

## Walker 1161

### Chapter 1161 A Petrification Skill And You Yi In Trouble

Little Shrubby's flames raged like the fires of hell and burned everything they touched to ashes.

The Dao Treading Realm elder watched on and couldn't even react in time when his own back was slashed apart.

~CRACK~

His spine and ribs were ripped apart from the back and turned into black coke. No blood or flesh was spilled as it was burned away instantly.

"ARGH!" He cried in pain, and tried to resist, but it was too late.

The flames spread throughout his body and turned him into a living torch in a matter of seconds. Even his Dantian and Nascent soul couldn't survive and was burned away as well. The Dao Traces of Fire in Little Shrubby's fires weren't something that could be resisted just by anyone.

Not to mention his power was built upon the foundation of multiple bloodlines, all of which were powerful. Having two bloodlines that specialized in the Dao of Fire alone meant that no one would be able to compare to him in terms of that.

Elder Gunkao sensed when two of their elders died within moments of each other and was stunned.

"What in the world?" Elder Gunkao looked over and saw Lin Mu slaughtering though the army with ease.

It was the same for Little Shrubby and he was even more efficient than Lin Mu. Lin Mu at least targeted the higher ranked experts that were at least at the Dao Shell realm first, but Little Shrubby eradicated anything that came in his path.

The best thing was he didn't even need to attack them directly, just heat coming from his body would burn most of them and the residual flames that sparked from that heat also burned most of those that were at Core condensation realm and below.

Even the Nascent soul realm cultivators were significantly injured and unable to fight well after that, thus giving the Alliance an advantage.

~SHUA~

"You should probably focus on me. It is bad manners to look away from your opponent." Patriarch You Yi said as he made a claw with his hand and slashed at the elder.

"YOU!" Elder Gunkao was infuriated and pushed back, defending from the attack for now.

All of the Dao Treading realm elders of the Northern Tribes had been occupied by the Dao Treading realm experts of the alliance and they were now equally matched. Especially with Lin Mu and Little Shrubby killing two of them.

~DENG~ DENG~ DENG~

Patriarch You Yi's hand was covered in a white smoke that had solidified. It almost looked like a beast's claw and enlarged his hands.

"You southerners will pay for this!" Elder Gunkao said before he threw out several stones.

The stones grew in size and turned into boulders that slammed into Patriarch You Yi.

"Ugh! You certainly are worth being the strongest elder of the northern tribes," Patriarch You Yi said as he reeled from the impact.

"Humph! You haven't seen anything yet!" Elder Gunkao said as he threw out more stones that turned into boulders.

Patriarch You Yi struck the boulders with his solid smoke claws but found it hard to break them.

'Strange, they are too tough to be normal boulders. Is this a skill? But it doesn't have any spirit Qi fluctuations...' Patriarch You Yi was confused.

The two of them battled for a few minutes before Elder Gunkao smirked.

"This should be enough. STONE ANCHOR SHACKLE!" Elder Gunkao chanted.

Patriarch You Yi became alert and felt a strong spirit Qi fluctuation coming from his body. It wasn't his own, and he knew he had been tricked.

"Heavy!" He felt like his body was being weighed down by a mountain and he couldn't move at all.

"HAHAHA! You think I was fighting you weakly? No!" Elder Gunkao said, as he made several handseals. "Stone heart seal!"

Patriarch You Yi felt his body turning still and a stony layer started to spread from the bottom of his feet.

'Petrification? Wasn't this the original skill of one of the immortals Ascension realm experts, that were killed in the past?' Patriarch You Yi was stunned.

As far as he knew, this was a skill that one of the immortal ascension realm experts of the Great Zhou continent had. He had perished in the great battle against the northern tribes and thus it was a mystery as to how this man obtained it.

The stone layer reached Patriarch You Yi's chest in a matter of seconds and continued to spread rapidly.

"Your cultivation base and soul will serve as a fine sacrifice." Elder Gunkao said with a smile.

Patriarch You Yi wanted to call for help, but was unable to move even a muscle. Even his spirit Qi was getting stagnant and wasn't responding to his mind.

'It truly is that skill!' Patriarch You Yi was alarmed.

His eyes darted around, looking for a way to save himself.

"It is useless. All this is temporary and resistance is futile. The northern Tribes shall claim the South as a whole soon!" Elder Gunkao proclaimed, the confidence in his voice eerie.

~shua~

But then in the next moment, someone appeared next to Patriarch You Yi.

"WHO?" Elder Gunkao was alarmed at the sudden appearance and couldn't understand why he had not sensed the other person approaching.

It was as if he had appeared out of nothingness.

"Eat this, Patriarch You Yi." Lin Mu said as he pushed a pill into the man's mouth.

Patriarch You Yi forced his throat to swallow the pill and almost immediately felt its effects.

~CRUMBLE~

The stone layer on his body that had spread due to the petrification skill crumbled to dust and he was freed.

"HAAA!" Patriarch You Yi took a breath of relief and cold sweat appeared on his forehead.

"Thank you, Lin Mu." Patriarch You Yi said before focusing on Elder Gunkao.

"You should thank Patriarch Mingliang. He saw you and passed me this pill for you." Lin Mu replied before he punched out towards Elder Gunkao.

Elder Gunkao defended against the attack, but was still pushed back. "YOU BASTARD!"

### **Chapter 1162 Cloud Dragon Lift, And Battering Elder Gunkao**

A stone shield had appeared in front of Elder Gunkao but was inadequate against Lin Mu's punch, crumbling into fragments upon impact.

"Oh? You use Earth Elemental skills and spirit Qi too, huh?" Lin Mu sensed the earth spirit Qi from the man.

It was in a different state though and was a lot more condensed than him. But at the same time, it felt dull and mixed to Lin Mu. This was the second person he was encountering that could use earth elemental skills and spirit Qi like him, thus he was intrigued.

'That petrification skill was of the earth element too?' Lin Mu wondered if the man had it on him.

And while Lin Mu thought all this, Elder Gunkao had recovered and raised his hand high, summoning a rock hammer and slamming down on Lin Mu, who skilfully dodged it. Keeping up the momentum, Lin Mu stomped with his leg mid air and flipped, sending out tens of spirit swords to assault Elder Gunkao.

