

Walker 1151

Chapter 1151 The Beast's Join

Even one extra man killed was one less foe for them to fight after all. So the rapid activation of traps was not a loss. Optimally, they would have activated them in sequences and according to the best situation so that a better effect was obtained.

But that was clearly not an option now.

"DAMN THE SOUTHERNERS PIGS!" The Dao Treading realm elder shouted in rage.

The commanders looked on in anger as well, trying to figure out the next course of action.

Around twenty percent of their soldiers had been killed just now. This was a massive number as many armies's stopped fighting once the number of soldiers on one end fell to less than seventy percent.

Of course, this was usually the thing for mortal armies and not for cultivators, but it was still a large enough number to make a massive difference in the final outcome. After all, the northern tribes were effectively going against a population many times higher than theirs.

Even a minor loss might become dangerous for them in the long term. And while they were prepared to lose them in the battles, it was basically a waste now, since this was no battle.

It was a shame for them to see their men fall without even having to fight. And there was no army in front of them to fight either.

"How did they find out about the passage?!" The elders couldn't believe their eyes.

"The Juniors! Did they end up revealing it to someone hidden?" They wondered.

And that was exactly what had happened. But they didn't know that Lin Mu had learned more about their plans and was ready for exactly that.

One of the council members flew up and looked around, trying to see if there was anyone nearby.

'If they activated the formations just now, there must be someone nearby. They would have to know the exact time to do that so it was definitely not an automatic activation.' The council member thought.

Meanwhile, the other Dao Treading realm cultivator who had thrown the bone stake and broken the formations was now setting up his own formations. He threw out several flags and scattered some dust in the air.

The dust was pitch black and looked like ground up coal. But at the same time, it looked a little liquid seeing how it floated in the air.

"Elder Nine!" The Dao Treading realm elder, using the dust called out. "Assist me!"

"ON IT!" The elder titled Elder Nine appeared out of the army, showing Dao Shell realm fluctuations as well.

Lin Mu who was observing it all narrowed his eyes as he found it a bit strange.

'Why does the Dao Treading realm cultivator need the assistance of a Dao Shell realm one?' Lin Mu wondered.

But his doubts were soon answered as he saw what they did next.

The dust using elder gathered two fistfuls of black dust from a pouch on his waist and threw it in the air.

"GHOST DUST REVELATION!" he chanted as a few runes appeared in the air and merged into the dust.

"GO!" Elder Nine, on the other hand, clapped his hands and sent out a strong gust of wind, blowing away all the dust.

It was as if a dust storm had formed in the air as the black dust started to cover the entire five kilometer wide area.

"Everyone, be careful!" The patriarchs warned.

They certainly didn't know what the dust was, and it may very well be a poison. In less than a few seconds, the dust reached the hill, hidden with an illusion, and came to a halt. Normally this should not be possible and normal dust would have just blown through, as if there was nothing there.

But the Black dust as clearly blocked.

"THERE! THEY ARE HIDING THERE!" The Dust using elder shouted.

"CHARGE!" The commanders ordered, before throwing a flag toward the direction of the hill.

This was the method of showing everyone where to attack.

The army rushed towards the hill, where Lin Mu and the rest were hidden, their full force being exerted.

"It is time... ACTIVATE THE GATES!" Lin Mu ordered.

"ALL TELEPORTATION GATES HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED!" Elder Liqiang stated.

~HONG~

Suddenly the air in the field flickered. The lower leveled cultivators didn't feel much, but the Dao Treading realm and Dao Shell realm ones certainly did.

Elder Gunkao who was the strongest elder of the council felt the tens of spatial disturbances around them and knew that something was wrong. His eyes went wide when he sensed the space tear apart.

"RETREAT! I SAID RETREAT!" The elder hurriedly ordered.

Unfortunately, it was too late as they were not up against traps this time.

~ROAR!~

~HOWL~

~SCREECH~

~CHIRP~

Various sounds of beasts crying were heard as strong waves of spirit Qi appeared out of nowhere.

The elders looked towards where the spatial fluctuations had come from and saw what looked like swirling black portals in the distance. And from those portals came out beasts.

"Beasts?" The Nascent soul realm soldiers flew up and looked in the distance as well, finding the beasts appearing.

"No..." But soon they realized something more. "It's not just beasts..."

There were many different levels of spirit Qi fluctuations coming from the beasts, but none of them were weak. Even the weakest was at the core condensation realm with the majority being at the Nascent soul realm.

"D-Dao Shell realm beasts! THERE ARE DAO SHELL REALM BEASTS!" The soldiers shouted.

The elders watched as a beast tide now surrounded them from two sides. There were Dao Shell realm beasts in the lead, with the weaker beasts at the back, clearly being controlled by the authority of a strong beast.

~SHUA~

"WHO!?" The dust controlling elder suddenly felt the dust in his control waver.

He looked toward the hill and saw ripples appearing in the air. Then in the next second, a man appeared from it. The man raised his hand and threw out something towards the army.

"TIME TO EAT!"

Chapter 1152 A Rain Of Beast Qi

What Lin Mu had thrown out looked like a ball. But it was no normal ball, its surface was flowing and twisting as if it were liquid. Its color was also changing from white, to blue, to green, to many more.

The Dao Treading realm elders who had sensed the ball appearing couldn't even touch it and when the ball of energy reached high up above the army of the northern tribes, it exploded!

~Boom~

"EVERYONE DEFEND!" The commanders of the northern tribes ordered.

They had no idea what the ball was and it may as well be another Qi skill meant to kill them. The ball burst apart into numerous drops of energy that fell all over the army like rain. They tried to block it with their spirit tools and skills, but it was all useless.

"What?!" The Dao Treading realm elders were surprised when even their skills couldn't block it.

They all became extremely tense as the drops of energy entered their bodies quickly. The Dao Treading realm and Dao Shell realm experts were the first to act and checked their bodies for the strange energy, wanting to expel it before it became problematic.

"Wait... its... its not harming us?" Elder Gunkao realized. "It's just some kind of Qi?"

~ROAR~

But instead of having an effect on them, the energy seemed to have a different effect on the beasts that were surrounding them. A frantic and excited look of hunger appeared in the eyes of the beasts.

Their auras fluctuated madly as if they didn't care for their lives anymore.

