Walker 1121

Chapter 1121-Shattering The Plane! End Of Gu Yao?

This was possibly the most power Lin Mu had ever used at once. It had reached a level he had never even expected. It was the full power of his Five Treasures realm cultivation base combined with his Spirit Qi cultivation base.

It was the combination of those two that would allow him to do something like this and it was beyond the realm of 'normal'.

In fact, Lin Mu discovered a new thing when he did this. His Gold body, which had been mostly impenetrable, was actually being strained!

And it wasn't something external that was making it like that, but his own strength. Lin Mu reckoned that if he didn't have the gold body of the True Gold body forging arts, he might have never been able to do this.

His body might have destroyed itself by doing something like this.

Though there was also the experience that Lin Mu had due to the fact that he had always used the boulder collapsing fist, which was a skill that dealt damage to oneself. Originally, Lin Mu sustained severe injuries when he used it in the past.

It was only after his body cultivation rose that he was able to sustain it without issues.

And now that he had the gold body, he could use it almost with no effects. But despite all that, he had reached the point where even his gold body would start to creak and crack if he exerted anymore power.

'So this is the limit of my body's durability. Any more than this and I'll end up damaging myself again...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Still, physical strength amplified by the spirit Qi was almost always less than the power exerted by skills. But Lin Mu had changed that fact.

The sky started to split as the dark void behind it became visible. The skies of the plane were always overcast grey, but now they were starting to become utterly dark. Once Lin Mu had made a large enough gap in the sky, all he needed to do was give it one final push and it would continue to rip itself apart.

"Boulder Collapsing Fist: First Form- Impact!" Lin Mu used the close combat version of the skill.

~BOOM~

His fist seemed to have hit empty air, but the force of the impact shook the very fabric of space. The dark edges that were leading into the void were forced further back by the impact as the large tear in the sky started expanding rapidly!

~CRACK ~CRACK~ CRACK~

Strange sounds could be heard coming from all around the plane as fine cracks developed all over the area. These cracks were on all objects too, from the ground, to buildings, to rubble, to trees and even the very air.

But the strange thing was that these cracks weren't on the surfaces themselves, but on a different dimensional level.

~RUMBLE~

Once the cracks reached a certain level though, they started to expand individually and multiple smaller openings into the void appeared.

"That's enough. The plane will now be broken apart by the Lesser void automatically. You should leave now or you'll get thrown too far away into the void. Finding your way back to the Xiaofan world might become too difficult." Xukong advised.

"Yes, senior." Lin Mu replied right away.

His face was still red from the strain, but the veins had stopped being as pronounced as they were before. Though his breathing was still not normal and a bit fast. Lin Mu was also feeling tired for the first time in a long time now.

~SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~

Lin Mu used to blink several times in succession before reaching the point from where he had originally entered the plane. Since the plane had been destabilized, this was the safest way to exit it.

If the plane was not in this state, Lin Mu would have been able to leave from most parts of the plane. But now he didn't want to take that risk and end up in some part of the Lesser void.

Lin Mu opened the portal and jumped into it, quickly entering the Xiaofan world.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and looked back at the portal. He could see the edges of it were already starting to come apart, as the anchor between the Xiaofan world and the plane of the Gu Legion became detached.

Slowly Lin Mu could see the ruined headquarters of the Gu legion slowly being shredded apart by the lesser void and being thrown into it. The rubble flew into the lesser void, never to be seen again.

~shua~

And while Lin Mu was watching this all, a red blur came from the distance. It stopped beside him and turned out to be none other than Little Shrubby, of course.

"You're back?" Little Shrubby spoke, feeling surprised at his master's appearance.

Lin Mu looked far more tired than before, and even his aura was a bit weak. Little Shrubby had not seen him like him for a long time and knew that something must have happened in the plane.

"Mmmhmm... I'm back." Lin Mu replied.

"Was it hard?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"You could say that." Lin Mu replied but continue to look at the breaking plane.

It was his first time seeing this, and he wanted to understand the fine changes that happened in the void and further his own understanding of it all. Little Shrubby didn't ask anymore questions after this either and simply stood by Lin Mu, watching the plane break apart and be consumed by the lesser void.

It took about half an hour before Lin Mu couldn't see the plane anymore. All that was left behind was merely the darkness of the void.

"And it's over..." Lin Mu muttered as he took a breath of relief.

It certainly felt like a weight had been lifted off his back.

"You have finally finished one of your biggest goals." Xukong said after a while.

"Yes... but it still feels a bit empty." Lin Mu replied and became silent after that.

Chapter 1122 The Northern Tribes Make Their Move

Having dealt with the Gu Legion and their plane, Lin Mu felt very tired. He had after all, depleted nearly three quarters of his energy in this and needed to replenish it. Not to mention the great strain he had put on himself in his attempt at breaking the Plane from the anchor of the Xiaofan world.

"Let's go Little Shrubby. We're heading back..." Lin Mu said.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu placed a hand on Little Shrubby and activated the runes on his back.

~SHUA~

The runes glowed brightly as Lin Mu and Little Shrubby were brought to the Kong plane.

~huu~

Lin Mu looked around the lush forest of the Kong Plane and felt a bit better. The spirit Qi here was high in concentration and sped up the passive absorption of his body.

Lin Mu simply plopped down onto the ground and Little Shrubby laid behind him as well. Burying his head in Little Shrubby's fur, Lin Mu closed his eyes, deciding to take a bit of a nap.

In just a few minutes, Lin Mu was fast asleep while spirit Qi swirled around his body lightly.

"Rest well, master..." Little Shrubby said silently before closing his eyes as well.

Though he wasn't sleeping, even with his eyes closed, his senses were on alert and anyone coming close would be found by him immediately. And if it was an enemy, Little Shrubby didn't even need to move from here.

Merely a look from him would send forth fires that would rage with no end.

