

## Walker 1201

### Chapter 1201 The Final Push

"WHOA!" Lin Mu let out a voice of sheer awe at the act of Xukong.

The Immortal Skeleton was still in its place and was in the motions of attacking again, but its attack never activated. Instead, its body started to fragment and dissipate. As if old straw had started to fray, the skeleton's bones turned into thin filaments and broke apart.

Its robes suffered a similar fate and in less than five seconds, it had been erased from existence. The same thing happened to the area around it, and the ground, trees, and rocks were all erased, leaving behind a dark void.

The large body of the invader let out an unwilling scream and forcefully cut off itself from the base. The top part of the body met a similar fate as the Immortal Skeleton and turned into fine filaments before disappearing in the dark void as well.

The mountains behind it and a large tract of area all the way to the forbidden continent suffered the same damage. It was as if everything was being erased from reality.

Lin Mu's spatial perception worked at full power and he saw each and everything. While it seemed like everything that met the power of Xukong turned into filaments and disappeared, Lin Mu knew that it was not so.

His eyes could see what others didn't and saw the profundities of space and the Dao of space being demonstrated to the greatest extent.

For example, when the skeleton turned into filaments, Lin Mu saw that the filaments were actually individual 'units' of the spatial fabric. It was this fabric which contained the matter of the world and kept it together.

What Xukong's attack had done was simply removing the bindings that kept these 'units' together. With nothing to hold the basic fabric of space together, how can anything continue to exist in it?

It was like removing all electrons from a body. It would no longer stay together and fly apart, turning into fine particles that would continue to wither until they reached a very small stable state.

The way Xukong had interacted with the fabric of space was enlightening to Lin Mu. After all, one of the skills he had did the same too.

Meld was similar in this aspect that it could directly cut apart the spatial fabric.

But the comparison between Meld and Xukong's skill was far too wide. It was like comparing the cut made by a butcher's knife to nuclear cleaving done by a laser.

While Meld too cut the spatial fabric, it couldn't maintain that state. The spatial fabric wasn't weak either, after all. If it was weak, then nothing would ever exist in the world. After meld cut the spatial fabric, it would mend itself moments later.

But Xukong's attack went many steps further.

If meld was like a scissor creating a cut in the middle of a cotton sheet, then Xukong's skill was pulling at the free edge of the sheet, unraveling it. It was basically reversing the existence of the sheet, returning it to its original form of a cotton thread.

~HONG~

While Lin Mu and the rest watched the aftermath of Xukong's actions, the being in question started to disappear. His large body faded away and large white pillars did the same. The dark expanse in the skies also closed up, letting the blue skies return.

It was as if nothing had happened at all and even the sun had reappeared, casting its light over everything.

~SKREEE~

But the silence was soon broken by a loud screech that came from the large fissure.

~BOOM~

A large blob of black tar filled with skulls and bones rose again, letting out an angry screech.

"It's still alive!? How!?" Lin Mu, and many others were confused.

"AHAHAHA! I'm alive!" Gu Yao laughed in joy and rose from the black tar pool.

He had forcefully hid in the deep fissure, with the hopes of avoiding the attack, and he really had. But the truth was, Xukong had never targeted him from the start. Or rather, he couldn't do that without violating more rules of the world.

The ones that he had targeted were the Invader and the Immortal Skeleton, both of which who weren't the beings of the Xiaofan world. This was the leeway that the Xiaofan world allowed him after the use of the World essence crystal.

"The rest is up to you, Lin Mu. You need to get rid of Gu Yao." Xukong's voice was heard in his mind.

This time the voice had come from Xukong's avatar in the ring rather than the main body directly.

"Yes, senior." Lin Mu replied as a determined expression appeared on his face.

He knew that even if Xukong had personally attacked, there were limits to it. He couldn't go beyond a certain level or the Xiaofan world would suffer. And while Xukong's attack had surely injured the invader, it hadn't killed it entirely.

The Invader had tenacious and stubborn vitality and could live on even when torn into shreds.