~HOWL~

The first beast to attack was a large wolf beast that was at the Dao Treading realm. It was similar to the Bronze Tribe Wolf that Lin Mu had hunted first in the Kong Plane, but was slightly smaller than that.

This was a wolf called as the Barren Tail wolf. Its tail had no fur and was thin like that of a rat. It was known for its ferocious nature and would attack anything that it desired. It was even brave against other beings, stronger than itself.

The Barren Tail Wolf was also different in the fact that it didn't really live in a pack. It mostly wanted alone and at most would have another wolf with it that might be its mate. But this one was alone.

Perhaps that might be the reason why it was so eager to attack.

The Barren Tail Wolf's claws descended like a hurricane, ripping apart all that stood in its way. Its jaws opened wide and swallowed men whole, not even caring to chew them.

~HOWL~

After eating a couple of tribesmen, it seemed to have become even more aggressive and attacked non stop.

The soldiers of the northern tribes tried to resist, but they were far too weak to go against the beast.

"ATTACK! ALL DAO SHELL ELDERS ARE TO RESIST!" Elder Gunkao himself gave the order.

~ROAR~

~CHIRP~

It was at this time that the other Dao Shell realm beasts also jumped into the fray. And with these leading beasts attacking, the rest joined as well. Now it was truly a beast tide, a really dangerous beast tide.

The members of the alliance who were watching all this happen were left stunned.

"W-what was that?" Elder Liqiang couldn't help but ask.

"You asked us to make large teleportation gates for beasts?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Indeed." Lin Mu nodded his head. "They will be our allies for now."

"How did you get them to cooperate?" Patriarch You Yi asked.

"Just like how you would train a pet, entice them with a treat." Lin Mu replied.

"Treat?" Patriarch Mingliang was then reminded of the ball of energy that Lin Mu had thrown earlier.

"Was it what you threw earlier?" Patriarch You Yi guessed.

"Yes, that was Beast Qi. Something that is irresistible to beasts." Lin Mu answered.

"Beast Qi... this is the first time I've ever heard of something like this." You Yi said, wondering about it.

"There are truly many things we don't know of..." Elder Liqiang muttered.

"How long will this effect last?" Jing Luo asked the more important question.

"Oh, its permanent." Lin Mu answered.

"Permanent!? Even strong alchemical pills might not have such an effect." Patriarch Mingliang who was an expert in this said.

"Well, permanent as in the sense that the people of the northern tribes will be greatly tempting to the beasts. And they will do everything in their power to eat them. They will only stop when they have consumed them all." Lin Mu explained a bit more.

Hearing this they were stunned. As it truly was a dangerous effect. If such beast Qi was spread in a city, it would be sure to pull in a beast tide after a while.

"Can you do it again?" Patriarch Shandian asked curiously.

He could see the potential of this. After all, getting beasts to fight in their stead was a great tactic that saved their own strength and prevented their lives from being lost as well.

"I technically can... but refining that amount of Beast Qi will take me over a week." Lin Mu answered truthfully.

Lin Mu had actually spent only two days in making that ball of beast Qi, but it had taken his entire store of spirit Qi from his Dantian to refine and condense an amount large enough to cover an entire army.

But this was with him replenishing his spirit Qi with other materials. If it was done normally, it would take him multiple days to cultivate and replenish the spirit Qi lost by his body.

"A Week is still too powerful..." Patriarch Shandian couldn't help but say.

~WHOOSH~

And just as he said this, a loud sound was heard coming from the battlefield.

"Huh? A TSUNAMI?" The people were stunned.

A large wave nearly fifty meters tall had arrived out of no where in the middle of the battlefield.

"RUN!!!" The soldiers tried to run but were helpless against the tsunami.

"Xiaobao's here!"

Chapter 1153 A Turtle's Chance At Revenge

On the edge of the battlefield, where the teleportation gate was, a small hill could be seen coming out of it. It had just appeared out of the gate and a large amount of water was accompanying it.

"Let's help Xiaobao out a bit, Little Shrubby." Lin Mu said.

"Okay~!" Little Shrubby replied before turning to the snowy peaks in the distance.

The alliance members watched as Little Shrubby spewed out his own Tsunami. But this Tsunami wasn't made out of water, but fire!

"FIRE! WHERE THE HELL DID THIS FIRE COME FROM?!" Elder Ku Mi, who had just joined the battlefield said in confusion.

"Elder Ku Mi! Suppress the fire, our men will be killed otherwise!" Elder Gunkao ordered.

Elder Ku Mi quickly acted without responding to the old man. She created several hand seals as a frosty aura spread from her body. Soon, dark blue Qi was swirling around her, letting off a chilly air that froze the moisture in the air, making it fall back as snow flakes!

"Frost Mountain Palm!" Elder Ku Mi executed her Qi skill, sending out a palm imprint that turned into a frozen mountain mid air.

The frozen mountain seemingly sucked all the snow in the surrounding towards it and turned it into ice, enlarging its own size. In less than five seconds, it had already become three times as large as its original size and was now twenty meters tall.

The frozen mountain flew towards the flame tsunami that had seemingly come out of nowhere.

"WHAT!?" but when it came in contact with the flame tsunami, it did nothing.

Rather, the flame tsunami split apart and made way for the Frozen mountain to pass through it. The frozen mountain continued onwards and crashed into the forest behind.

Elder Gunkao tracked the path of the flame tsunami and saw that its target was actually not the army now. Instead, it was heading towards the snowy mountains at the back.

He furrowed his brows and thought, 'Did the attack miss? Or did it get deflected by Ku Mi's skill?'

~BOOM~

A couple of seconds later, the flame tsunami struck the many mountains in the back, melting all the snow that was covering them.

~GUSH~

The snow melted and turned into water, which soon gathered into a large river flowing down the mountains!

The water gathered in the battlefield, making it harder for the soldiers to move around. Those that could fly were already floating in the air, but the rest were forced to be drenched in the chilly water.

"There we go." Lin Mu said as he looked towards the small hill that had finally existed the teleportation gate.

"Time for your revenge too, Xiaobao! These are the same people that killed your parents!" Lin Wu shouted.

~GOOOOONG~

A loud sound was heard coming from the hill as a rocky protrusion rose from its side.