~CLANG~ CLANG~ CLANG~

Even with the assistance of the sword intent, Lin Mu's attacks were still being blocked, which showed the strength of Elder Gunkao.

Patriarch You Yi on the other hand had taken this period of respite to heal himself and restore his own condition.

It was at this time that Patriarch You Yi was contacted by patriarch Mingliang and was told to be careful of the petrification skill.

"Avoid that at all costs, I do not have another pill to heal that." Patriarch Mingliang warned.

Petrification was a unique condition that could be inflicted by several methods, such as poisons, curses and even skills. While the method might vary, the end effect was often the same, causing the target to become rigid and stone like.

And depending on the degree of petrification, it might be on the surface level, such that it might just restrain a person. Or, it could be internal as well, causing them to die. The lucky ones might just lose their bodies and if they were at the Nascent soul realm and above, they would be able to escape with it.

But in the case of more severe petrification, it might even lock the nascent soul of a cultivator inside the body which had turned into a stone statue, and leave it to die slowly. It was a horrible condition and would be the same as imprisoning them in their own bodies.

That was exactly what Elder Gunkao was intending to do, as it would still keep Patriarch You Yi's cultivation base intact along with his soul. It would be the best condition for the use of a sacrifice.

'Can't risk the same thing again, need to end this quickly.' Patriarch You Yi thought as he took a deep breath.

Bringing his hands together, he touched them and spread them apart in a triangle such that only the tips of his fingers and thumbs were meeting. Then he twisted his hands with his thumbs as the axis and created a few runes.

Spirit Qi spread out from his body in waves as his aura rose rapidly.

'Seems like I finally get to use it again after all these years.' Patriarch You Yi thought as more smoke appeared around him.

The smoke started to concentrate and gather around him, and after a minute it had reached such a level that it now looked like clouds.

It was at this moment that Patriarch You Yi called out to Lin Mu. "Dodge now!"

~SHUA~

Patriarch You Yi swiped up with his hands, as if he was flicking a wet cloth.

"CLOUD DRAGON LIFT!" The clouds around Patriarch You Yi rushed forward and twisted.

Turning into a vortex, they crashed into Elder Gunkao.

"What?!?" Elder Gunkao was caught a little off guard by this but still managed to erect a barrier around him at the last moment.

~WHOOSH~

But surprisingly no damage was actually done to him. Lin Mu watched on in confusion, wondering why Patriarch You Yi had used such a skill. He got the answer after just a couple of seconds.

"Attack him when he's at the peak. He won't be able to move during that time!" Patriarch You Yi instructed.

Just like he said, Elder Gunkao was carried directly into the sky with the vortex of the clouds surrounding him.

~WOONG~

The sound coming from the clouds was rather loud now and caught everyone's attention.

"Is that what I think it is?!" A few disciples of the Long cloud sect spotted the clouds moving up.

"It's the Cloud Dragon Lift! I can't believe we get to see the peak signature technique of our sect today!" The disciples felt a little excited.

Cloud Dragon Lift was a skill that came with the cultivation technique of the Long Cloud sect. It was a complex skill that didn't deal much damage, but was very good at trapping a person inside it.

The vortex formed from it would carry the target high up into the sky, even going up to a height of several kilometers!

But if this was all it could do, then the skill wouldn't be much effective on those that could fly. It was the secondary effect of the skill that was the main killer move. The Cloud Dragon vortex formed due to it was full of turbulent spirit Qi that prevented the target from using any skills!

Even Spirit sense was useless, as it would simply be ripped apart by the vortex.

It was the same for Elder Gunkao as he found himself being sent flying without any control.

"DAMN YOU ALL!" He tried to struggle, but couldn't get past the dense cloud vortex.

It was nearly a hundred meters thick at this point, and Elder Gunkao couldn't even be seen clearly behind it.

And just when Elder Gunkao reached a height of over two kilometers high, Lin Mu was ready.

"That's enough Patriarch You Yi." Lin Mu said while in a stance as his hand thrummed with great power.

You Yi nodded his head and stopped the skill, letting Elder Gunkao fall.

Boulder Collapsing Fist: Third Form- Metal Sword Devastator!

Lin Mu punched out, and a ribbon of dense energy shot, illusory swords mixed with it!

### **Chapter 1163 Exploding A Peak Dao Treading Realm Expert!**

The Metal Sword Devestator was something that Lin Mu had come up with on the spot. Or more like it felt the most natural to him to do it this way. Swords were innately considered to be of the metal attribute and the Sword Dao gave birth to Sword Qi which was a derivative Qi made from metal spirit Qi and many others.

Since Lin Mu had comprehended the Sword Intent, he didn't need much effort to attach it to the Metal Devastator. In fact, unless he had reached the Advanced level of the sword intent, they would have been unable to create such sword imprints.

They were similar to the Sword Lights shot out by the Centennial Sword Ancestor and were composed of pure sword intent made with a sword. But in Lin Mu's case, it was different. Instead of the pure energy form of a sword light, they had turned into physical imprints that accompanied the metal devastator.

The Metal devastator had the property of sharpness and severance which was highly compatible with the Sword Dao and thus the Sword intent, allowing it to meld with it effortlessly.

Not only did this take the power of the Metal Devastator to the next level, but also helped enhance Lin Mu's own understanding of the Sword Intent.

'So it can resonate with the power of severance like this... and it's not just the power, there is more... a trace of Dao?' Lin Mu pondered while using the skill.

For him, time seemed to have slowed down as he entered a momentary trance.

He would have liked to spend more time in this, but unfortunately for this was not the time or place for it. He automatically left the state of trance when the Metal Sword Devastator reached Elder Gunkao.

Cloud Dragon Lift's restrictive effects were still present even if the vortex itself had stopped, but it was enough for the Elder to not be able to dodge.

~RIP~

Elder Gunkao's eyes went wide as the Ribbon of Metal Sword Devastator tore into his body as if it was tofu. The sword intent imbued into it directly tore apart his defensive tools, while the energy itself infiltrated into his meridians.

There it swam and slashed, ravaging them all before finally reaching the Dantian.

Elder Gunkao felt endless pain filling his body, but he was unable to let out even a peep. It was the kind of pain that would leave one breathless and paralyzed.

~BOOM~

After a momentary pause, the back of Elder Gunkao blasted open as a part of the energy along with the imbued sword intent exploded out, spraying minced flesh, bone and blood.