It was at this moment that Lin Mu spoke to everyone.

"Everyone... The only way to defeat the invader is to kill Gu Yao. He is the link that is allowing the invader to exist in this world. But he is also being kept alive and will be revived continually by the invader's powers." Lin Mu explained.

"We shall kill him together, then!" Jing Luo said with confidence.

"Yeah!"

"WE SHALL DEFEND UNTIL OUR LAST BREATHS!"

Everyone replied, having gathered their wits after seeing everything earlier.

"No... I can't let you all do that. As we speak, the invader is draining the world of its energy. Gu Yao and the invader will stay alive due to this loop. The only way to stop it all is to remove Gu Yao from this world once and for all." Lin Mu stated.

"How will we do that?" Patriarch You Yi questioned.

A bad feeling rose in the hearts of several people as they felt that Lin Mu's tone was different this time.

"I have to... I have to bid you all farewell now. I don't know when we will meet again, but I promise you I will return one day." Lin Mu said, filling everyone with dread.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING LIN MU!?" Patriarch Hua and several others questioned in fear.

But Lin Mu didn't answer them, instead flying towards Gu Yao at great speed.

"Humph! With your master gone, do you think you are my match!? Think you can kill me?!" Gu Yao taunted with new found spirit.

He understood that Xukong had held back to prevent the world from being destroyed. But Lin Mu couldn't kill him here either.

"I don't have to kill you to defeat you!" Lin Mu replied as he stretched his right hand and activated the ring with all his power.

~HONG~

The ancestral bell that had become silent suddenly rang once again and activated.

"What are you doing? How can you control the bell!?" Gu Yao questioned.

Lin Mu didn't care for it though and simply grabbed onto Gu Yao in a crushing grip.

~WOONG~

A portal opened up with the ability of the Ancestral Bell and the power of the mysterious ring, its destination unknown.

"AAAAAAA!" Lin Mu cried out as he pushed forth with all his power while Gu Yao continued to struggle.

~BOOM~

Finally, he pushed Gu Yao into the portal along with himself, disappearing from the sights of everyone.

"LIN MU!!!!!"

## Chapter 1202 No Regrets

~GROAN~

A groan of pain was heard in what looked like an empty cavern.

The only other sound that could be heard was that of a small stream that passed thought it.

There was barely any light here and the little illumination that did exist came from the fine glowing moss that grew on the ground.

"Ugh! My shoulder..." A proper voice was heard this time, belonging to a young man.

If one looked carefully, they would see a person lying face down, a short distance away from the small stream. His body was riddled with injuries and the clothes he was wearing were tattered, almost turning to shreds.

The worst injury though, was on the man's shoulder where golden bones could be seen peeking out from the flesh. And not just a that, a fine crack could even be seen on the golden scapula.

"HAAA!" Lin Mu let out a grunt and made himself turn to his side.

He stayed in that position for a minute, before mustering more strength to make himself sit up.

"UGH! Where am I?" Lin Mu said with a grunt and winced in pain.

He opened his eyes but could barely see anything in the area. Other than the faint light coming from the moss that reflected off the small stream, there was little to see. This was strange to Lin Mu since he knew with his enhanced senses he should be able to see in this level of light far more clearly.

Unable to see anything or anyone, Lin Mu decided to focus on himself first.

"I need to treat my injuries... this is the first time I've gotten this injured after cultivating the True Gold Body Forging Arts." Lin Mu said to himself.

He was about to use his spirit sense to check when he realized that he was unable to.

"Huh? Why's my spirit sense not working?" Lin Mu was confused.

He tried to extend it from his body when he realized it simply did not leave the confines of it. Furrowing his brows, he tested it a little more and discovered something more.

'It works fine inside my body at least... still, this is too strange.' Lin Mu thought.

He went ahead and scanned his own body, only to find out the vast amount of injuries that he had.

"How did I end up like this?" Lin Mu questioned, unable to remember much.