"What is that hill?" Someone from the alliance wondered.

"That is no hill... that's a turtle. A Turtle beast named Xiaobao." Lin Mu answered.

And just as he said this, the rocky protrusion rose up above the hill, as two blue eyes opened up on its end.

~GOOOOOOOOONG~

Xiaobao let out another cry as he gathered up his power. The water that had just gathered up on the battlefield turned it into the habitat that Xiaobao was used to and increased his powers!

~SWISH~

The water started to flow and seethe as twisters formed within it.

~SWOOSH~

Soon water spouts also rose from them, churning and turning in the sky!

The two phenomena that might be calamities in nature were under the control of Xiaobao and ravaged the army. Whether it be Qi refining realm, core condensation realm or even Nascent soul realm cultivators, all of them were affected.

Perhaps only the Dao Shell realm cultivators could resist it, while the Dao Treading realm cultivators were safe from it.

"A MERE BEAST DARES USE WATER AGAINST THE NORTHERN TRIBES!" Elder Ku Mi was now furious.

Gesturing with her hands, she called forth stormy frost winds that blew forwards. The water that was touched by these winds was frozen and turned solid. Even the twisters and water spouts were affected by them, freezing solid in place before crumbling to shards.

Even then, Elder Ku Mi realized that her skill was not as good as it should have been. She was a Dao Treading realm elder who was specialized in ice elemental skills. With her capabilities, she should have been able to turn this entire battlefield into solid ice.

"What's the problem, Elder Ku Mi?" Elder Gunkao asked, seeing that the effect was not on par with her capabilities.

"That beast... it can control the water to a terrifying level. Even at the Dao Shell realm, it is able to resist my power of freezing." Elder Ku Mi said as she gritted her teeth.

While she was still able to freeze the water, it took more energy than it normally should have, thus exerting more spirit Qi.

Elder Gunkao was surprised and looked at the small hill in the distance.

"It truly is a large beast... the largest I've ever seen." Elder Gunkao said, as he tried to probe the beast.

But his eyes went wide as he found it impossible to penetrate the beast's shell.

Lin Mu who was watching it all, couldn't help but laugh.

"Haha! They think getting past Xiaobao's defenses is easy." Lin Mu said, recalling that even he was unable to do that in the past and even now, it was not possible for him.

Xiaobao had the bloodline of two great beasts and had great potential to reach the immortal realm one day. Even now, since he had assimilated the Remnant Dao Crystal of his father Bao, his capabilities were beyond what a normal Dao shell realm beast had.

While he may not be able to defeat a Dao Treading realm expert, it was not an issue to defend.

Meanwhile, the alliance members were in awe of the turtle beast being able to restrain a Dao Treading realm expert on its own while the other beasts slaughtered the rest.

Chapter 1154 An Immortal Ascension Realm Expert's Might!

The effect brought upon by the inclusion of beasts in this battle was apparent and no one could doubt it.

The patriarchs of the alliance, while having faith in Lin Mu, were unsure about his choice to add allies at the last moment. Especially from an unexplored place like the Kong Plane. Even after all these years, the Kong plane was yet to be fully explored.

There were far too many secrets hidden in it and over time it had grown several beings inside it that were strong. There were also dangerous areas within it that could threaten even Dao Treading realm cultivators, thus one needed to be very careful.

Perhaps only Lin Mu, who had control over it and could exit it anytime, was safe to explore it.

~BOOM~

Xiaobao lifted one of his giant legs and stomped hard.

~CRACK~

The earth cracked apart as a large fissure appeared. Normally, water should have disappeared into it, but instead of that, more water shot out of it!

"RETREAT! RETREAT!" The northern tribes frantically gave out orders, but their Qi refining realm cultivators and core condensation realm cultivators were still getting downed.

By now, nearly thirty percent of the army had been whittled down.

"ENOUGH!" A thunderous voice was heard echoing across the field.

It was louder than the beasts and shook the skies. The clouds turned fragmented from it and fierce winds blew.

"This..." Lin Mu felt the shaking of space. "No... not just that... the spirit Qi... it's turning..."

~WOONG~

Suddenly, the clouds seemed to have turned white, as if they were made out of pure snow. The fragmented clouds gathered together and turned into a massive palm that covered a span of nearly four hundred meters!

"FROST DEITY PALM!" The thunderous voice chanted.

~BOOM~

The palm made out of snowy clouds descended like the fiercest of blizzards. The chill coming from it froze all the water all at once, and even Xiaobao couldn't restrain it anymore.

Ku Mi who had been struggling this entire time, looked up and smiled.

"AHAHAHA! WELCOME MASTER!" she greeted. "Now you all southerners will know our true might!"

And just as she said that, the palm struck the earth!

~RUMBLE~

It was as if an earthquake had occurred along with a blizzard simultaneously. Snow covered everything in a kilometer's radius and was nearly a hundred meters thick!

All the beasts that were caught underneath it could not be felt anymore along with several members of the Northern Tribes that were unfortunately caught within it. But that was not all, as the impact of the attack created a shock wave that reached the hill where the alliance was hiding.

"Everyone, reinforce the barrier!" Patriarch You Yi ordered.

Lin Mu joined in as well and poured his spirit Qi into the barrier.

~KACHA~

Despite all that, the barrier shook as cracks appeared on it. Runes flickered nonstop, and it seemed like the barrier wouldst' be able to withstand it any longer. The formations masters that were directly controlling it all bled from their noses and ears as a great strain pushed them.

Still, after a few seconds, they managed to hold back, and the impact didn't reach them.

~pant~

~Gasp~

The sounds of loud panting and multiple gasps were heard as the alliance members felt the strain.

"What was that?" Someone asked.

"That was... An Immortal Ascension realm expert." Patriarch You Yi spoke, his eyes serious.

"They're already here!?" Elder Liqiang questioned anxiously.

"No... the expert is not here... he is still over fifty kilometers away." Lin Mu spoke, having sensed an old man that had appeared far away.

He had appeared from a different direction than the army of the Northern tribes, which was strange.

"What!? He's not even here and could still create such damage?" The people of the alliance were stunned.

"Such is the power of an Immortal Ascension realm expert. And if not for the fact that he probably didn't want to affect his own people, the attack would have been far stronger than this." Patriarch Shandian said this time.