Though something like this was not likely to happen as beasts would be instinctively scared of little Shrubby and wouldn't dare to come close, anyway. His Aura was more than enough to startle all beasts here since he was at the Dao Treading realm now.

So far Lin Mu hadn't discovered any Dao Treading realm beasts in the Kong Plane and neither had the alliance, thus they were safe.

The sky started to change colors, becoming orange from the blue and finally black.

The Night passed and day came, but Lin Mu didn't wake up. He slept peacefully, unaware of all that was happening in the world.

Far in the north of the Xiaofan world, the forbidden continent existed. It was the home of the Northern Tribes and their capital was located over three thousand kilometers from the border.

And right now, the capital was in slight chaos. Several cultivators in clothes made out of thick beast furs and hides were running around and loud conversations were happening.

In this capital, there was a large stone building. It had two floors, but it was very wide. The ground floor was hexagonal, while the upper floor was circular in shape. Its top though, was conical and was covered with red paint, seemingly made from blood.

This was the Grand Council of the Northern Tribes.

It was headed by the eleven main tribes of the continent who all had Dao Treading realm elders at their head.

And in there, the eleven tribal heads were currently sitting. A bonfire raged in the center of the hall, while eleven seats were placed around in a circle.

"It has been confirmed, the Life Bead of Gu Yao has shattered." One of the elders sitting in the circle spoke.

"How is this possible? We literally talked to him yesterday!" Another elder shouted.

"Silence!" The oldest looking elder sitting at the helm yelled.

All the other elders quietened after hearing him and became pensive.

"We all know what we were informed about in the past. Ku Waowen sent us an incomplete message... you all know the contents of it." The head elder spoke.

Hearing this the expression of all the elders darkened.

"We cannot believe that, Elder Gunkao. How are we to trust each other if we falter from false allegations of traitors." One of the elders said.

"Oh? Elder Ku Mi? You would disparage the words of your own descendant?" Another elder asked.

"Yes! If it threatens our stability, we cannot trust it. What if this was all a ploy of the enemy to sow discord? Don't forget that the life bead of Ku Waowen broke over a month after this information was sent to us." Elder Ku Mi spoke.

She was evidently the head of the Ku clan to which Ku Waowen belonged to. While Ku Waowen was the chief of the Ku Clan, the position of the head elder was above that and it belonged to Ku Mi.

These head elders usually didn't take as much part in the workings on their own clan anymore and would work for the council instead. And thus, they would need to assign others to be chiefs.

"Elder Ku Mi is right. What if Ku Waowen was forced to send us this message? She could have very well been captured by some experts and controlled to do this. And once she had died, all her worth had been expended." Another elder spoke up.

Silence descend in the hall as the elders thought about their next course of action.

About five minutes later, an elder wearing a large red horn helmet spoke up.

"I think we should do what we had originally planned. It was Gu Yao who had gotten us to change the plan, saying that he would be able to handle it all on his own. And now see where that got us." The elder in the red horn helmet spoke.

"I agree with Elder Niu!" A few elders chimed in.

"This might be work in our favor. If we go along with the plan, if we really do have a traitor among us, they would be forced to reveal themselves." Elder Ku Mi said.

"Alright, all those in favor of going along with our original plan express your intention." Elder Gunkao stated.

"I agree!"

"I agree too!"

"Same for me!"

One by one, all of the elders agreed to the decision.

"Very well! With all of us in unison for this decision, we shall go forth." Elder Gunkao stated.

Chapter 1123 Beyond Ignorance

Lin Mu was still resting in the Kong plane when a certain person appeared over the horizon.

"There he is!" Jing Luo said upon seeing Little Shrubby and Lin Mu.

Little Shrubby was rather eye-catching even from this distance as his large red body was easy to spot.

~shua~

Jing Luo quickly flew towards them and was detected by Little Shrubby. But the beast didn't react as he could tell it was an ally.

~thud~

Jing Luo landed near them and glanced at Lin Mu.

"Lin Mu," Jing Luo called out, but didn't receive a response.

Furrowing his brows, he got closer and felt that Lin Mu's aura was a bit weak.

"What happened?" Jing Luo asked Little Shrubby.

~GRRR

Little Shrubby simply growled in response, but Jing Luo could somewhat guess the meaning at this point.

"The fight was difficult, I guess? And he's exhausted?" Jing Luo questioned.

~Grrr~

Little Shrubby nodded his head in response.

"Ah... if he wanted to rest, he should have just told us. ~Sigh~ I'll inform the others. Just let him be for now." Jing Luo said before turning around.

Soon Little Shrubby became a small dot in the distance as Jing Luo flew away.

"Hard to believe that the problem that had plagued us for so long is gone now..." Jing Luo muttered to himself.

He knew that Lin Mu had succeeded, because if he had not, then there was no way he would have returned here right now. Rather, Lin Mu would have endured till the mission was completed.

Then there was also the fact that Jing Luo could see the exhaustion on Lin Mu's face. It was a bit subtle now that he had rested for a day, but was still visible enough to differentiate.

'He must've really spent himself, if he is this exhausted. I haven't seen him this tired since the day we escaped the Ripple Mist sect...' Jing Luo thought to himself.

There were other changes in Lin Mu too that he couldn't exactly perceive right now, but Jing Luo was fine with not knowing them. All he cared about was that Lin Mu was alive and the mission had succeeded.

A while later, Jing Luo left the Kong plane and arrived in the Long Cloud sect.

Several of the members of the alliance were already waiting for him here and were also looking rather anxious.

"Did you find him?" Patriarch Yi You asked.

"Yes... he is fine. He's just tired and resting." Jing Luo replied.

"Understandably so." Patriarch Hua nodded his head.

"Can't believe he really ended it all on his own." One of the elders of the Long Cloud sect spoke up.