"No wait! What was I even doing before this?" Lin Mu tried to recall, only to feel a headache.

He didn't give up though and started from the next closest memory he had.

'Senior Xukong intervened and killed the immortal skeleton. Then Gu Yao... UGH!' Lin Mu winced in pain once more, but this time, the memories started to return.

He recalled activating the Ancestral Bell forcefully with the ring and opening a spatial portal before pushing Gu Yao into it along with himself.

And just as he did this, he felt the remaining memories appearing as well.

...

"You will die too if you do this! And you still dare to do it!?" Gu Yao shouted while hammering away at Lin Mu.

"Doesn't matter to me! You will die regardless!" Lin Mu shouted and held Gu Yao in his grip.

The two of them were moving at a great speed. And looking around, one could see streaks of light passing by like blurs. There were also strong spatial fluctuations all around them, but they were kept in place by what looked like a thin membrane.

Gu Yao paused for a moment and looked around, finding a strange energy around him.

"DID YOU JUST PUSH ME INTO THE GREATER VOID!?" Gu Yao realized, as an expression of fear appeared on his face.

"I have no idea which layer of the void we are in." Lin Mu said, much to the man's irritation.

But all this was merely Lin Mu buying time so that he could figure out his next step. Gu Yao's attacks were certainly doing damage to his body, especially since the man was rather strong after having been revived by the invader's power.

Lin Mu could easily estimate that Gu Yao now had the strength of an Immortal Ascension realm expert at the very least. If it were not for the fact that his body was very durable, he would have been unable to live under the constant attacks.

But while doing this, Lin Mu finally had an idea.

"HIYA!" Lin Mu twisted his body and turned to the side.

It was very difficult due to being in motion and that too at a great speed, but he still did it.

"NO!" Gu Yao saw what Lin Mu was intending to do and shouted out in fear.

"HA!" But Lin Mu didn't care for the man's thoughts and kicked him in the chest with all his might, sending him flying to the other side.

"CURSE YOU!!!" Gu Yao shouted as his body was flung aside.

It flew a short distance before finally hitting the thin membrane that was surrounding the spatial channel that they were traveling through.

Unfortunately for Gu Yao, touching the membrane meant that his body now needed to bear the full brunt of the spatial energy of the void.

"AAAAAAAHHHHHH!" An ear piercing cry was heard as Gu Yao's body literally started being shredded against the spatial energy outside the membrane.

It was as if a man was being pushed against a wall while being hung out of a train's window. His skin and flesh were grated against it and turned into a paste before finally turning into fine motes of molecules that were neither flesh nor Qi.

This was the last scene Lin Mu saw before he fainted, unable to bear his exhaustion. Not only was his vital energy drained from using the Burning Heart Sutra and being in the Demonic form, but forcefully controlling the Ancestral Bell and opening the spatial portal had consumed a significant portion of his spirit Qi as well.

It was only through sheer will that he had been able to push away Gu Yao.

His eyes closed and when they opened, he found himself in this dark cavern.

"That was... really risky..." Lin Mu muttered to himself as he recalled everything.

Still, it was a risk that he was willing to take and would never regret. Because if he had hesitated, Gu Yao and the invader could have very well escaped and hid in the Xiaofan world.

And while Lin Mu and the rest might have been able to find them eventually, they didn't need to hide for long. After all, the goal of the Invader was to absorb the core energy of the Xiaofan world.

With the power that it had, even if it was injured by Xukong it only needed a few days to recover it all and even go beyond. But by that time, all would be lost and the Xiaofan world would start to break down in its entirety.

Lin Mu certainly couldn't allow that to happen.

~Sigh~

"At least it's over..." Lin Mu said to himself.

Having understood his situation, Lin Mu first decided to heal himself. He had a lot of injuries that needed to be cared for and even his spirit Qi was lacking right now.

"At least there is spirit Qi here..." Lin Mu said with a little relief in his voice.