"You mean to say... he held back?" Hua San asked.

The five Hua disciples were also present here with their master patriarch Hua and had been working to maintain the formations.

"Indeed." Patriarch Hua nodded his head.

"Sssss! How can we go against that?" Hua Er said, finding it to be terrifying.

Looking at the battlefield that was now half snow, it was a stunning scene.

The snow had raised the height of the battlefield by over a hundred meters. The smaller hills nearby were directly buried and the forest was also gone.

And if not for the barrier protecting the hill that the alliance was in, they would have been buried in the snow as well.

Lin Mu's brows furrowed as he scanned the battlefield.

While he knew that the immortal ascension realm cultivators would eventually join the battle, after seeing their effect, he was truly shocked.

'Senior Xukong did tell me about how powerful they could be, but this... almost all the Dao shell realm beasts are dead already.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Other than Xiaobao who was really resilient and tough, all the other Dao shell realm beasts had either died or were frozen solid. They might be able to escape, but would be greatly weakened from the chill that penetrated them.

Lin Mu could sense the chill and knew that if not for him consuming the flesh of the Glacial Shell Snail queen, even he would have had a hard time with the cold.

Lin Mu's mind ran quickly as multiple thoughts appeared about what to do next.

Back at the side of the northern tribes, Ku Mi was controlling the snow and ice and saved some of their people.

"Thank you, elder Ku Mi!" they all said in gratitude.

"Mm..." Ku Mi simply hummed in response before looking towards the hill where the alliance was hiding.

"You all have hidden very well, but no more!" She said before flying up.

Chapter 1155 Master White Mountain

The cracks in the formation covering the hill were still there and actually made it more obvious that there was someone hiding there.

"Hold the formation! Only when we can't hold on anymore will we begin our direct assault!" Lin Mu ordered.

If not for the presence of the Immortal Ascension realm expert appearing, Lin Mu would have attacked them himself. But now he couldn't afford the risk that would come with it.

"Is your grandfather near?" Lin Mu questioned Jing Luo.

Jing Luo anxiously held the jade slip and tried to contact Jing Wei. But a second later, his brows furrowed.

"I can't contact him like this. The spirit Qi in the air is too turbulent and is making the communication jade slip fail." Jing Luo said.

Lin Mu checked it with his own jade slip and found that it was true. Normally this shouldn't have been an issue, but with an Immortal Ascension realm expert attacking, the chaos in the spirit Qi was not easy to pass through.

In fact, if not for the protection of the formation, the pressure in the air itself would have rendered the weaker cultivators helpless.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth and wondered if he needed to jump in early on.

Patriarch Hua and the others were watching Lin Mu and had heard everything. They could easily guess what Lin Mu was intending to do.

"Wait, we still have the Immortal ascension realm cultivators of the top sects." Patriarch You Yi said.

"Yes! They should have already sensed it the moment the Northern tribes' Immortal Ascension realm expert approached the border." Patriarch Shandian added.

Lin Mu didn't know if the three sects were to be believed or if it was worth to do that. But in the current situation it was the best option.

'I still have the final option anyway.' Lin Mu remembered.

He had not come without multiple backups, but didn't want to use them right away.

"Alright, we'll hold on until they appear. Just continue reinforcing the formation array for now." Lin Mu stated.

"Yes alliance leader!" The formation masters stated.

With that decided, the formation array glowed as new runes appeared in the air, repairing the cracks. And while this happened, the Immortal Ascension realm expert of the Northern Tribes finally appeared on the battlefield physically.

The expert was an old man as expected and was carrying an ash white cane in his hand. His back was straight though, unlike his bearing. His eyes were sharp and gazed around the battlefield like a hawk, taking everything onto him at once.

"Seems like you weren't unfairly suppressed, Ku Mi." The old man spoke. "That turtle beast is not simple. I can sense the Dao traces of Water from it."

"What? How can a beast at the Dao Shell realm already have that?" Ku Mi was surprised. 'No wonder it could resist my control.'

"It is hard to say, but one thing I can tell is that beast is possibly older than you. It might also be its bloodline. But whatever it is, you cannot take it lightly." The old man said.

"I understand Master White Mountain." Ku Mi replied to her master. "But now that you're here does it matter?" She added with a grin.

"It certainly does not." Master White Mountain said with an arrogant expression.

He turned towards Xiaobao who was trying to turn the ice into water again and raised his hand.

"You might have lived long, but its time to die now, beast." Master White Mountain said and executed a skill.

His index and middle fingers joined with his thumb to become a tripod like shape. He then twisted them and pulled his hand back.

~SHUA~

Chilly air condensed within the fingers as a small object seemingly formed. The object was thin like a chopstick and was almost the same length, but one of its side was sharp while the other was flanged.

"Let's see if your shell can withstand my Ice Edges Dart!" Master White Mountain threw out the dart.

~WHOOSH~

The dart soared across the battlefield, creating long trails of ice underneath it. In less than three seconds, it had already reached the large turtle.

~GOOONG~

Xiaobao let out a furious cry, knowing that he was being attacked. But just as the dart was about to touch its shell, the beast disappeared into thin air.

~SHLAK~

The Dart struck empty ground and exploded, creating icy spikes that were nearly a hundred meters tall.

"WHAT?!" Ku Mi exclaimed.

Master White Mountain furrowed his brows as his spirit sense checked the area from where the beast had disappeared from.

"Strange..." At first, he didn't sense anything. "Spatial fluctuations?" But when he delved deeper, he realized something.

"Master White Mountain, these beasts had appeared out of nowhere earlier, too. I think they might have teleportation arrays hidden somewhere here as well." Ku Mi stated.

"Is that so?" Master White Mountain lifted his cane and seemingly chanted something under his breath.

Chilly spirit Qi swirled around him as the ice elemental in the air concentrated like crazy. The ash white cane started absorbing it all, and a few moments later had sucked it all in.

"SHATTERING GLACIER CANE!" Master White Mountain threw the cane toward the ground.

~CRACK~

Surprisingly though, the cane didn't directly drill into the ground. Instead, it was only embedded into it, about three inches deep.

~KACHA~ KACHA~ KACHA~

But then the ground started to freeze at a blinding speed and more and more ice formed over it. The cane rose along with the ice and stayed on top as the entire battlefield became a glacier.