"Mmm... he didn't need us... it was us who needed him in the first place. Perhaps even without us he would have accomplished the same." Patriarch Shandian stated.

"We truly owe a debt to the child now, don't we... this entire world does." Patriarch Mingliang said after a bit.

"Indeed..." Patriarch Yi You agreed.

But hearing this, Jing Luo seemed to be a bit irked.

"Unfortunately, there are others that don't feel like this and want Lin Mu to pay for destroying the traitor sects." Jing Luo spoke up.

"Humph! I'll see how they do that." Patriarch Shandian said fiercely.

"If the top three sects dare to do that, we shall all stand in opposition. You have our word!" Patriarch Yi You declared.

"Perhaps they'll be given a rude awakening soon. I doubt the Northern Tribes will wait much long once their pawn has been eliminated and their plan exposed for all to see." Patriarch Hua added.

Everyone's expression darkened upon hearing this as they recalled that danger had not completely passed yet. Or rather, there was a great chance that even stronger enemies were about to appear.

"We need to prepare for the northern tribes' invasion. I've already talked to the Fenlong kingdom and its clans, they are prepared to move north at any time." Jing Luo said.

"What about your grandfather? Will Jing Wei be ready?" Patriarch Yi You asked.

"Grandfather is mostly done with his preparations. He'll be out soon." Jing Luo replied.

"Good! We'll need all the manpower. It would be best we can overwhelm them before they even react." Patriarch Yi You replied.

The alliance members continued to discuss the plan of action while the hours passed by. And when the discussions were completed, the disciples of the sect all departed in droves, their destination the Shuang Qian kingdom.

That was the place which was decided to be the location to stop the advance of the Northern Tribes. Everyone already knew that the Vermillion Legion was compromised and thus that frontier would be useless to fight at.

Another part of the alliance members split, a part to destroy the remnants of the Gu Legion around the empire. Jiao Fang had evidently provided some more information a while back and now the alliance had all the secrets of the Gu Legion.

The spies of the northern tribes were rooted out and eliminated one by one.

The Top three sects were certainly alarmed by this sudden series of actions by the Long Cloud alliance and sent forth messengers to question them why. But what they didn't expect was that the four patriarchs of the sects themselves went to the Sky precepts sect and talked to the Patriarch of the sect in person.

The contents of discussion was unknown to most disciples who had seen the entourage of patriarchs enter the sect. But then a shocking thing happened as the Patriarchs of the Rainbow Pill sect and the Centennial Sword sect arrived at the sect.

Currently, all of them sat in the grand palace of the Sky Precepts sect while a few high elders of the sect were present as well.

"So you are saying the Northern Tribes will be attacking soon?" The patriarch of the Rainbow pill sect questioned.

"Yes. That is what we've been telling you all for months now." Patriarch Shandian answered in an irked tone.

"What proof do you have of that?" The Patriarch of the Centennial Sword sect asked.

"Humph! If you still need proof after all this, then you are being more than just ignorant, Jia Chuanli." Patriarch Yi You replied.

Chapter 1124 A Final Warning

Jia Chuanli was the name of the Centennial Sword sect's patriarch and he was of the same generation as the patriarchs of the Long cloud alliance.

"Oh? Do you wish to not even give us the proper explanation?" Jia Chuanli asked.

"You all have already seen Gu Yao and his Gu Legion, along with all that they did. Three sects have fallen and you still don't see the danger?" Patriarch Mingling said.

"That was Gu Yao. Even if he is suspected to be part of the Northern Tribes, we cannot say for sure that they would attack us. There is no way they would do this when our ancestors are still holding the ground." The Patriarch of the Rainbow pill sect stated.

"The Immortal Ascension realm ancestors of yours are no longer a good enough reason for them to hold back. We were not lying when we said that they too have their own Immortal Ascension realm cultivators now." This time Patriarch Hua spoke up.

"And who is it that told you this? As far as I know, no signs of a breakthrough were witnessed in the past thousand years for an Immortal Ascension realm cultivator. Perhaps all these are just rumors." Jia Chuanli replied.

"Was it perhaps the same person who is behind the extermination of the Zither Wind alliance? That... Lin Mu, who told you all this?" The Rainbow Pill sect Patriarch mocked.

"QUAN CHAO!" Patriarch Shandian said in a threatening voice.

"So I was right. Don't forget that man is a criminal wanted by the top three sects. If you dare to associate with him, you all will face charges relative to that." The patriarch of the Rainbow pill sect, Quan Chao, replied without fear.

~Sigh~

Seeing all this, Patriarch Hua let out a sigh. "I pity you."

"What was that?" Jia Chuanli raised his brows.

"I pity you all... time after time you try to go against Lin Mu... when he's been saving you all. I'll only say this once, if you go against him now, you'll be going against us all." Patriarch Hua said firmly, his expression straight.

"Is this the official stance of your alliance?" Patriarch Tian of the Sky Precepts sect questioned.

"It is indeed." Patriarch Yi You answered.

"Fine... we shall decide what the fate of the Long Cloud alliance will be then." Jia Chuanli said in response, earning a glare from Patriarch Tian.

"That is not what I said, Patriarch Jia Chuanli." Patriarch Tian quickly spoke. "Do not push things into a conclusion without getting the facts right." He warned.

"Is patriarch Tian afraid of them now?" Quan Chao asked with a grin.

"This is enough, we will leave now. We now see how foolish it was to come here. We've done what we came here for though, and have warned you. What happens next will be on your head." Patriarch Yi You said before standing up.

"Hmm... you all don't know the mistake you are making. Regardless, you all will come to regret it." Patriarch Hua said before walking out of the hall.

Seeing him leave, Patriarch Tian furrowed his brows, but the other two didn't care.

"Do you feel the same, Patriarch Mingliang? Will you participate in this foolishness and support that Lin Mu?" Quan Chao asked. "Our sects have old links, so it would be bad if your sect is gone."