He sat in a cross-legged posture and started to absorb the spirit Qi around him. At the same time, he took out all the remaining healing pills he had in the ring and ate them all.

Lin Mu sat in that position for a few days, while his body healed slowly. Even cultivating took longer for him due to the injuries to his meridians. He had greatly strained them during the battle and not even realized it.

Thankfully, the damage was not something permanent and would heal on its own with enough time.

At a certain point, Lin Mu felt like he had healed enough and decided to move around.

'I have about half my usual spirit Qi stores...' Lin Mu checked.

While it was not optimal, it was enough for him to defend himself. Additionally, the injuries on his body had mostly healed, except the one in his shoulder. The flesh itself had healed, and the skin had regrown, but the bones underneath it would take longer to heal.

This was the side effect of the True Gold Body Forging Arts that Lin Mu only discovered now. While it would make one's body extremely tough and dense, it also made it so that it was harder to heal the bones once they actually broke.

Lin Mu was still in the advantage here though with his bloodline of the Great Slumber bear silently promoting his natural healing ability.

But there was still the issue of his spirit sense being restricted.

"I can barely scan an area of ten meters ahead of me..." Lin Mu estimated.

While he wasn't completely in the blind like before, and the spirit sense did extend outside his body, it was nowhere close to his range from before.

Lin Mu didn't know if it was because he was still injured or there was something else. But he knew that he needed to explore more to figure out why.

'Senior Xukong will also not be able to help me for a while...' Lin Mu didn't forget.

Xukong had already warned him that once he intervened, his avatar will be forced to enter a dormant state to recover.

Now Lin Mu needed to understand his situation without the guidance of his master.

### **Chapter 1203 All Alone In Darkness**

"AHH! Just how big is this place!?" Lin Mu shouted in frustration.

Rubbing his face he plunked back down on the ground.

"How many days has it even been? I can't even tell the time here." Lin Mu said to himself.

He had been walking for what seemed like several days, but he had reached no end. The area was perpetually in darkness and there were no other topographical changes to the area either.

Or even if they were, Lin Mu's spirit sense was simply too short for him to detect it.

'My body is mostly healed other than my shoulder and my spirit Qi is also at 75% capacity. Considering these developments, maybe it's been around a month now?' Lin Mu estimated to himself.

It had now been around a month since he had left the Xiaofan world and since the battle had ended. So far, Lin Mu didn't know where he was, and neither did he know how to get out of here.

There were several new restrictions on him that weren't there before, and it was rather frustrating to him.

At first it was even worse for him, since he simply couldn't see anything once he left the cavern he was in. The cavern was faintly illuminated by the moss growing there and helped him a bit at first.

Lin Mu even took some of the moss with him and used it as a light source out of the cavern. It lasted long enough for him to recover and be able to use his own spirit Qi to create a fireball for illumination.

But continually letting it burn was not faring well from him. This was when he realized the second restriction he had on him. Whenever he used a Qi skill, his spirit Qi consumption was almost tripled than usual.

This was really absurd since he could tell that it wasn't even his body's injuries that were causing this, but rather the Qi skill itself had become 'inefficient' somehow.

Thankfully, Lin Mu had more than one way of illumination. He had several midnight sun shards with him. These were basically a kind of luxury spirit tool that could absorb the sunlight in the daytime and glow in the night time.

These of course, needed sunlight to work normally, but with some modification in the formations by Lin Mu, they worked on spirit Qi as well.

This was when he discovered another new thing. While the consumption of spirit Qi by Qi skills had increased by a lot, that was not the case for the formations or spirit tools. They still worked on the same amount.

Thus Lin My made several more modifications to the midnight Sun shards and turned them into a multifaceted lamp.

This helped to illuminate an area of several meters around him and was even wider than the range of his spirit sense.

This was how he had continued his travel. But there seemed to be no end to it.

~Sigh~

'Perhaps I need to reassess my situation.' Lin Mu thought to himself after chanting the calming heart sutra for a bit.