The rain of blood stained the white snow below, turning it a pale red.

The people of the northern tribes that witnessed this were left flabbergasted while the other elders couldn't help but let out shouts of unwillingness.

"NOO!!!"

"HEAD ELDER GUNKAO!!!"

"You Bastards! DON'T THINK THIS IS THE END!"

"EVEN IF YOU KILL ELDER GUNKAO, OUR ENDEAVOR WILL NOT END!" Elder Ku Mi yelled.

~THUD~

Elder Gunkao fell to the ground and sank into the red snow stained with his own blood.

'The snow is so cold and yet... I feel so hot...' Elder Gunkao thought as the burning pain kept him awake.

Throngs of northern tribe members rushed to him while Lin Mu stopped Patriarch You Yi from going after Elder Gunkao.

"Why are we stopping?" Patriarch You Yi questioned, feeling confused.

"The attack is not over yet. It's best we retreat before the main phase of the skill activates." Lin Mu answered while also sending out a message to prevent the alliance members from approaching the area.

"Main Phase?" Patriarch You Yi repeated in doubt, before a thought appeared in his mind. "You mean that wasn't the full extent of your skill?" he asked, while continuing to retreat alongside Lin Mu.

"Mhmm, the skill has a delayed effect. And it's perfect for when there are so many foes around the target." Lin Mu said as he kept his gaze on the dying elder.

'It seems like the Metal Sword Devastator is even better than I thought. The man can't even speak unlike the patriarch of the West Ocean Sect.' Lin Mu remembered.

The people of the northern tribes had already tried to feed Elder Gunkao pills, but they seemingly had no effect, their medicinal efficacy being destroyed by the energy of the metal sword devastator almost immediately.

And just when Lin Mu and Patriarch You Yi had retreated to the hill, it happened...

~KABOOM!!!!~

Elder Gunkao's body exploded at a moment's notice and a force unlike anything before was seen. It was even stronger than the attacks of the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators who had fought before and killed everyone that was around it almost instantly.

"This... what in the name of heavens is that..." Patriarch You Yi was left speechless.

"That is the same as the self detonation of peak Dao Treading Realm cultivator." Lin Mu explained.

~gasp~

Patriarch You Yi couldn't help but take in a mouthful of cold air, as he was sure that even he would be reduced to smithereens if he was within the radius of that attack.

The self detonation of an expert that was close to the immortal ascension realm was no joke. Its power could easily reach the level of the Immortal Ascension realm and was terrifying.

If not for the fact that Lin Mu and Patriarch You Yi had reached far from the main site of the battle, the people of the alliance would have perished as well. Lin Mu had decided to use the Metal Sword Devastator only after checking for others around it.

But even then, the area of effect was a little too much and beyond his expectations as the people of the alliance along with the northern tribes were pushed back from the impact.

The snow melted and evaporated directly from the explosion and the bare soil was scorched until it was black. Deep cracks were even left behind as the entire battlefield looked nothing like before.

### **Chapter 1164 The Battle Intensifies**

The scene of devastation was stunning for most people and made them pause their battles. It was simply too big of a commotion to ignore.

Even the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators who were fighting far from the battlefield sensed it. After all, their spirit senses could reach a hundred kilometers with ease, just like Lin Mu's.

Master White Mountain's expression darkened, and his hands trembled in rage.

"You all... shall pay..." He said in a low voice, focusing on attacking his opponent.

The Centennial Sword Ancestor on the other hand, smiled widely.

"Oh? Seems like an interesting junior... is he that infamous Lin Mu?" The Centennial Sword Ancestor muttered to himself.

'And intermediate sword intent? That is impressive for a junior like him... why is no junior from my sect even half as good as him? Doesn't seem like he had focused on the sword either and yet he has greater attainments in the sword Dao.' The Centennial Sword Ancestor couldn't help but get impressed.

He could see the power of the attack and feel the fluctuation even here. And from the explosion he sensed the intermediate sword intent that was imbued into the Metal Sword Devastator.

When Lin Mu had comprehended and used the Intermediate Sword Intent earlier, the Centennial Sword Ancestor had indeed sensed it, but had little attention to pay since he had an equal opponent in front of him.

But now, despite having the same opponent, he couldn't ignore it and had to acknowledge.

"Seems like once this is over, I'll have to have a word with Jia Chuanli and other juniors of the sect... their judgment has been getting worse and worse over time." The Centennial Sword Ancestor muttered to himself. "They would have almost killed themselves if they went ahead with their original plans."

The Centennial Sword Ancestor obviously knew about the plans of Jia Chuanli, the patriarch of the Centennial Sword Sect and the others. But he didn't interfere in it, nor did anything, simply staying in seclusion.

As an ancestor, he wasn't supposed to interfere in such matters after all. He had done his share of the work in the past and was now absolved of it. The only time he would act was if a huge crisis that threatened the world arrived or if he felt like there was a worthy opponent for his sword.

And now both of the conditions had been fulfilled, thus there was no way he couldn't come.

Seeing the end of a Peak Dao Treading realm expert like Elder Gunkao, who had a great chance of becoming another Immortal Ascension realm cultivator, made the centennial sword ancestor aware that the people of his sect would stand no chance against Lin Mu.



And if they went ahead with their plans of antagonizing Lin Mu, they would most certainly end up dead; possibly before he could even react.

'Perhaps this invasion was a blessing in disguise, at least the foolishness still has a chance of being rectified.' The Centennial Sword Ancestor reckoned.

~HONGLONG~

But while he was thinking all this, the loud ringing of a bell was heard!

"WHO DARES KILL GUNKAO!" A booming voice echoed across the mountains.

It was so loud that massive avalanches occurred across four hundred kilometers of the mountain range. The rocky faces of the mountains that had been hidden for thousands of years were revealed today due to the snow sliding off from the avalanches today.

~HUA~

The pupils of the Centennial Sword Ancestor constricted as he sensed a powerful wave of spirit Qi coming from the distance.

"So they were telling the truth... there are more of them." The Centennial Sword Ancestor muttered to himself.

He had been informed earlier that there were three Immortal ascension realm experts among the Northern tribes as well. And as much as he trusted the information, he still hoped that it was not true.

But now that had just been proved, and the Centennial Sword Ancestor could only intensify his attacks.