"Hahah! You surely jest Quan Chao... You do not even know who you are challenging. Do you really think the person who can exterminate three of the top sects can't do it again? It is not us who have to be afraid, but you all who need to reflect.

Repent and perhaps you might be spared. Lin Mu is not someone you want to offend." Patriarch Mingliang said in a serious tone.

He turned around after saying that and walked to the exit of the hall. But just as he reached the doors, he paused and turned around for a moment.

"And if you do not fear him even now, then know that he is not alone. You might be able to hold him back, but his background is something this entire world cannot deal with." Patriarch Mingliang said one last time before flying away.

Once the four patriarchs of the alliance were gone, the top three patriarchs were left to their devices.

"They are grasping at straws." Jia Chuanli chuckled.

"I do not think so, patriarch Jia." This time the person who spoke was actually an elder of the Sky precepts sect. "Patriarch Tian, I think we should take their words seriously. We've done independent investigations into this Lin Mu and the rise in his power is not normal." High Elder Han said.

"Please tell us what you have found, high Elder Han." Patriarch Tian asked.

"From our older investigations that went incomplete in the past, I found several links. This Lin Mu is none other than the Lin Mu, who we thought was behind the incident of the Tri Cauldron Peony sect.

Additionally, now that we know that the man named Gu Yao was behind it all, it absolves Lin Mu of the older charges. And since he managed to kill Several Dao Treading realm cultivators with ease, I do not think Patriarch Mingliang was lying.

Someone of this caliber cannot be without a background. He certainly has someone supporting him... someone that can affect this entire world." High Elder Han explained.

"All this is just hearsay. For all we know, this could all be a coincidence. Having a background as strong as you are describing is impossible. We are the strongest background in this world!" Quan Chao stated.

"Oh, fear not Patriarchs. I prepared all the reports and records. I assure you that you will be satisfied. Please read them and make your own conclusions." High Elder Han replied before waving his hand.

Several hundred scrolls and documents appeared on the table, ready for all of them to check.

"Please look through them first, Patriarch Quan Chao, Patriarch Jia Chuanli." Patriarch Tian spoke up as well.

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Chapter 1126 Going Out In Open

~yawn~

"How long has it been?" Lin Mu yawned while entrenching his arms.

"Two days." Little Shrubby, who had not moved from his position from the start, spoke.

"Ah, two days... guess I really was tired." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He checked his Dantian and saw that the spirit Qi had mostly recovered in this time, though his vitally was yet to fully be replenished.

"Need to eat." Lin Mu spoke and looked at Little Shrubby.

"On it!" Little Shrubby immediately got to work.

In less than thirty minutes, a large cauldron full of strew was prepared while on another grill, a slab of meat was being roasted.

"Looks good!" Lin Mu said, seeing the meal.

The aroma and taste was just to his liking and he spent no time waiting. Ten minutes later, not even bones were left behind while the cauldron looked as if it had been polished clean from the inside.

"Haaa~" Lin Mu let out a breath of fulfillment. "That was a satisfying meal." He said.

He could sense his vitality being rapidly replenished as his stomach got to work and quickly assimilated everything. The remaining bit of the spirit Qi was also topped off by the meal and Lin Mu was back to his optimum condition.

'Guess I should check up on others... the tribes should make their moves soon.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

But before moving, he first took out the jade slip and checked for any messages on it. Quickly going through them all, Lin Mu found several of them. Almost everyone that knew Lin Mu had sent him a message.

They either congratulated him on his success, or talked about the ongoing events and preparation for the incoming war.

Then finally there was Jing Luo's message, telling him to come meet with him to discuss the final plans.

"Let's head to Jing Luo, little Shrubby." Lin Mu spoke.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby responded.

Getting onto his back, the two of them reached the teleportation gates in less than two minutes. There, Lin Mu took the gate that went to the Shuang Qian kingdom's border and walked out.

"Alliance leader Lin Mu!" There were a few guards waiting for him already.

Looking at them, Lin Mu recognized them to be from the Black dune sect as they all wore their robes.

"Elder Jing Luo and Senior Wu Hei are waiting for you at the capital." One of the guards informed.

"Mm... anything else I should know?" Lin Mu inquired.

"The Shuang Qian capital was in chaos until a while ago. The First prince and King have died two days ago under 'mysterious' conditions and Senior Wu Hei has stabilized it for now." The guard spoke.

"I see... thank you for the information." Lin Mu said before flying out of the hidden outpost with Little Shrubby.

A lot of the outposts that hid these gates needed to have their exits expanded due to Little Shrubby, as he could not fit through a lot of them before. All outposts now had large exits or had secondary ones that could be opened for the beast. Though since Little Shrubby had the ability to shrink down, it wasn't of much use now.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby quickly flew to the capital while Lin Mu took this opportunity to scan the area they passed over.

'Doesn't seem like there are any more traces of the invader here... and neither is there anyone with the Human Controlling Blood curse's aura here either.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

One of the biggest concerns he had about Gu Yao was whether the people that were under his control would be free or not. It was possible that the curse might have some unknown effect.

And hearing that the king and prince of the Shuang Qian kingdom had died under mysterious conditions, Lin Mu was inclined on the bad option.

'If the curse really kills those that were under it after the death of Gu Yao, then it'll make things difficult.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He was concerned about Wu Hei since his elder brother Wu Teng was still under the effect of the Human Controlling Blood curse the last time he had talked to him. If he had died as well, then things would probably be bad.

An hour passed before Lin Mu and Little Shrubby finally reached the capital of the Shuang Qian kingdom.

Though when he entered it, a lot of shouts and cries were heard.

"WHAT'S THAT!"

"A BEAST!"

"A BEAST HAS COME TO ATTACK THE CITY!"

"RUN!!!"