The army of the Northern tribes was fine though and the old man controlled his skill to simply lift them along with the ice.

The effect of this skill was soon seen.

The first to break down were the teleportation gates. They simply couldn't bear the cold and turned brittle from it. So much so that the gusts of wind alone were enough to break them.

But that was merely the start.

"THE BARRIER IS FALLING!" The formation masters of the alliance shouted.

Chapter 1156 Centennial Sword Ancestor!

The attack of Master White Mountain was beyond the limits of almost everyone here. And with the barrier array falling, the alliance members wouldn't have much of a space to hide. It wouldn't be unusual for them to succumb to the attack as well.

~SHUA~

But just as the barrier was about to go past the point of no return, Lin Mu appeared.

~DENG~

Three large piles of spirit stone chunks fell around him, and he directly channeled the spirit Qi into the array.

"Good! You're back!" Jing Luo said in relief.

"We were surprised seeing you disappear. One moment you were here and then you were not."
Patriarch You Yi said, finding it confusing as they had not sensed it at all.

"I had to save Xiaobao. I could not let him die here since I promised Kong Hutao before. I sent him back to the Kong plane before he was struck." Lin Mu explained.

While Lin Mu didn't mind the other beasts dying here, as that was entirely his purpose in bringing them here, he couldn't let the turtle die. He was part of the legacy that Kong Hutao had left behind.

Besides, Lin Mu couldn't help but be reminded of Little Shrubby. From what he had heard, the relationship between Kong Hutao and the father of Xiaobao was the same, of a master and beast.

Lin Mu wouldn't want Little Shrubby to suffer, and thus decided to save Xiaobao from the attack. While he had no idea whether the turtle could bear the attack of the immortal Ascension realm expert or not, it was best not to take any chances.

Additionally, Lin Mu also got to witness the power of the attack first hand.

'I avoided it at the very last moment, but that feeling of threat was still there. I will not die from it but I will certainly be injured.' Lin Mu assessed.

It could certainly be said to be an important experience for him and allowed him to know where he stood now.

'But now to focus on the problem at hand...!' Lin Mu thought to himself as he channeled all the spirit Qi from the peak grade spirit stone chunks.

He had saved up a few of them, just for situations like these, and they were perfect for this.

"The array! It's holding up!" The formation masters were stunned.

What Lin Mu was doing was the same as essentially patching up a leaking dam with some mud. It would not hold for longer than a moment and was not very effective, but doing it fast enough made it so that the leaks were still being held back.

"We don't need to repair it fully, just hold on for a bit more..." Lin Mu said, having sensed another presence appearing on the horizon.

Master White Mountain who saw his attack behind resisted was surprised.

"They certainly do not lack skill... let's see if they can resist my next attack then!" Master White Snow said as he threw out another palm imprint.

Chilly air spread and froze everything in its path. The might of the Immortal Ascension realm expert was clearly displayed. The attack not only contained the power of spirit Qi, but also Dao Traces!

That was what brought the qualitative difference between the attacks of a Dao Treading realm expert and an Immortal Ascension realm expert!

While a Dao Treading Realm expert was also able to use their comprehension of the Dao Traces and implement them with skills, it was barely anything compared to an Immortal Ascension realm expert.

It was like trying to compare the drawing of a child in kindergarten and an art school student. While both could draw, the difference in quality was almost incomparable.

Such was the might of the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators and why they were titled 'Master' in the Northern tribes.

They had reached a point where they were no longer referred to by their names, but rather the title of master. They would get different titles depending on their skills and abilities. In the case of Master White Mountain, he was the peak expert of Ice Dao in the Northern tribes and thus he was given the title of White Mountain!

He was not only the master of elder Ku Mi, but had also made many Qi skills and other ice attribute techniques that the northern tribes used.

The alliance members watched as the large palm imprint approached at a blinding speed, threatening to freeze them.

But just when it was halfway to the barrier, a miracle happened.

"CENTENNIAL SLASH!"

A sword light appeared from the south and pierced through the palm imprint.

~SHING~SHING~SHING~

The icy palm imprint was split apart into a hundred segments from the sword light, dispelling its power.

"I was doubtful if I would get to fight a worthy opponent again. But seems like I wasn't lied to." A voice was heard as the clouds parted.

"Centennial Sword Ancestor, so you finally decided to act." Master White Mountain recolored.

~WHOOSH~

From the clouds appeared the figure of an old man. His back was straight, while his shoulders were broad. His long hair hung from his back, held in place with a steel pin while his long brows were like hanging sword.

His white beard looked almost like the snow and couldn't be differentiated easily. He was dressed in slim robes, like what a wandering swordsman would wear. Then there were two words written on the back of his robes.

They read: Centennial Sword!

He was none other than the ancestor of the Centennial Sword sect, one of the three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators of the Great Zhou Continent!

"He's finally here!" Patriarch You Yi, and the others were relieved.

Lin Mu gazed at the newly arrived old man and found him to be different and familiar at the same time.

"That sword aura... almost reminds me of the Severing Heart sutra's aura. It is weaker, but still close to it." Lin Mu muttered to himself. "And the sword intent... he certainly has it!"

Chapter 1157 Sword Intent

Centennial Sword Ancestor exuded a similar feeling to when Lin Mu used the Severing heart sutra. But at the same time there were major differences as well.

'The severing heart sutra is more... Fierce. The Centennial Sword ancestor does give of that feeling but the intensity is not the same.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Other than the major difference in cultivation base, perhaps the effect would be the same for Lin Mu. His aura might become even stronger than that of the Centennial Sword ancestor.

The man in question held a rather plain looking sword in his right hand and gazed at Master White Mountain.

"So you know who I am." Centennial Sword Ancestor spoke.

"How can I not know one of our greatest enemies? Though I was hoping you all would be ignorant for a while more. Would have made things easier for us." Master White Mountain taunted.

But the Centennial Sword Ancestor did not mind it at all. His expression didn't change at all and he continued to gaze at the opponent.

"And you are called Master White Mountain... Hmm... I'll remember that." The Centennial Sword Ancestor said before raising his sword.

~SHING~

The sword hummed lightly before it was slashed out.