"HAHAHA! YOU ALL ARE DONE! ONCE THE ANCESTRAL BELL ARRIVES, YOUR FATE WILL BE SEALED!" Master White Mountain rejoiced upon hearing the loud voice.

Back at the battlefield, there was no one that had not heard the booming voice or felt the spirit Qi wave that turned their knees weak.

Lin Mu's brows furrowed, as he knew exactly what this meant.

"Where are the ancestors of the Sky Precepts sect and the Rainbow pill sect? We need them more than ever..." Lin Mu said as he sensed another presence in addition to the one that had spoken.

That was right! Lin Mu had felt not one, but two Immortal Ascension realm presences approaching!

Patriarch You Yi's face fell as he frantically contacted the others.

"No way... the communication jade slip doesn't work," Patriarch You Yi said.

"What?" Lin Mu took out his own jade slip and tried to contact others but found it useless.

The effect was similar to the jamming formations that the Northern Tribes had set before, but Lin Mu was sure that this was not due to any formations. Because if it was, he would have known well beforehand.

~HONGLONG~

The ringing of a bell was heard once again as the air thrummed along with it. Lin Mu could sense his skin tremble with the sound of the bell and knew that their worse scenario was possibly coming true.

"Be ready Lin Mu, that is definitely an Immortal Tool!" Xukong warned.

"I know senior, what do you think its effects are? There is certainly a restrictive effect from what we can see now." Lin Mu quickly asked.

"From the initial impression, I can guess that it is an immortal tool with composite effects. It should be able to restrain and control areas. That barrier blocking the entry to the Forbidden continent was definitely made by it as well." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu's brows furrowed, as he knew that things were about to get really tough.

A crystal appeared in his palm and he stared at it, unable to come to a decision.

### **Chapter 1165 Master Cull Mountain**

~SIGH~

Lin Mu stared at the crystal for a few seconds before letting out a sigh.

"Not now... we still have time." Lin Mu muttered as he stored it back into the ring.

He raised his head and gazed in the distance, sensing the two immortal ascension realm presences getting closer. But after a minute, Lin Mu realized something.

"One of them is slow?" Lin Mu said in confusion.

"One of them? THERES MORE?!" You Yi heard him and almost yelled.

"Yes, there are now two Immortal ascension realm cultivators approaching." Lin Mu replied. "And one of them is using an immortal tool which is restraining the communication jade slips." He added.

"DAMMIT! WHAT TOP SECTS! USELESS!" Patriarch You Yi couldn't hold back anymore and cursed.

With two more Immortal ascension realm cultivators approaching, Lin Mu knew that only the other two immortal ascension realm cultivators would be able to hold them back. And even if Jing Wei did join in, Lin Mu didn't know how much the immortal tool would be able to assist with it all.

Not to mention, the northern tribes had their own immortal tool as well, and they didn't know the difference in the grades either. If the sword made by Jing Wei was not adequate enough for it all, they might not be able to get through it all.

Time turned into a raging river and passed away quickly. Soon the first of the two immortal ascension realm cultivators could be seen on the horizon.

"Go! Kill them all!" A woman's voice was heard.

The second immortal ascension realm cultivator that had just appeared was an old woman that looked to be in her fifties. One could see from her appearance that she was certainly talented, as most other cultivators looked a lot older than her.

Perhaps only Lin Mu and Jiao Fang were younger looking than her, but they weren't at the Immortal ascension realm either.

But what caught Lin Mu's attention the most wasn't her appearance, but the fact that she had just given out orders.

~WHOOSH~ WHOOSH~ WHOOSH~

All of a sudden, several figures appeared in the sky out of thin air. Lin Mu's eyes narrowed as he could see that they had just been hiding behind a formation similar to what they had done with the hill earlier.

But the problematic fact was that these were all emitting the spirit Qi fluctuations at the Dao Treading realm!

"One... ten... twenty two!?" Lin Mu counted and was left stunned. "All Dao Treading realm... twenty two Dao Treading realm experts?"

His words were heard by Patriarch You Yi and he quickly shouted out to the others, informing them of the arrival of reinforcements by the northern tribes.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth and knew that he would now have to go all out.

"Little Shrubby!" Lin Mu called out in his mind. "We'll have to fight hard now."

~ROAR~

Little Shrubby's roar was heard from the distance as he just killed another Dao Treading realm, elder of the Northern tribes. He looked towards Lin Mu and then at the reinforcements.

"I'm ready!" Little Shrubby replied as massive spirit Qi waves rose from him.

The area around him heated up and the snow all melted into water. But even the water couldn't last long and turned into steam that quickly rose into the skies. Little Shrubby's body started to bulk up and swelled.

His aura continued to rise as a dominating pressure was exerted all around him.

"What is happening to the beast!?" The nearby northern tribes' members were scared.

~ROAR!!!~

Little Shrubby raised his head and let out an earthshaking roar. It was loud enough to forcefully pull the attention of everyone on the battlefield, including the newly arrived immortal ascension realm expert.

The woman stared at where Little Shrubby was and felt her skin prickle.

"What is that beast?" She could feel a great sense of danger from the beast.

Deciding to trust her instincts, she sent out an order. "Get rid of that beast first! It's too dangerous to be left alive."

"As you command, Master Cull Mountain!" The Dao Treading realm experts replied.

The woman was titled Master Cull Mountain and was one of the three Immortal Ascension realm experts of the Northern Tribes, along with Master White Mountain. Now there was only one of them left to arrive.

While the Dao Treading realm experts were approaching Little Shrubby, the beast had continued to change. Flames ignited all over his body and increased his size even more. The flames were also of different colors as well.

A major part of his body was filled with orange flames, but his claws were covered with red flames. On his head a pattern was formed with yellow colored flames mirroring the pattern that was naturally on his fur.

Lin Mu watching Little Shrubby increase in size, was impressed. Little Shrubby was now the same size as that of Xiaobao. The massive beast towered over the entire battlefield while scorching heat melted all the snow around.

The snow close by to him had directly evaporated, but the snow that was distant was now turning into streams and rivers that flowed to the south. It was possible that a flood might occur somewhere down south now.

The nearby northern tribes' members all died from the heat, while those that were strong were burned before they retreated in panic.

"Master Cull Mountain was right! The beast is too dangerous! Everyone surround it!" The Dao Treading realm experts spoke amongst themselves.