The citizens of the city were startled and scared upon seeing Little Shrubby, and it would be rightfully so. After all, Little Shrubby was far too massive to be considered a tamed beast at this point.

While the cultivators in the Shuang Qian city capital had their own pet beasts, none of them were this big. Usually beasts even quarter this size were at the Nascent soul realm and above thus couldn't really be tamed according to the normal thinking.

Then there was also the fact that due to Little Shrubby's size, Lin Mu couldn't be seen sitting on his back either.

Even the guards of the city were stunned upon seeing it and couldn't move. These guards were cultivators and could easily sense that the beast in the sky was no normal beast. There was no way they would be able to fight this beast or even protect anyone.

But much to the shock of the citizens, the beast didn't stop in the sky for more than a few seconds. It quickly went to a particular mansion located at the back of the aristocratic district.

"Huh? It's not going to attack?" The people were confused after a minute, seeing there were no loud explosions or screams.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby who were the center of attention, didn't really care for it and Lin Mu simply wanted to do the task at hand. And he didn't think he needed to hide anymore either, since Gu Yao was no more.

"You're finally here!" A voice was heard coming from the mansion just as Lin Mu landed in front of it.

Chapter 1127 Aftereffects Of The Human Controlling Blood Curse

Lin Mu looked at the slightly haggard looking man and was surprised.

"What happened to you?" Lin Mu said, looking at Jing Luo.

"Ah, nothing much. I just finished some work at the last moment." Jing Luo replied.

"What kind of work?" Lin Mu asked, but then guessed that Jing Luo might have finished making some spirit tool or weapon.

"You're going to like it!" Jing Luo said with a smile.

"I'll look forward to it. But before that, where's Wu Hei? You called me here because of him, right?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Come on in, he's talking with the Royal advisers." Jing Luo answered.

Lin Mu nodded his head and told Little Shrubby to shrink down.

~shua~

Little Shrubby quickly shrunk down and jumped onto Lin Mu's shoulders, taking his place there.

"What happened in the capital? How did the king and prince die?" Lin Mu asked Jing Luo while walking to the main hall.

"We don't exactly know yet. People have said that it might be assassination through poisoning but our guess is something else." Jing Luo said, hinting at something.

"The Human controlling Blood curse... so it really was that." Lin Mu replied.

"Unfortunately yes. We're still investigating more such reports, and from the initial ones that have been received, it seems like a great possibility." Jing Luo stated.

Lin Mu's expression darkened upon hearing this, as he didn't know just how many people might have died. Even if they knew that Gu Yao mostly controlled people at the higher ranks, there was no saying how many there exactly where.

No records of the official numbers were recorded anywhere in the headquarters and even Wu Hei didn't know about it.

"Minister Wu, we need to address the aristocrats as soon as possible! The cause of deaths of the king and the prince not being officially announced is only causing great unease among them." A voice was heard coming from behind some doors that were partially closed.

"Yes! They are even more scared and confused since Minister of war and minister of commerce passed way in the same manner and were discovered this morning." Another person spoke.

Jing Luo gestured to Lin Mu and opened the doors.

~CREAK~

"Huh?" The people inside looked at the opening doors and saw Jing Luo appear with another man and a cat that seemed to be sitting on his shoulder.

"Who's that?" Some of the people whispered to each other.

They already knew of Jing Luo and were told that he was here as an adviser to Wu Hei. But they didn't know of Lin Mu. They were even more intrigued due to how Lin Mu looked. His demeanor and appearance made them think that he was certainly not normal and was perhaps some core disciple of a sect.

They all could sense the faint spirit Qi fluctuations coming off Lin Mu's body after all. Lin Mu mostly kept them restrained now, thus it made others feel like he was at the core condensation realm realm.

"Good, you're here Lin Mu!" Wu Hei said with a look of relief on his face.

"What's going on?" Lin Mu asked.

"Who's this, Minister Wu?" the royal advisers asked.

"This is who we've been waiting or all this time." Wu Hei replied. "Lin Mu should be able to give us a concrete reason as to why they died." He said before looking at Lin Mu.

"Please come with me. The corpses are kept in the refinement hall." Wu Hei spoke.

"Alright." Lin Mu nodded, having understood what must have happened from these conversations.

Everyone walked to the refinement hall and Wu Hei showed the corpses to Lin Mu. They were kept on two long work tables that had inscriptions carved on them. Just from one look, Lin Mu could tell that they were all preserved and cooling formations that were used to keep herbs for a long time.

Lin Mu looked at the corpses and saw that their faces were really pale, with traces of blood on their seven orifices.

Furrowing his brows, Lin Mu came to stand beside the corpses. Then using his spirit sense, he checked the bodies. But when he reached their abdomen and tried to check on the Dantian, he was surprised.

"Their Dantian is... shattered?" Lin Mu muttered.

"Yes. The cause of death is a shattered Dantian, which led to their cultivation base being crippled. The blood leak from the seven orifices also shows that they experienced a Qi deviation." Wu Hei spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head and tried to sense for any traces of the Human controlling blood curse. After about a minute of it, he finally confirmed it.

"It really was that... The human controlling blood curse was the reason behind their death." Lin Mu stated.

Hearing this, Wu Hei's face fell and his complexion paled.

"You said there were more people that died like this? Can you bring in their corpses, too?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes! I'll call for them." One of the advisers went to get them.

Meanwhile, Lin Mu spoke to Wu Hei in a low voice.

"Have you talked to Wu Teng or have any news about him?" Lin Mu asked.

"No... after you killed Gu Yao and destroyed the headquarter, all chains of command and communication seemed to have fallen. I've asked for scouts to check out the Vermillion legion, but it will take them another day to reply." Wu Hei replied.

"Hmm... the traces of the human controlling blood curse on these two have faded greatly. Thus it is a bit hard to tell if they truly died because of it. Plus, there is the muddied Qi of the pills of grace as well, I've read that they can have an effect like this too.