~HUALA~

The winds tore apart as the sword lights shot towards Master White Mountain.

"Humph!" The old man though simply harrumphed and threw out several palm imprints.

Each palm imprint met a sword light and they canceled each other out. It was evident that the two old men were relatively matched in strength.

"Good, at least now I know I can go further." The Centennial Sword Ancestor said with a smile.

He raised the sword up high, as a heart stilling aura rose from him. The aura condensed upon the sword before turning into the figure of a sword as well.

The alliance members that were watching it were stunned.

"Sword Intent... that is true Sword Intent!" Jing Luo recognized.

Lin Mu's eyes locked on to it, observing it deeply. He too had the potential to develop sword intent, but he hadn't done so because he was not focused on it as much.

Originally, Lin Mu had picked the sword as a weapon for him because it was the most common weapon to him. But later he got the thousand armament Blade Scripture and he thought that knowing how to use several weapons was better.

And while this did come in handy for him and was useful, recently he couldn't help but think that just using his body along was good too.

He found the Boulder Collapsing Fist to be his choice of skill to use. But that was when his own raw strength was not enough, which most of the times it was. His body was after all, comparable to that of a Dao Treading realm expert at his peak, and perhaps even more.

And when combined with his Qi cultivation base, it had gone even past that.

This had also put a strange dilemma before himself. The many weapons he had weren't actually able to withstand his strength!

Only those that were high grade spirit tools and weapons could do so for now and even among them, only those that were pure forging type, like his short sword, were able to do so with no issues.

Lin Mu knew that if he exerted his full power, his spirit weapons might simply break from the force.

He became greatly aware of it when he broke the armor made with the remains of the Troll Demon beast. If even a spirit tool made with the sole purpose of withstanding damage could not bear his strength, then spirit weapons meant for offense certainly wouldn't be able to.

One of the ways to go past this was to condense weapon intent.

Lin Mu had learned that not only could it increase the strength of weapons but also made them greatly durable.

It was even said that masters with great weapon intents could use anything as their weapon. For example, a swordsman with sword intent could utilize a blade of grass or a random stick as a sword and it's might not necessarily be less than a peak grade spirit sword!

Lin Mu had confidence that he would comprehend and condense his own sword intent if he worked on it for a bit with the help of the severing heart sutra. But now that the opportunity had presented to observe someone who had not only comprehended and condensed sword intent, but had raised it to a good level, Lin Mu did not let it go.

He observed how the Centennial Sword Ancestor fought and how each of his slashes contained the intent.

The sharpness within them was astounding, and they represented something entirely new. Lin Mu seemingly entered a trance and his lips started to move automatically. Faint chants came out of his lips, but others could not hear it over the noise of the battle going in the front.

Minute by minute passed as Lin Mu's comprehension only deepened.

Jing Luo who had been focused on the battle as well, suddenly felt a sense of danger coming from near him.

"What?" he quickly turned around, only to see Lin Mu staring at the battle.

His eyes were a little dull, but the aura coming from him was strange. It was as if danger and stillness intertwined and fluctuated within it.

"Lin Mu?" Jing Luo called out lightly, but received no answer.

A minute later, he was just about to move head and nudge Lin Mu, when a change occurred.

~HUMM~

Lin Mu's eyes gained a sharp tone as his aura transformed.

~KIA~ ~KIA~ KIA~

The low cry of swords was heard as everyone felt goosebumps appearing on their body. Jing Luo who saw the change in Lin Mu was shocked.

"S-sword intent? He's developing sword intent, too?" Jing Luo was surprised.

~HONG~

All of a sudden, Lin Mu's aura spiked and condensed into the illusory figure of a sword. The sword shot up into the sky and exploded into sharp winds that rained upon the army of the northern tribes!

Chapter 1158 Intermediate Sword Intent

In the battle between the Centennial Sword Ancestor and Master White Mountain, no one dared to interfere. They were fighting in the area between the Alliance and the tribes' army. This made it so that they couldn't fight directly for now.

And since they couldn't do that, they were simply watching the fight between the two immortal ascension realm experts. After all, this was something that could only be witnessed once in several lifetimes for them.

Most of them might not even live ten of their lifetime to see something like this. Thus, they decided to learn from it and hope that they too could improve from it.

Because of how focused they were on the fight, the soldiers of the northern tribes couldn't react when a rain of sharp winds slaughtered them.

"ARGH!"

"NOOO!"

"WHY!!!"

A cacophony of cries could be heard as blood was spilled, and limbs flew apart. Those that were unlucky were directly reduced to mincemeat and couldn't even let out a word before they were killed.

The alliance members were stunned too as the sound of painful death cries were hard to ignore.

"What?" The patriarch's of the alliance saw a part of the army getting slaughtered and also felt the aura of Lin Mu.

Their brows furrowed before their eyes went wide.

"SWORD INTENT!" They all said in unison.

Jing Luo, who was the first to witness Lin Mu condensing Sword Intent was surprised too.

"You developed sword intent?" Jing Luo couldn't help but want to confirm it first.

"Seems like it." Lin Mu replied as he looked at his short sword which was constantly emitting waves of energy.

This energy was different from spirit Qi. Lin Mu recognized this to be the 'sword intent'. It was strange as it needed no Qi to work and neither did it need vital essence or vital energy. It seemed to be running without a source.

"Weapon intents don't need Qi or other kinds of energy to work. While they can be enhanced and amplified with them, they don't absolutely need them and can work on their own.

What they are influenced by however, is... the will power and comprehension of the user. As long as your comprehension of the sword increases, your sword intent will grow and as long as your willpower is firm, the sword intent will never end." Xukong suddenly spoke.

He had been deep in cultivation for a while and knew that he was close to a breakthrough thus had been focusing on that. But the awakening of Lin Mu's sword intent had woken him out of his trance.

After all, he couldn't really focus on cultivating when the ethereal altar in the ring's space was letting off a sword aura.

Lin Mu who heard Xukong's word intrinsically, understood them and his understanding went even deeper.

"I see..." Lin Mu muttered and looked at the army of the tribes.

Splitting apart his five fingers, he pointed them to the skies.

"Rise!" Lin Mu called out as his short sword shot into the sky like an arrow.