Despite being at varying stages of the Dao Treading realm, all of them felt pressured by the beast. While they could tell that Little Shrubby was also at the Dao Treading realm, the dominating aura coming from him was something that even their immortal ascension realm experts didn't have.

It was an entirely different feeling that could only come from a true predator that could extinguish their lives.

Little Shrubby on the other hand, felt no pressure despite twenty two Dao Treading realm experts rushing at him.

He only felt excited.

### **Chapter 1166 The Power Of Seven Beasts Burst**

A power far greater than before flowed through Little Shrubby as the Seven Beasts Burst activated once more after years.

~GAOOOH!~

It was as if seven beasts were roaring at once and announcing their authority.

The cultivators that were weak hearted directly fell unconscious upon hearing it, while those that were a bit more firm, shook in their boots. Only the most valiant and brave could withstand the oppression contained in the roar.

Even Lin Mu could feel it, as the Great Slumber Bear Bloodline within his body stirred upon hearing it.

"It's truly powerful... I felt that deep in my soul." Lin Mu spoke.

"Hmm... The Seven Beasts Burst unearths the latent potential of little Shrubby when it's used. With the improvement from the Beast Qi has been giving him, the quality should have increased greatly.

And we can certainly see it now." Xukong spoke up as well.

The Dao Treading realm cultivators of the northern tribes that were heading towards little Shrubby couldn't help but pause in their tracks momentarily. But they quickly recovered and even increased their speed.

'We can't let the beast take the initiative first.' They thought.

"Die foul beast!" One of the Dao Treading realm cultivators took the lead and attacked little Shrubby.

~WHOOSH~

But before they could even react, the man who had just attacked, disappeared.

"Huh?"

"Where did Lao Zia go?" his companions were left confused.

~HISS~

A second later though, scorching heat spread in the area, burning the robes of the Dao Treading realm who had come a little too close.

~BOOM~

But that was just the start as a loud explosion was heard, as if the very air had been torn apart.

"ARGH!" the Dao Treading realm experts that were closer were knocked back and felt the impact of the shockwave.

Master Cull Mountain, who was watching from afar, trembled slightly upon witnessing it all. While others might not have seen it, she had seen it all clearly.

'That beast... just what speed is that? Its many times faster than even mine,' Master Cull Mountain realized.

"Retreat! Retreat! Activate the formation array!" Master Cull Mountain ordered, knowing that the Dao Treading realm cultivator she had just sent out were no match for the beast.

Even if they could overpower the beast with collective numbers, it would be impossible for them to match up with that speed. And speed was something that would easily flip the odds of the battle.

After all, even if they could match in quantity, with Little Shrubby's speed, he would take them out individually and the others won't be able to react at all.

Master Cull Mountain had seen the Dao Treading realm who had taken the lead in attacking little Shrubby die instantly. And what had killed him was a claw, little Shrubby's claw.

The shock wave from the claw was what had knocked everyone away and spread the scorching heat as well.

Back at the scene of battle, Little Shrubby's flaming eyes gazed upon the humans that had approached him.

"One killed, twenty one to go." Little Shrubby spoke, though it could only be heard as a growl to everyone other than Lin Mu.

~WHOOSH~

Little Shrubby finally moved, turning into a flaming comet that streaked across the skies.

"No!" Master Cull Mountain saw that her men would not be able to retreat in time.

Gritting her teeth, she took out what looked like a withered branch. There were no leaves on it and the bark on the branch was peeling off.

She held the branch with both her hands and firmly snapped it.

~CRACK~

As soon as the sound of the crack spread, it was as if the world had stood still.

Master Cull Mountain disappeared from where she was standing and appeared in the path of Little Shrubby.

~Boom~

Propping up her hands at the front, Master Cull Mountain blocked Little Shrubby who slammed into her.

"Ugh!" Even then, she was pushed back several meters, but the beast had been halted.

Lin Mu felt the spatial fluctuations in the air and knew that Master Cull Mountain hadn't just moved fast.

She had teleported!

"What was that branch?" Lin Mu wondered.

"I believe that was a branch of the Broad Expanse Void Tree. How it got into her hands, though, is mysterious." Xukong spoke, finding it all to be strange as well.

This was not the first time Lin Mu was hearing about the Broad Expanse void Tree either. He had read about it in the memoirs of the Lost Immortal and knew that it was one of the few trees that were of the spatial element.

The tree was unique in that it grew in places where there were natural spatial cracks. Its roots would spread over the crack and absorb the spatial energy from the void. It was technically not a rare tree, but obtaining a branch from it was very difficult.

The tree itself was surrounded by spatial energy that would destroy most things and damaging the tree would be even more problematic as it would react appropriately, killing all that wandered next to it.

"How would she get a branch here?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

"There is no doubt the northern tribes have been obtaining them from the higher worlds. The branch she used was an old dead branch that had been shed by the Broad Expanse Void Tree, so it cannot be used for much, but even then, this is alarming." Xukong replied.

Seeing that he had just obtained more proof of the northern tribe's interaction with the higher worlds, Lin Mu decided to rush into the battle.

The Dao Treading realm cultivators who had just been saved by Master Cull Mountain now became Lin Mu's targets.

Little Shrubby had already moved away from Master Cull Mountain and was now running around, attacking her whenever there was an opening.

Master Cull Mountain could only block for now, while trying to find openings during which she could attack.

"Give it your all! The Savior Beast and Alliance leader are holding them back for us!" Patriarch You Yi said to the alliance members.

### **Chapter 1167 Earthen Devastator**

With Little Shrubby holding up Master Cull Mountain, Lin Mu was free to attack the twenty one Dao Treading realm cultivators. While their numbers meant that Lin Mu might not be able to kill them all quickly, it also meant that they wouldn't be able to do much to him either.

The Dao Treading realm cultivators were currently gathering in a certain order and setting up a formation array. Each of the Dao Treading realm cultivator was a node of the array and it was hard to tell what kind of a formation array it was.

Lin Wu would have liked to stop them before they managed to set it up, but the constant movements of Master Cull Mountain and Little Shrubby had made it difficult. But now that they had settled on one part of the battlefield, Lin Mu could finally act.

'First to get them split up...' Lin Mu thought as he rose up in the sky.