So I'm doubtful whether it might have been caused due to it too." Lin Mu said, not wanting to decide quickly.

Wu Hei simply nodded and looked at the corpses for a bit.

About five minutes later, the adviser returned with two more corpses in tow.

Chapter 1128 Preparations For The War And Heirs Of The Kingdom

The corpses that were just brought belonged to the minister of war and the minister of commerce. Both were important positions in the royal court and had a lot of influence. If one wanted to control a kingdom, having control of just the king wasn't enough, as these two could still oppose him to some level

It would make sense if Gu Yao had them under his control too, perhaps.

"Put them here." Lin Mu gestured to the workers who were carrying the corpses.

The royal advisers all looked on anxiously while Lin Mu checked the corpses. After about five minutes, Lin Mu's brows furrowed, only pushing the anxiety of those men further high.

"Is it the same?" Wu Hei asked.

"Yes... it is far more apparent in these two." Lin Mu replied, before gesturing to Wu Hei. "Come."

Wu Hei walked closer and followed Lin Mu's directions as to where the traces were. Wu Hei himself had studied the effects of the Human Controlling Blood curse greatly since he wanted to heal his mother, and could sense its presence.

But now that the host of it had died, the presence of the Human Controlling Blood Curse was rapidly fading. Only those with spirit sense as strong and sharp as Lin Mu could sense it at this point.

But with his guidance, Wu Hei managed to sense the traces as well.

~Sigh~

"It really was that." Wu Hei let out a sigh. "This was all due to the work of Gu Yao. We now have confirmation of it. Let it be known to all," He ordered.

"Y-yes, minister Wu!" The royal advisers hurriedly replied.

Right now, there were very few people left in the royal court who held any authority to control it entirely and manage the situation. But with how things had gone and the unexpected deaths, the other ministers were scared into hiding.

Even the princes were useless and had all left the capital overnight. Some also had a fear of being accused of assassination.

"What are you next orders, Minister Wu? With the royal family in disorder, we do not have anyone to take the lead anymore." One of the royal advisers spoke.

"Yes, and since they left the city in times of distress, according to the laws of inheritance that are hereby debarred from contesting the rights." Another minister added.

Wu Hei rubbed his forehead, feeling like this was gonna be another headache for him.

"Isn't there still the original first prince left? Shuang Zedong?" Lin Mu spoke.

"Shuang Zedong? The first prince is alive?!" The royal advisers were stunned upon hearing this.

As far as Lin Mu knew, Shuang Zedong shouldn't have been caught. Wu Hei hadn't told him about anything relating to it either, thus he was a hunch that the man might still be around.

"Hmm... indeed, he can be the best candidate. Unfortunately, I do not know where he is." Wu Hei spoke.

"You don't?" Lin Mu raised his brows.

"No... after the Tri Cauldron Peony sect incident, we were all forced to split up as you already know. The contact between us was lost back then, and it only got worse after the rise of the Gu Legion." Wu Hei replied. "I don't know if he's still alive or not, though."

"Hmm... maybe you can spread some news, looking for him? He might make his way to the kingdom now that the king and the prince are dead." Lin Mu suggested.

"We'll try that. Hopefully, he is still alive. I do not want the extra work of handling a kingdom." Wu Hei stated before looking at the royal advisers. "You know what to do now?" he asked.

"Yes, Minister Wu. We'll get to it immediately." The royal advisers said before taking their leave.

Once they were gone, Wu Hei let out another sigh and sat down on the couch feeling tired.

"Doesn't seem like royal court is in any shape or form to handle the incoming war. The Northern Tribes will be arriving at the Shuang Qian kingdom's northern frontier." Jing Luo spoke in a concerned tone.

"Yes... we'll need to let the alliance step in for this. I'll also gather some people to assist for now." Wu Hei replied.

"The Hei corps?" Lin Mu asked.

"No... that is a thing of the past now. I failed them and now they are gone. I'll have to make use of others. Though they are or were in similar situations." Wu Hei replied.

"Do you have anyone particular in mind?" Lin Mu asked curiously.

"The remnants of the sects that weren't under Gu Yao's control have expressed their intent to join us. Now that the controlled ones have all died, the remaining people have become enraged by it all and how they were being controlled." Wu Hei said. "And since Gu Yao basically used the disciples as livestock, the ones that are left behind are the elders, or high ranking disciples." He added.

"Anyone particular we know of?" Lin Mu questioned.

Hmm, I think there is one that you know of." Wu Hei replied.

"Oh?" Lin Mu wondered who might that be.

"Shaoyan Qianyu, a former peak master of the Tri Cauldron Peony sect." Wu Hei answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu recalled the woman who had tested him before and he had fooled.

"Oh, her..." Lin Mu was a little surprised that someone as high ranked as she had survived.

"She is a good candidate to help in our current situation. She does have the experience." Wu Hei replied.

"That'll be good. You can make use of her." Lin Mu agreed.

"I'll send out the messages for them by evening and they should be here by tomorrow, hopefully." Wu Hei stated.

Lin Mu nodded his head, finding it to be fine.

The two of them along with Jing Luo, talked for a while more discussing the plans and issue that would arise. They after all, needed a solid battle plan if there was going to be an all out war.

"Can't I just take the war to them? Enter the forbidden continent and stop them before they even move?" Lin Mu asked. "Little Shrubby did that before, didn't he? He can help guide me too."

"That might have been a valid option before, but now that the tribes know and are mounting an offense, it will be greatly difficult. Not to mention they will know the moment you step into it." Wu Hei answered.

"How? I'm sure I can avoid their surveillance with my skills." Lin Mu stated.

"It's not just that. They have other methods to make it so that they will find you. And that is merely the start. They will now bring out all their hidden trump cards, things that can even hurt you." Wu Hei replied. "Or if not hurt you, they can at least restrain you for a while. That alone might become a great disadvantage for us." He added.