But it wasn't just the short sword that did that. Every spirit sword that Lin Mu had in his storage all shot out simultaneously without him even needing to control them. Most of them weren't even branded with his spirit sense and were random ones that were simply there after he had collected them from the spatial storage treasures of others or other such places.

"Direct sword control... its not just sword intent, it's intermediate sword intent!" Patriarch Shandian spoke.

He too had weapon intent of his own, but his wasn't sword intent, but rather Axe intent. Still, he knew how the weapon intents were and that there were differences in their levels.

Weapon intents were separated into several grades, depending on how deep the comprehension of a person was. Most swordsmen who had a certain level of understanding of the sword will develop preliminary sword intent.

It couldn't really have any direct effects on the sword, and was merely something that enhanced their understanding of sword skills. This was something Lin Mu had developed long ago when he had met Wu Hei at his mansion in the Wu Lim city.

After this was the Novice Sword Intent. In this one could use sword intent to enhance the power of their swords. But they still needed to use their spirit sense to control them.

In the case of Lin Mu, he had never actually reached this stage and had halted before that.

Then came the Intermediate Sword intent, in which one didn't even need spirit sense to control a spirit sword. They would simply respond to the user's will as long as the user's sword intent could reach that far.

Lin Mu had progressed to this level directly after having comprehended sword intent for a bit and observing the Centennial Sword Ancestor display his own sword intent.

The Centennial Sword Ancestor though, was on a higher level. His sword intent was on the advanced level and at this level, one didn't even need spirit swords to display the same power.

Even normal swords would work the same as spirit swords and could be controlled. Along with this came the increase in power and intensity as well.

Seeing the hundreds of swords floating in the sky above Lin Mu, the alliance members were awed.

'Grandfather's intuition was right... No wonder he was willing to give him the short sword.' Jing Luo thought to himself.

~SHUA~

Lin Mu gestured towards the army and all the swords hovering in the sky shot forwards. The slaughter began once more, and the tribals couldn't do much other than running and defending.

"DAMN YOU!" The Dao Shell and Dao Treading realm elders of the northern tribes were furious and used their own skills to protect their men.

"ANCESTOR SAVE US!" The northern tribesmen couldn't help but call out in fear.

Master White Mountain had witnessed it all as well, but was occupied with the fight earlier.

"ENOUGH!" Now he couldn't hold back anymore.

Chapter 1159 The Direct Battle Begins

The deaths of so many members of the northern tribes early on was not acceptable to the elders. By now they had lost nearly 40% of their numbers, which was far more than they had ever expected.

They knew that a war would ensue some time after they entered the Great Zhou Continent. Even if it was not right away, there would certainly be a reaction some time later from the southerners.

And this would inevitably lead them to lose their people.

But losing them right at the cusp of entry was simply unthinkable to them. And that too without any of the southerners actually suffering either. It was one of the worst insults that could have been delivered to them.

"ENOUGH!" Master White Mountain could not take it anymore and made a few hand seals, erecting a dome around the army.

~RUMBLE~

Ice rose like saplings sprouting from the ground and twirled around the northern tribesmen, forming a large dome that not only defended from the incoming swords, but also repelled the ones that were already there.

All the weaker swords were pushed back almost instantly and only those that were either mid grade or high grade were still holding their ground. The short sword even managed to carve out a part of the ice dome before it was forcefully blasted away by an icicle.

"DIE!" The Master White Mountain shouted as he sent several palm imprints towards where he had sensed the sword intent from.

After all, Lin Mu's sword intent was oppressive for most and could be felt easily. It was like a beacon of light shining in the darkest of nights.

~BOOM!~

But before the attacks could reach Lin Mu, they were stopped. In fact, the attacks had not even reached the barrier, they were stopped by the Centennial Sword Ancestor. He himself had jumped in front and nullified the attacks with a flick of the sword.

No damage was done and the force was only reversed.

"Attacking juniors now? Even being a tribal, you must have some honor, right?" The Centennial Sword Ancestor taunted.

"Humph! You southerners are not worthy of that." Master White Mountain retorted.

"I see... Then I must force you then." The Centennial Sword Ancestor stated before raising his sword.

~HUMM~

A blue glow covered the sword as turbulent winds shook the area. Even the barrier started to tremble and crack under it, and this was when it wasn't even being targeted.

"Ten Lakes Splitter!" Centennial Sword Ancestor slashed out.

~WOONG~ WOONG~ WOONG~

It was as if ten slashes were done, but only one was performed. The ten slashes rained down upon Master White Mountain, who was forced back. The intensity of the attacks made it so that he could only defend and not attack.

"Ten Lakes Splitter!" The Centennial Sword Ancestor didn't stop there, though.

He kept up his tempo and continued to use his sword skill, not letting Master White Mountain have time to react.

A few attacks later, the two Immortal Ascension realm cultivators had traveled over a hundred kilometer away while fighting.

"Come on now! Time to join in ourselves!" Lin Mu called out.

"YEAH!!!" All the alliance members shouted as the barrier lowered.

Tens of thousands of cultivators were revealed to the Northern Tribe's army as the alliance joined the fray.

Elder Gunkao and Ku Mi were surprised at seeing such numbers.

"They have almost the same number of experts as us." Elder Ku Mi spoke.

"Hmm... but the number of lower leveled cultivators among them is lower." Elder Gunkao replied.

"Seems like we are gonna have an open battle." Elder Niu said as he readied himself.

Pulling out a huge mace from his spatial storage treasure, he directly rose into the sky.

"ATTACK!" He yelled as the mace exploded with great power.

"ATTACK! JOIN THE ELDERS!" The commanders of the army also ordered.

The army of the northern tribes moved, and the soldiers unleashed their fury.

~SHING~ SHING~ SHING~

Lin Mu released his sword intent once more and the hundreds of swords all joined him once again. Gesturing with his hand, the swords shot toward the army.

"Not so fast." But before they could reach the army, they were interrupted.

Elder Niu of the northern tribes, moved in before the attack could reach the soldiers and swung his mace.

~HONG~

His mace rocked the very air, and several orbs of energy spread out from it. Each of these orbs transformed into what looked like beetles and blocked the swords.

The clash of the swords and energy beetles was fierce, but Lin Mu was still blocked in the end.