His hand was pulled back as vital essence and spirit Qi stirred within it. But the spirit Qi this time was different, and was not attribute less. And neither was it fire or metal elemental spirit Qi.

This time, the spirit Qi swirling within his hand was brown in color and gave off a feeling of heaviness.

**Boulder Collapsing Fist: Third Form- Earthen Devastator!**

Lin Mu punched out as a brown ribbon of energy shot out from his fist. On the first glance it looked the ribbon was a muddy stream, but it seemed to be changing its state, turning from solid to liquid and vice a versa.

This was the Devastator that was made with Earth spirit Qi in it. Lin Mu hadn't really used it in a battle before, even if he had been able to for a long time, because the way it worked was rather different.

It wasn't like the Flaming Devastator or the Metal devastator that could be used on a single target directly.

And if one looked at the area that Lin Mu was aiming at right now, they would find that it wasn't actually any enemy. But rather an empty spot on the barren ground.

"Careful!" The Dao Treading realm cultivators of the Northern Tribes shouted.

But much to their surprise, the attack didn't strike them.

"What?" The Dao Treading realm were confused at first, but then their pupils constricted.

The brown ribbon of energy directly entered the ground, and no explosion or loud sound was heard when it did. It was vastly different from the other three variants of the devastation, and no quick effect was displayed either.

For about ten seconds, the Dao Treading realm cultivators were alert and watched out for any sneak attacks, wondering if Lin Mu was simply pretending. But once the ten second passed they met the true power of the attack.

~RUMBLE~

The ground shook as if a quake was approaching and then in the next second, hundreds of spikes rose up from the ground, spreading out in a circle from the site of entry.

The spikes grew faster than what the Dao Treading realm could react to and quickly spread to a radius of about two hundred meters!

Only those that were outside this area actually managed to dodge this attack, but the rest were not so fortunate.

"ARGH!"

"NO!"

Pain filled cries were heard as the Dao Treading realm cultivators were stabbed and struck by the spikes. The spikes were of various thickness and sharpness. Some were as thin as a chopstick at the top, while others were as thick as a barrel.

Such differences made it hard for the Dao Treading realm to react.

If they defended using some barrier or other spirit tools, they would be pierced by the sharp spikes while some would be knocked up into the sky from the blunt barrel sized spikes.

Either way, they were hurt and their process of making an array was foiled.

"Dammit! The nodes are all misaligned now!" The Dao Treading realm that were out of the radius of the attack complained.

Since the spikes all shifted the ground, the nodes that were set up for the arrays were now all moved around, thereby making them useless.

"Perfect!" Lin Wu said in joy as his goal was accomplished.



The destruction of the array was his main goal right now, and killing the Dao Treading realm could come after that. After all, if the array was established and was controlled by the twenty one Dao Treading realm cultivators, its power would be really great.

If it was an offensive array, it would even be able to get through Lin Mu's defenses.

Lin Mu certainly didn't want that and got rid of it using the Earthen Devastator.

Though it had actually not killed any of the Dao Treading realm cultivators that were stuck by it. That was the issue with the Earthen Devastator. It was actually the weakest one out of the four variants.

But its other effects could be really useful like in the current situation. Not to mention, even if it had not killed any of the Dao Treading realm cultivators, it had still managed to injure them.

Lin Mu teleported next to one of the Dao Treading realm and slashed with his short sword, chopping off the arm of the man.

~SPLAT~

"ARGH! WHY YOU!!" The man cried in pain as he quickly ate an alchemical pill to stop the bleeding.

Unfortunately for him, Lin Mu was able to teleport around and moved onto the next target.

~BOOM~

~BAM~

~BANG~

Lin Mu's golden fists rained down upon the different Dao Treading realm cultivators, either hitting their bodies, defensive spirit tools or Qi skills. Some of these broke apart while some managed to hold back.

'Just how strong is this man? How can his fists withstand so many of our defensive methods?' The Dao Treading realm cultivators were left wondering.

Lin Mu didn't give them much of a chance to think though and let his fists do the talking.

### **Chapter 1168 Dao Embryo's Released!**

Lin Mu's golden fists shone from time to time as they slammed into the Dao Treading realm cultivators of the Northern Tribes.

"Dammit! What kind of a man is this? Why can't we even put one scratch on him?" one of the Dao Treading realm cultivators said in frustration.

They had been fighting for a bit now and were unable to get through Lin Mu's defenses. It was rather terrifying for them as despite being many times in numbers, their powers were still not enough.

~CLANG~

~CRACK~

"Oh no!" another Dao Treading realm cried as his spirit sword finally shattered under Lin Mu's fist.

'A chance!' Lin Mu blinked to the man's side and let his fist meet the man's temple.

"ARGH!" The man cried momentarily before being knocked out.

His temple cracked and blood spilled from it.

'He's tough... normally this should have burst his head open.' Lin Mu thought.

This was the biggest thing he had discovered about these Dao Treading realm cultivators he was fighting. They seemed to be a lot more tougher than the ones he had fought before. Not just that but their fighting experience also seemed to be higher, as they could actually keep up with Lin Mu.

They had already seen Lin Mu teleporting around and had become wary about it. While it was shocking to them initially, they soon adapted to it. After all, hesitating in a battle like this would spell their death.

Which was also why Lin Mu couldn't just keep on using blink and teleport around, attacking them. With the numbers these Dao Treading realm experts had, they could take turns in blocking him, if Lin Mu attacked one of them.

Little Shrubby had only managed to kill one of them instantly due to the great speed and increase in power he had experienced after activating his innate skill of Seven Beasts Burst. Even now, the beast was fighting the Immortal Ascension realm expert, Master Cull Mountain and keeping her in one place.

This allowed Lin Mu to hold back these experts. Though he didn't know how long this was possible as he could sense the third Immortal Ascension realm expert approaching.

'How is he so slow?' Lin Mu wondered.

Lin Mu couldn't fully check on the expert since he was being guarded by a barrier through which his spirit sense couldn't penetrate. It was the strong spirit qi fluctuation coming that were telling Lin Mu that the man was approaching.

But what confused Lin Mu was how slow he was. In the time it had taken for the man to travel this far, even a Qi refining realm cultivator would have reached the battlefield. Which only made Lin Mu think that perhaps there was something else slowing him down.

This was extra worrying to him as there was no telling if some big scheme was being plotted by the Immortal Ascension realm expert.