Lin Mu recalled the Xieye Yun Frost Cage and the spirit Qi prison array that could stop one from using their spirit Qi cultivation base. He had suffered from both of them while fighting Ku Waowen, and if it were not for his body cultivation and the Burning Heart Sutra, he might not have been able to leave that place alive.

Seeing the look in Lin Mu's eyes, Wu Hei guessed what he was thinking about.

"The Northern Tribes have a better version of the arrays they used on you. You might be able to escape the ones used by a Dao Shell realm or perhaps even a Dao Treading realm expert, but one used by several Immortal Ascension realm and Dao Treading realm experts will certainly restrain you." Wu Hei explained.

"He is right, Lin Mu. We cannot take the risk of you being restrained." Jing Luo agreed.

"Yeah... it'll be best to be a bit cautious." Lin Mu agreed as well.

"And that is not the only thing I'm concerned about. There is something else..." Wu Hei spoke in a serious tone.

Lin Mu and Jing Luo raised their brows, wondering what could be even more troublesome than the issue they had just talked about.

"Let me show you guys first." Wu Hei said before talking out a large and wide scroll.

~roll~

The scroll when opened, was two meters wide and five meters long. There were several diagrams drawn on it along with words written in a different language than what Lin Mu knew of.

The scroll was rather old and many words and diagrams on it were now faded.

"What is this?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Did you get this from Gu Yao?" Lin Mu asked, recognizing that some of these letters seemed to be from the Northern Tribes' language.

"No... not directly, at least. About three years ago, Gu Yao had asked the Gu legion to search for some old ruins of the Northern Tribes. These ruins were from the ancient times, back when the immortals had descended and when there were still five continents.

We were supposed to find those ruins since they contained old teleportation arrays that could operate over large distances. Additionally, Gu Yao also wanted to use them as a base if it was viable.

We certainly did find those ruins, and even the remnant of the old teleportation array. But in addition to that, I found some old and tattered documents. Most of them were too damaged to even be read, but this... was still intact. It's made from the aged beast's hide of the tribes." Wu Hei explained.

"And what's so important in this?" Lin Mu asked, since he couldn't actually read the words.

"This scrolls mentions of one 'Ancestral Bell'. It is an artifact that the Yao Clan brought with them." Wu hie answered.

Chapter 1129 The Ancestral Bell

Upon hearing the name Ancestral Bell, Lin Mu couldn't really tell what the use of such an object was. He had not come across and spirit tools or weapons that were in the form of a bell yet either.

But the fact that it was an artifact that was brought by the Yao Clan made it far more serious. The Yao clan was the one that had brought about the rise of the Northern Tribes in the past.

It was them that had given them the advanced knowledge of the formations and even cultivation techniques. It was all that they had lacked in the past and also why they were easily restrained by the central, eastern and western continents in the past.

But with the rise of the Yao Clan, everything was flipped on its head and they brought about the biggest revolution in the history of the entire Ming Dao world. And once that happened, the world became as it was now.

Then there was also the fact that the Yao clan was always suspected to be from a different world. Or at the very least, had been supported by the people of the different world, a higher ranking world too, perhaps.

"What is that exactly and how can it pose danger to us?" Lin Mu questioned.

"While I do not have the entire record of it, from the fragments of it that are mentioned here in this scroll, I can safely tell that it is a very strong artifact. Something that can affect a very wide area and is also powerful enough to decimate entire nations at once." Wu Hei answered.

Hearing this both Lin Mu and Jing Luo frowned as they knew if this was all true then the artifact might not just be a spirit tool.

Lin Mu looked at Jing Luo and guessed that he was thinking the same as him.

"A Pseudo Immortal tool or perhaps an Immortal tool?" Lin Mu said.

"Maybe... until we know the exact effects or its location, it will be hard to assume." Jing Luo said before turning to Wu Hei. "What more does it say? Are there any descriptions as to what the bell looks like." He asked, seeing as there was more than just one diagram on it thus it was hard to assume.

In response to this, Wu Hei pointed towards a certain diagram that was relatively smaller than the others.

"This is supposedly the Ancestral bell." Wu Hei spoke.

Lin Mu and Jing Luo stared at the diagram and saw that it wasn't just of a normal ringing bell, but rather that of an entire bell tower!

"Is this one of the miniature spirit tools that are modeled after buildings?" Lin Mu asked, as he had seen such spirit tools that were made to look like pagodas and the like.

"Hmm... it could be possible." Jing Luo took a closer look at it. "Perhaps grandfather might have an idea. He is the only one who has gone deep into the territory of the Northern Tribes, thus he should know the most." Jing Luo suggested.

"Yes, that'll be better." Lin Mu agreed, as Jing Wei was truly the safest bet they had.

"Is it fine if I take it with me?" Jing Luo asked Wu Hei.

"Of course!" He replied right away, having no reason to deny him.

"I'll take it to him after I'm done with Lin Mu in a bit." Jing Luo stated.

"That's fine. You can keep it with you right now." Wu Hei said. "I've made copies of it so there won't be an issue." He added.

"That's good. You should also show this to the alliance. The patriarchs had also participated in the wars of the past, so might have some idea perhaps." Lin Mu suggested.

"Yeah." Wu Hei nodded.

But Jing Luo's face was still a bit irked.

"What are you thinking?" Lin Mu asked, seeing his face.

"Something doesn't add up..." Jing Luo said.

"How so?" Wu Hei asked this time.

"If the Ancestral bell really is as strong and dangerous as it says here, and is something the Yao clan brought in the past, then why does it still exist?

I mean, when the immortals descended to our world they decimated the Northern Tribes and destroyed all that they had. Even now, their return was only because they had managed to hide away their knowledge.