"Let's start over again... the area around me is barren and is mostly made up of rocks and soil. The rocks themselves are like smooth pebbles in some parts and broken stones in others areas. The soil is also rather soft and dark brown in color." Lin Mu voiced out his thoughts, hoping that it would help him think better.

"Then there is that small stream in the cavern I woke up next to. Its existence means there was supposedly a river here. The smooth pebbles might also be due to that." Lin Mu analyzed little by little.

The small stream he had seen in the cavern ended a short distance from the exit of the cavern. It simply pooled into a pond and went deeper into the ground, probably joining an underwater aquifer.

Lin Mu had originally hoped to follow the stream to find some people or a settlement, but it was unless.

It didn't help that he couldn't fly here either. That was the third restriction he had discovered. At first he thought it was due to his injuries that he couldn't do it. But later he realized it simply didn't work.

Thankfully, he was also a body cultivator and even while injured, his body was tough enough to endure a long journey on foot.

Another factor that was affecting Lin Mu, which he had not expected, was the lack of someone to speak to. Before this, he always had Senior Xukong or Little Shrubby to talk to and consult.

But now there was nothing. All he was met with was silence.

And it was going to be like this for a long while most probably. Having checked up on both Little Shrubby and Xukong, Lin Mu knew they were still recovering.

Xukong's avatar was simply in a dormant state and was surrounded by a mass of spatial energy, while Little Shrubby was still in the shrunken state of being a seed.

Lin Mu could not estimate how long it would take for either of them to wake up. His only hope now was to find some other people.

"Still, it's strange that there is no animal life here. There is spirit Qi here, so there should have been at least some life. I've seen the glowing moss, but it only grows in that cavern. I haven't seen it anywhere else." Lin Mu wondered to himself.

Laying down on the ground for a bit, Lin Mu let his thoughts wander and his body rest.

An hour later, he stood up and got to walking again.

An unknown amount of time passed before Lin Mu finally saw something different.

"Huh? What's that?" Lin Mu's eyes saw a tall wall in front of him.

The top of the wall could not be seen and neither could its edges. Walking closer to it, Lin Mu could see that the wall was rocky with no weeds or plants growing on it either.

### **Chapter 1204 A Strange Sky**

Finding the rocky wall was a good development for Lin Mu.

He had already walked in perpendicular direction to the wall before he had come all this way. He had even done it for several days to see if there was anything there, but there simply was nothing.

Or even if there was, it was so far that Lin Mu may as well pick a random direction to walk in. Which was exactly what he had ended up doing and how he had found this wall.

"I should go to the top of the wall to see what's around here." Lin Mu decided.

One thing that Lin Mu could confirm was the fact that the wall was natural. In fact, it couldn't even be said surely if it was a 'wall' or just a tall mountain of some kind.

Regardless, as long as Lin Mu reached the top, he reckoned he would have a better view of the area and maybe even find some people. Or just some life.

~CRACK~

~THUD~

~CRACK~

~THUD~

Climbing the wall was simple for Lin Mu. He simply used his hands and legs and directly dug them into the solid rocks. His body was a lot more tougher than the rocks the walls were made out of and he started to climb.

What he didn't guess was the time it would take him to reach the top.

"GODDAMMIT! This is taller than the tallest mountain in the Xiaofan world, for sure." Lin Mu cursed in frustration.

This time around, Lin Mu had kept counting to see just how much time had passed. And he had given up after over a week had passed.

~THUD~

"Ugh... I'll rest for a bit and start again..." Lin Mu said to himself.

He had started to talk to himself a lot more after these days and had unknowingly gotten used to it. This way he didn't feel as lonely as before either.

As for resting, Lin Mu was currently laying on a narrow ledge that protruded from the unending rocky wall. These were natural ledges that were just broken parts of the rocks that comprised of the wall.

"Back to it then!" Having rested for a couple of hours, Lin Mu started climbing once more.

But this time around, he discovered a new thing.

"Huh? Is this... fog?" Lin Mu could feel fine particles floating in the air.