'He's not weak...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He knew how much power was in the swords, but all of them were still blocked by the man alone. This was something that another Dao Treading realm expert, Elder Ku Mi was unable to do so and had needed the help of Master White Mountain to block.

"Who might you be? I don't think I've heard about you." Elder Niu questioned.

The elders of the northern tribes certainly knew about the strong experts of the Great Zhou continent. It was the basics of what they needed to know after all, since they were going against them.

Especially when considered those that were in the Dao Treading realm, everyone needed to be aware of them.

But Elder Niu was sure that Lin Mu wasn't mentioned in any of the information. Anyone with such strong sword intent should have been well known. Not to mention, they had seen him appear earlier as well when he had thrown the ball of Beast Qi at the army.

They were still confused about what that was, as they were actually not harmed by it.

Even Elder Niu had a drop of beast Qi in his body from that surprise attack, and didn't know what that was.

"I am Lin Mu." He said before disappearing.

Elder Niu's eyes narrowed as his senses alarmed him.

~shua~

"And I am the alliance leader of the Great Zhou." A voice spoke from behind him.

Chapter 1160 Small Victories

Lin Mu appeared behind Elder Niu, surprising him.

"Wha—" And before Elder Niu could react, he was struck by Lin Mu's fist.

~DENG~

Surprisingly the sound of metal hitting metal was heard and Lin Mu's golden fist hummed. Elder Niu was sent several tens of meters back, but still managed to hold up.

"No Qi in that attack?" Elder Niu was even more surprised.

His hand tapped on his back where he had been hit and stroked something there.

~thud~thud~thud~

Several small fragments of a metal plate seemingly fell down from within his fur robes. Lin Mu who saw it finally understood why the man had actually managed to bear his attack like this.

'Most other Dao Treading realm experts should have had their bones broken from that. That was definitely some armor.' Lin Mu thought.

His spirit sense swiped over the fragments of the armor, sensing the traces of a formation on it, confirming that he had indeed been protected by it.

"To withstand my attack, that armor must have been strong." Lin Mu said, before lunging at the man again.

~BOOM~

"Won't let you do that again!" Elder Niu said as he defended with his mace.

~CLANG~

Metal hit metal once more, but this time the impact was far from the same.

~CRACK~

"IMPOSSIBLE!" Elder Niu watched as a crack spread from the top of the mace.

Lin Mu didn't just stop at that attack either, he flipped and spun on his right leg, using his left leg to kick Elder Niu on his flank.

~CLANG!~

Once more, it seemed like Lin Mu had hit metal again. A few fragments of a metal armor fell from Elder Niu's robes once more, making him nervous.

"Let's see how long your armor can last." Lin Mu continued to attack non stop, using blink to change his position in between, making it hard for Elder Niu to predict.

His attacks continued for two minutes, putting Elder Niu on the passive and preventing him from doing anything. The man could only focus on defending himself and couldn't even use any other Qi skills than defending himself.

'Dammit! What the hell is this man? Is he really the leader of them all?' Elder Niu thought to himself.

Lin Mu was confusing to him since his power of his attacks was at the Dao Treading realm, but no spirit Qi fluctuations could be perceived from his body. Elder Niu even tried to probe Lin Mu, but couldn't even reach his body since it moved so fast.

The best he could do was to try and track the course of his attacks, but even that was only useful for blocking.

~KACHA~

After five minutes passed, the last segment of Elder Niu's armor was broken.

"My Hundred Facets Armor!" Elder Niu felt his heart ache.

The Hundred Facets Armor was a peak grade armor that was one of the original treasures of the Northern tribes. It was something that was given to only a select person and the elders of the councils might be one of the few that were able to use it.

Elder Niu had been given it a long time ago and was suited to using it since he was specialized in fighting directly.

But it seems like he had met the antithesis of his specialty with Lin Mu.

Finally he couldn't hold on anymore and Lin Mu's fist struck his chest!

~KACHA~ KACHA~ KACHA~

"ARGH!" Elder Niu directly spat out a mouthful of blood.

His sternum and ribs were shattered as Lin Mu's fist dug into his flesh.

"Die." Lin Mu spread apart his fingers and directly stabbed into Elder Niu's chest using them.

Elder Niu couldn't do anything to stop Lin Mu and resisting was useless against his strength. In less than a second, Lin Mu's hand had burrowed into the man's chest and was now wrapped around his heart.

"No—"

~SQUELCH!~

Elder Niu could barely let out an unwilling cry before his heart was crushed into paste.

~THUD~

Elder Niu's body fell to the ground lifelessly before Lin Mu stomped on his abdomen, eradicating his Nascent soul as well, truly killing the man.

"One down, several more to go..." Lin Mu said as he turned his attention to the others.

While it was a bit surprising to him that Elder Niu could hold on for this long under his blows, he also understood that the man was just a little lucky with the armor he had. Even Jing Luo's Peak Grade armor made with the Troll's remains was unable to bear Lin Mu's force, after all.

Other fights were ongoing as Lin Mu finished his.

The Elders of the northern tribes were clashing with the alliances's Dao Treading realm elders and were almost equally matched.

~ROAR~

At that moment, a loud roar was heard and intense heat was felt.

Lin Mu's eyes snapped towards that direction and he saw Little Shrubby.

"What beast is this!?"

"How is it this fast?"

Little Shrubby was fighting with one Dao Treading realm elder and four Dao Shell realm cultivators of the Northern Tribes at once. And that too, with ease. With his speed, the northern tribe's cultivators could only hope to defend.

~ROAR!~

But their opportunities for defending weren't useful any longer as Little Shrubby charged up his attacks. His long claws glowed brightly, almost turning white in color as a scorching heat spread in the air.

~HISS~

The snow around them directly melted and the snowflake falling from the sky stopped instantly.

"RUN!" The Dao Treading realm elder of the Northern tribes warned his companions upon sensing the power of the attack.

Unfortunately though, he was too slow and Little Shrubby's claws struck.

~shua~

The super heated claws swung and tore through the air and ripped apart the defenses of the elders like they were paper.

"AAHHHH!!!"

"IT BURNS!"

They could only cry in pain as Little Shrubby's flames ate up their flesh and bones.

"No..." The Dao Treading realm elder watched in horror as his companions turned to ash in just a few seconds.