But physical items such as this Ancestral Bell and other weapons were certainly destroyed in the past. I remember reading about it." Jing Luo answered.

"Yes... I recall reading about it too..." Lin Mu replied. "The Immortals didn't want to leave behind any chance of another rebellion and thus shattered every spirit tool and weapon they had."

"Exactly. And if it really is an immortal tool, then why didn't they use it in the past against the immortals? It certainly should have been able to stall them for a bit, even if not defeat them.

At least that way it would have been in the records." Jing Luo added.

Lin Mu thought to himself, finding it all to be suspicious.

"Is there a chance it was missed somehow? Or wasn't used at all?" Wu Hei guessed.

"That would only make sense if..."

"If they couldn't use it, even if they wanted to." Lin Mu completed Jing Luo's words.

"Yes. If there was a situation where they were unable to use it, or were restrained to use it, it might have survived. After all, we do know that the Northern Tribes unearthed several of their old ruins that were sealed away and thus hidden from the immortals of the past." Jing Luo agreed.

'Seems like we might have a wild card at our hands now...' Lin Mu thought to himself, wondering how to go about dealing with this.

Though one thing was for sure that Lin Mu wouldn't be able to take the same approach as he did with the sects until now. Barging in might only put him in danger and thus the entire world.

Chapter 1130 An Obsolete Armor

The information about the Ancestral bell was passed onto the rest of the alliance by Wu Hei so that they could see if there were any old records that might have been missed. And while he went to do this, Jing Luo had brought Lin Mu to show the item he had talked about at the start.

"So what is it that got you looking like this?" Lin Mu asked.

"It's kept here. Come on in." Jing Luo said as he opened the door to a rather large room.

This was a separate refinement room that Wu Hei had given to Jing Luo for the time being. Since Wu Hei had tried to find a solution to the Human Controlling Blood curse and had used every path for that, there were several refinement halls in the mansion.

~Creak~

The doors of the room opened and the two of them walked in. And as soon as Lin Mu looked at the end of the hall, he saw the large object that was kept there.

"Is that..." Lin Mu could recognize what the object was.

"Indeed... that armor is ready!" Jing Luo said with excitement.

Lin Mu looked at the grey armor with a bumpy surface. There was fur around the neck as well as on the arm guards. The armor was made out of eight pieces, with them being two boots, two gauntlets, two shoulder pauldrons, a chest piece and finally the helmet.

It was a full set of heavy armor that looked fit for a general.

Lin Mu walked up to the armor and scanned it. He saw the hidden inscriptions that were carved on its inside, as well as the intertwining formation method of Jing Luo. It was something the man had made himself before at the fragment of the minor plane where he was trapped.

But there, since Jing Luo didn't have the right materials, he could only use leaves and other things like it to make it. He had refined these leaves to the limit before imprinting formations on them. Then he had sewed them into his clothes.

This was the intertwining Formation Method made by him. And he had applied it here by separating the armor into several pieces. It allowed more formations to be added to the armor while also reducing the conflict and vulnerabilities between them.

In addition to that, it even reduced the spirit Qi consumption up to a certain level, making it stable in the long term.

"This is really good." Lin Mu couldn't help but praise.

"Of course! This is the best armor I've made till now. With the hide and bones of a Dao Shell realm beast that specialized in defense, this armor should be able to bear almost anything." Jing Luo said proudly.

"Really?" Lin Mu replied.

"Feel free to test it out." Jing Luo said with confidence.

"Alright." Lin Mu nodded his head.

While he already had his body that had been refined with the True Gold Body forging arts and the mortal Strengthening Scriptures's earth armor, Lin Mu wouldn't mind even greater defense.

Thus wanting to test out the armor, Lin Mu first held onto the edge of its gauntlet. Using his thumb and index finger, Lin Mu firmly clamped onto it before pinching it.

"See it's really toug—"

~CRACK~

Before Jing Luo could finish his sentence, he heard a sound that doused his pride.

"Oh..." Lin Mu looked at the fragment of the gauntlet that was now in his fingers before looking awkwardly at Jing Luo.

Little Shrubby who saw all this, couldn't help but let out a mewl as if he was laughing.

"I..." Lin Mu wanted to apologize, but was interrupted by Jing Luo this time.

"It's fine. Seems like I need to improve even more." Jing Luo stated.

"The armor is great! Don't be sorry about that." Lin Mu said, not wanting to put down the man and his effort.

"Perhaps the armor was just a little too late for you." Jing Luo said, trying to cope.

It was technically true, since Lin Mu had grown far too quickly for him to have been able to keep up. This armor might have been really helpful for Lin Mu if he didn't have the True Gold Body forging arts but now his own defenses were far greater than that.

One had to know that Lin Mu couldn't injure himself by pinching the same way he broke the armor. His body would be totally fine with it. He would have to exert a lot of strength to be able to injure himself or use a skill that could over come it.

"Umm... Look on the bright side. You can still use the armor." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit. "In the coming war, we need everyone to be strong. If you can use it, the benefit will still be there. So it wasn't a loss to make this armor."

Jing Luo thought over it and nodded his head.

"Yeah... I can just use the armor myself." Jing Luo agreed after hearing his words.

While Jing Luo did have a good defense and his body was relatively tough too, it wasn't on the same level as Lin Mu that could take Dao Treading realm expert's attacks like they were tickles.

"That's it! I now know what to do!" Jing Luo got another bout of inspiration.

'Since I can use it for myself, I can change the formations... perhaps I can even test out my prototype arrays.' Many ideas kept on popping up in his mind, making him more excited.

Since he was making this for Lin Mu originally, Jing Luo hadn't added any new formations he had thought of since they might not be stable. He wanted it to be a finished and stable product, since someone else would be using it.

But now that he was the one using it, he could use whatever he want and if problem arises he could very easily fix it as well.

In the end, it was still a gain.