"Defend him!" The Dao Treading realm experts of the Tribes shouted upon seeing their companion being hit by Lin Mu.

~shua~ shua~ shua~

All of them rushed towards the man, but Lin Mu was faster than them.

"Too late." Lin Mu muttered as he flicked his hand.

~SHING~

Six spirit swords shot out in a formation, with the short sword being at the center. All of them were joined together through a net made from Lin Mu's sword intent. This was something that was mentioned in the Thousand Armament Blade Scripture but Lin Mu had rarely used it.

And now that he had sword intent, the true power of these small sword formations were unleashed!

~CLANG~

The five spirit swords protected the short sword and amplified its power while warding off the attacks of the Dao Treading realm experts.

"SHIT!"

~SPLAT~

The short sword burst through the unconscious Dao Treading realm experts chest, destroying his heart and spine in the process. But it didn't just stop there, the short sword did a quick U-turn and stabbed into the Dantian of the man from the back, erasing his Nascent soul that was trying to wiggle out as well, thereby killing him completely.

"Twenty left to go..." Lin Mu muttered as he looked at the furious faces of all.

He knew that the speed at which he was killing was just not enough and he needed to be a lot faster. He wanted to reduce their numbers as much as possible before the arrival of the third Immortal Ascension realm cultivator of the tribes.

At the same time he was cursing the top sects being so late. He had heard that they were arriving soon and had become hopeful at seeing the Centennial Sword Ancestor's appearance but now it wasn't like that.

As for Jing Wei, Lin Mu had another guess.

'He's waiting for the Immortal Tool of the Tribes to appear. He's definitely going to suppress it first.' Lin Mu thought.

It wasn't hard for Lin Mu to guess it and Jing Luo had done the same before. It was also the right option as Jing Wei was supposed to be their trump card. The Northern Tribes knew about the top sect's Immortal Ascension realm ancestors, and could prepare for them. But they couldn't do the same for Jing Wei who was thought to be dead to them.

"Enough! We have to kill him at once, or we won't be able to last long."

"Yeah we still have a long conquest ahead of us."

The Dao Treading realm cultivators of the northern tribes made their decision and suddenly their aura's spiked. Strong spirit qi fluctuations came from them and Lin Mu became alert.

"Dao Embryo Release!" The Dao Treading realm experts made different handseals of their own.

Spherical shells rose up from the top of their heads and expanded to become large. Most of them were around two meters wide, but some had reached a width of nearly five meters which was rather large for a Dao Treading realm expert.

But what was even more surprising was that each of the Dao Shell's contained the same kind of Dao Embryo!

### **Chapter 1169 Snow Bell Dao Embryos**

Lin Mu glanced at the Dao Shell's and saw the Dao Embryos within.

All of them were shaped like bells and their size was the same as well. This was strange since the size of their Dao Shell's varied.

'Why are they the same size? Shouldn't the ones with bigger Dao Shell's form bigger Dao Embryos?' Lin Mu wondered.

The last time he had seen so many Dao Embryos of the same time was when he fought the Dao Treading realm cultivators who had been forcefully nurtured using Pills of grace. But those cultivators were very weak and had the same sized Dao Shells as well.

Their foundation and quality couldn't compare to the Dao Treading realm cultivators Lin Mu was fighting right now. These were true Dao Treading realm cultivators who had cultivated from scratch. Lin Mu could not sense even a trace of the muddied qi of the Pills of grace and neither did he feel the trace of invader on them.

The Dao Shells all floated up and a wave of energy spread from them.

"Snow Bell Embryo resonance!" The Dao Treading realm cultivators chanted.

~DING~

The bells in the Dao Shells all rung at the same time and a melodic chime was heard. Lin Mu's spirit sense was alert and was scanning for danger at all times but didn't sense any threat from this.

"What are they—" but soon Lin Mu felt the change.

He looked at his hand and saw a layer of ice covering it.

"How?" But that wasn't all as his leg was soon covered by ice too.

Realizing that he needed to reassess the threat Lin Mu used Fade and disappeared, leaving the Dao Treading realm cultivators confused.

"Where did he go?"

Back in the parallel world, Lin Mu broke off the ice on his hand and leg.

"How the hell did they do that? There was no spirit qi in that attack and I didn't sense any threat either?" Lin Mu couldn't help but question.

"They executed a Dao embryo skill. Normally you would have felt it, but since they are using it in unison, its power is amplified." Xukong answered. "And not just that, because it is not a qi skill, your spirit sense won't sense it either. It is a pure Dao skill, albeit only a weak one that works on Dao Traces."

"I see... but how can they all have the same kind of Dao Embryos?" Lin Mu asked.

"It is quite possibly due to them comprehending it all from the same thing. Not all of Dao Treading realm cultivators form their Dao Embryos on their own, some might take the guidance of a senior expert or some might even use a tool to gain an insight from." Xukong replied.

"Hmm... perhaps the immortal tool did this? Could they have gained their insight from it?" Lin Mu guessed.

"It is certainly possible. And it makes it even more dangerous. In large numbers like this same Dao Embryos can resonate and increase their power to levels that are beyond what could be possible normally for them. You should be careful this time. Dao Skills cannot be defended against easily." Xukong warned.

Lin Mu nodded his head and had already experienced it. Normally he should not have even been affected by it and the mortal strengthening scripture's armor would have blocked it. But when ice formed on his hand and arm, it had directly bypassed the armor and covered both the armors and his skin.

If it were not for the fact that his body cultivation was also at the Dao Treading realm and he had cultivate the True Gold Body forging arts, he might have lost both his limbs.

"I think you should use it too... it is ready right?" Xukong suggested.

"Mmhm... after the breakthrough I could instinctively feel it that I can use it." Lin Mu replied.

"Good, use it then. No sense in hiding it anymore." Xukong stated.

"Alright." Lin Mu said as his eyes glinted with determination.

He then moved some distance away from his initial location and deactivated Fade, reappearing back in the Xiaofan world.

"THERE!" As soon as he appeared, the Dao Treading realm cultivators sensed him.

They were left confused and wondered if Lin Mu had left using teleportation. That was one thing they couldn't guard against and were betting that Lin Mu would not leave without a fight.

And just as they had guessed, Lin Mu returned soon after.

