chaotic down there, my spirit sense is being pushed back.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

While he didn't know what had happened down there, Lin Mu knew that the grey egg's absorption of the yang Qi pool had probably broken the balance of the Yin and Yang Qi that Gu Yao was using.

Without the fully understanding of the formation array used for filtration as well as Gu Yao's catalyst, there was no knowing of what would happen to him.

And thus Lin Mu decided to take the most direct approach and decimate the entire area at once!

The most destructive attack he had was the Boulder Collapsing Fist's third form: Devastator.

And if he used it with Metal Qi it would be even more powerful, but that needed a cultivator to act as the incubator for the explosion. Lin Mu didn't have that option right now, not to mention that the explosion would also be delayed.

Thus, Fire Spirit Qi was the best option for him. Not to mention, using it at the 20% mark was going to increase its power by a level he had not seen before.

Having used that, the effects were very apparent.

Lin Mu watched as the cracks spread across the ground and red flames burst open from them. The scene seemed as if a dormant volcano was about to erupt!

The cracks continued to spread, and flames sprouted from them.

~TREMBLE~

The ground shook non stop, making a lot of the Gu Legion members who were trying to run fall.

And flying was not a good option either, as the plumes of fire shooting from the cracks went high enough to kill those that flew.

But even if the entire city was being devastated, the most damaged area was none other than the residence of Gu Yao. There, a deep hole had been carved out, the sides of which were red hot.

Molten rock and soil were dripping and bubbling non-stop while the depths of the hole could not be seen. The fate of Gu Yao was unknown while the energy from the flaming ribbon continued to spread down.

~RUMBLE~

Finally, it seemed like the energy had reached the peak and couldn't stay contained anymore.

~KABOOOM!~

First, a geyser of molten rocks spewed out of the residence before the entire city cracked apart entirely.

~BOOM~

Large chunks of the land rose up while others sank down. Lava came out of the crevices and filled the open area.

A cacophony of cries and screams were heard as those that were unfortunate were burned.

Even the Dao Treading realm members of the Gu Legion were injured and were unable to escape the lava. Only Lin Mu stood there in the sky without a care, even if the lava splattered over him.

The armor of the Mortal Strengthening scripture could easily bear it, and it slid off like water. Even before he had the True Gold Body Forging arts, Lin Mu had used his bare hands to scoop up lava and had dived into a volcano at the Kong Plane before.

Hence, this was nothing to him.

Lin Mu continued to watch everything with cold eyes and saw that the lower members of the Gu legion were already mostly dead. Their buildings had all collapsed and their contents were burning.

No matter what formation arrays were set up, they all broke apart due to the sheer force of the explosion.



Now only a few Nascent soul realm, Dao Shell realm and Dao Treading realm members were left alive.

"Time to clear out the weeds." Lin Mu said as he disappeared.

When he appeared, he was at the back of a Dao Treading Realm Gu Legion member.

Lin Mu's hand moved like a blur and clasped onto the neck of the man.

"YOU!!!" The man tried to scream, but his voice was stuck inside his throat.

~KACHA~

Lin Mu didn't give the chance to do anything and ruthlessly crushed his neck, breaking his bones and tearing apart the flesh.

~THUD~

He threw away the head of the man while storing the body into his ring. Lin Mu didn't care if the Nascent soul of the dead Dao Treading realm cultivator appeared inside the ring, as it would be quickly purged by the spatial energy there.

~SHUA~

Tens of spirit weapons appeared around Lin Mu and flew out with a wave of his hand.

~SHING~ SHING~ SHING~

Heads, limbs and bodies collapsed as blood spilled everywhere, before being burned away by the heat and flames. The spirit weapons all danced around like a swarm of deadly locusts reaping all lives that they touched.

But that was not all, as once someone was killed, their Nascent soul would also be purged away by the burst of spirit Qi that would eject from the spirit weapons.

"What has descended upon us?" One of the Dao Treading realm said as all hope drained from his eyes.

All the man could see before the end was a pair of golden fists that rained upon his head, exploding it apart.

In less than five minutes, nearly all the Gu Legion members had been exterminated.

Those that were a bit far away from the main area were still killed, but their Nascent souls had managed to wiggle out of their bodies.

Unfortunately for them, they had nowhere to go. They couldn't escape this plane without a teleportation talisman. Though even using that would be a long shot, as a lot of the arrays were broken and it would be a long shot for the teleportation array to stay intact as well.

Lin Mu looked at the entire place from the skies, his eyes still cold and sharp. He stood like that for about ten minutes, continually scanning the area with his spirit sense.

'No sign of Gu Yao...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Closing his eyes for a moment, Lin Mu activated his spatial perception and looked around.

"Hmm... no sign of him even now." Lin Mu muttered.

Even if someone could hide from his spirit sense, hiding from spatial perception was very difficult. Lin Mu might not be able to see the exact image of a person using it, but he was still able to see the disturbance in space with it, which would give him an outline of whatever was there.

And he certainly couldn't see Gu Yao down there. All that was left there was molten rock and chaotic Yin Qi that was reacting with it and creating multiple explosions.

In fact, the large explosion that had happened wasn't just because of Lin Mu's Flaming Devastator. But rather due to the yin Qi that was pouring into the location where Gu Yao was.

The energy of the Devastator combined with the Yin Qi and created an even greater explosion.

'It was certainly powerful... if I could use Yin Qi myself, I could actually harness this as a proper skill.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

But no matter how much he wished for that, he knew not to bite off more than he could chew.

"The space is getting unstable, too." Lin Mu continued to look around and saw the damage to the plane had spread to its spatial borders, too.

The Yin Qi was like a sharp knife that tore into the stabilizing arrays and caused cracks to form. Since this place was artificially expanded by Gu Yao using several arrays, the lesser void around it was always exerting force into it.

Just like how water would exert force on any object that was placed in it, the void exerted a similar force. But the force was many times stronger than what water could ever exert.

The entire plane was continually being 'squeezed' but was being held back by the arrays. And now that the arrays were all but gone, it couldn't hold on for much longer.

"Might as well do it properly..." Lin Mu said as his eyes looked around for a good location.

~SHUA~

He disappeared for a second before appearing in another spot.

"This should be good enough." Lin Mu muttered before extending his hand towards the sky.

"TEAR!" Lin Mu activated the ring.

His spirit Qi started to drain rapidly as the ring absorbed it. In less than ten seconds, around half of Lin Mu's spirit Qi had been drained!

This was a massive amount since Lin Mu's stores had increased by many times. The amount of spirit Qi used by the ring was enough to send someone from the Qi refining realm all the way into the Dao Shell realm, perhaps.

~RIP~

Soon, a wave of energy shot from the ring and tore apart the spatial fabric, allowing Lin Mu to see the lesser void behind it.

Once the tear was inflicted, Lin Mu used his other hand and activated another one of his skills.

"MELD!" Veins popped up on Lin Mu's hand as massive amounts of spatial disturbances spread all over the area.

Then, as if a glass screen had been cut, a fine line appeared in the sky. The line continued to lengthen more and more until it had reached the very end of the Plane.

Lin Mu flew up and inserted both his hands into the line, pulling it apart.

"HAAAAAAAAAAAA!" His face turned red while he exerted all his power.

"BREAK!" Lin Mu shouted as his strength ripped apart the sky!