"Don't let him escape again!" the Dao Treading realm cultivators said out loud.

~DING~

The Snow Bell Embryos chimed once again, the melodic sound spreading in the surrounding.

~CRACK~ CRACK~

But this time Lin Mu was prepared and broke the ice just as it formed on his body. Spirit qi continually poured out from his body, creating an outward pressure, preventing the ice from forming.

"It won't work anymore." Lin Mu said as he distanced himself a little from the Dao Treading realm cultivators.

"Again!" the Dao Treading realm cultivators controlled their Dao Embryos and rang the bells non stop.

~DING~ DING~ DING~

It felt like tens of wind chimes were ringing in strong winds and the melodic sound turned a little irritating.

~shua~

Icy winds blew all around the area, freezing it. The bare ground which had been revealed due to Little Shrubby was now covered in white snow again. But the snow only lasted off a moment before turning into solid ice under the effect of the bells.

Even Lin Mu felt his spirit qi curtain weakening. What he was doing was actually pushing out his store spirit qi out of his body in order to prevent the ice from forming on it. This process was really wasteful and was the same as letting one's spirit qi that was collected after tireless cultivation free.

Only Lin Mu was someone who could willfully waste spirit qi like this. It wasn't like he would have a hard time absorbing it back anyway.

"You aren't the only one's who can use Dao Embryos, you know?" Lin Mu said as a heavy aura spread from him.

### **Chapter 1170 True Earth Heart Dao Embryo**

As the heavy aura spread from Lin Mu, a yellow and brown object rose from his head, shining brightly like a flood light in the night. A few seconds later the object became clearer and everyone could see it now.

The object was none other than Lin Mu's Dao shell. And it was in the form of a Seven sided shield. There was a flat circular indent in its center as well. The different sections of the shield had two different colors. Four of it were yellow in color while three section were brown in color.

The circle in the center though was clear and could be seen through. And there was actually another object hidden inside it.

"What kind of a Dao Embryo is that?" The Dao Treading realm cultivators of the northern tribes wondered.

~badum~

~badum~

~badum~

But that was not all as a peculiar sound could was heard coming from the Shield like Dao Shell.

"Is that... a heartbeat?" the Dao Treading realm cultivators finally realized.

The sound coming from the Shield like Dao shell was the same as heartbeats. Albeit heartbeats that were loud enough to be heard in the entire area. Not just that but with each beat, they felt like the pressure on them was oscillating.

Lin Mu gazed up at his Dao Shell and let it expand.

One meter. Two meters. Three meters. Four meters. Five meters. Six meters... ten meters!

The Dao Shell had reached a massive ten meters in size now. The Dao Treading realm cultivators could only watch on in shock as the heartbeats coming from the Dao shell intensified as well.

"Dao Shell condense!" Lin Mu called out.

~Rumble~

The Dao Shell shook before starting to condense. Its size reduced until it became two meters wide. Though at the same time, the Dao Shell became a lot more denser. The heartbeats coming from it also became a lot more clear, and now felt like drum beats.

Then under the shocked eyes of everyone, Lin Mu took out a spear from his spatial storage. It was none other than the Iron Thorn Spear and stabbed it into his Dao Shell!

"WHAT!?" the Dao Treading realm cultivators were confused and wondering why Lin Mu was harming his own Dao Shell.

But much to their surprise, the scene of the Dao Shell cracking or getting damaged was not seen. Instead. The Iron thorn spear freely inserted into the Dao shell, as if it was meant to fit it from the start.

Around one third of the spear disappeared into the Dao Shell before Lin Mu held it in his hands.

"True Earth Heart Dao Embryo!" Lin Mu chanted.

~Hong~

The Dao Shell shook once more and let out waves of energy that covered the entire Dao Shell. The energy solidified around the Dao Shell while the outline of an object could be seen.

The object was none other than Lin Mu's Dao Embryo which was in the shape of a heart!

The Dao Embryo looked like a heart made out of rocks and stones, with soil clumped around its surface forming the fine veins and arteries. It throbbed nonstop and liberated a lot of energy.

This was the Dao Embryo that Lin Mu had birthed after having comprehended the Dao of Earth!

It was a unique Dao Embryo that even Xukong had not seen before and Lin Mu instinctively knew its name when it was born within his Dao Shell.

He had broken through to the Dao Treading realm not long ago, and had been stabilizing his qi cultivation base. It was also why he had not used it right away. But now he felt like it had become just perfect.

This was one of the reasons why Lin Mu had gotten interested in Elder Gunkao who also used the earth element. Lin Mu wanted to know just how much of a difference there was between their Dao Embryos.

And now he had seen several Dao Embryos and was confident in his own. Even more so for the Dao Skill that he had automatically comprehended when he had broken through.

Lin Mu's understanding of the Dao of earth had deepened and the Dao Traces present in his Dao Embryo was great. The concentration of Dao Traces in his Dao Embryo was supposedly a lot more than there normally should have been, according to Xukong.

Of course Lin Mu didn't mind it and was rather happy with it. As it only meant that his capabilities would be that much higher.

And now, he was about to display those very capabilities.

"HAA!" Lin Mu held the handle of the Iron Thorn spear that was now attached to the entire Dao Shell and poured in his spirit qi into it.

The spirit qi reacted with the energy coming from the True Earth Heart Dao Embryo and solidified turning into rocks that covered the entire Dao Shell as well as the shaft of the Iron Thorn spear.

The two things were now combined and had taken an entirely different form.

True Earth Heart: Great Sword Form!

In Lin Mu's hands was now a Great Sword over three meters long. Its stony blade was two meters long while the handle alone was a meter long. Sword intent rose from Lin Mu's body and infused into the Great Sword.

~Crumble~

The two edges of the Great Sword chipped and crumbled under the power of the sword intent, forming a razor sharp edge. Lin Mu's Sword intent had ground the rough and blunt edges until they were proper.

~SWOOSH~

Lin Mu swung the great sword through the air and propped it up on his shoulder. The large Great Sword looked comical compared to Lin Mu's size as it was large enough to hide three of him behind it.

"Now then... where were we?" Lin Mu muttered as he gazed at the Dao Treading realm cultivators of the northern tribe that turned nervous from the pressure coming from Lin Mu.

~shua~

Then in the next moment, Lin Mu jumped up into the sky, swinging the Great Sword.