Below this point, all Lin Mu had felt was darkness, but there was no such fog. The air was rather clear down there. But from the confirmation of his spirit sense, Lin Mu was sure there was fog around him now.

'Am I at a very high altitude?' Lin Mu thought that perhaps he had climbed to a height where clouds would cling to mountains.

"No, wait... this is not water vapor... this is something else." Lin Mu said after analyzing the fog a bit more.

He couldn't tell what kind of particles they were, but he could cross out dust, smoke and water from the list. Whatever it was it some something entirely new.

But discovering the fog also made him realize something else.

"Maybe this fog is the reason why there is darkness everywhere? Maybe there is sunlight above this." Lin Mu reckoned.

With this new found motivation, Lin Mu sped up and after climbing for around two hundred meters more, he finally felt the fog disappearing.

"LIGHT! THERE IS ACTUALLY LIGHT!" Lin Mu shouted out loud.

Swiveling his head around, Lin Mu saw a vast sky above him. Granted, the sky was cloudy and overcast with the light itself being a strange reddish shade. At the same time, he saw the end of the rocky wall which was barely a hundred meters away.

But when he turned to look at the back, Lin Mu saw a stunning scene.

"Whoa!" In front of Lin Mu was a vast sea of darkness.

It was sprawling endlessly and extended in three directions. Other than the wall that he was clinging to, all other places were filled with the darkness, or rather a dark fog. It prevented one from seeing the bottom and obviously no light passed through it, either.

'I should get to the top first.' Lin Mu sped up and soon reached the top.

"HAAA!" Lin Mu let out a breath of relief and laid on the flat surface on top.

Above him was a vast sky filled with endless clouds. It was colored in a strange dusky shade of red and no sun could be seen, evidently being hidden by the clouds.

"No wonder it was so dark down there, the sky itself is dim and the amount of light that reaches the layer of dark fog is a fraction of that. Not to mention the dark fog is over two hundred meters thick and prevents any light from passing whatsoever at that point." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

It was a strange relief to him to figure out the mystery of his 'entrapment'.

"I shouldn't lag on, lets see what more is around here." Lin Mu stood up and looked around.

The area around him was basically two different topographies. On one side was a massive depression filled with dark fog, which was where Lin Mu had come out from. Then, on the other side, there was a vast barren land.

The ground was a mix of red and grey soils with plenty of rocks and stones in it as well. Then there were Mountains that could be seen far away, possibly several hundred kilometer away!

Though there were also some hills nearby that were significantly shorter than the mountains.

"Damn... did I just walk out of a valley?" Lin Mu finally figured out.

It was shocking to him that he had just climbed out of the depths of a valley that was deeper than the tallest mountains of the Xiaofan world.

Just from this alone, Lin Mu realized that he was in a massively different world from what he was used to.

"This is just the start... let's see what more I can find."

## Chapter 1205 Four Legged Strange People

The discoveries were certainly quite a lot for Lin Mu, but they also made him excited at the same time. He wanted to see what was special about this world and why it was like this.

'And I still need to find some food too... I'm out of all the stored food. My vitality is barely at 30% at its usual capacity too...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

There were no beasts in the dark valley, so Lin Mu was not able to hunt any. But now that he was out of it, he wanted to find some to eat.

"Hmm... still, where do I go now?" Lin Mu wondered.

Looking around, there was basically a wasteland in front of him. There were no plants or animals anywhere and the sky was overcast, too.

'The only life I saw was the glowing moss... but even that was in the valley. I can't see any water around here too, or that would be a good place to search.' Lin Mu analyzed his choices.

After thinking for a bit, Lin Mu made his decision.

"Let's just head to that hill first. Maybe I'll find something from a higher location?" Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He started to run towards the nearest hill and reached it in about half an hour. From there, he spent another half an hour to climb it.

'Perhaps calling it a hill is a little underestimating... but considering the mountains are a lot taller here, guess this is a hill?' Lin Mu reckoned.

The hill that he had climbed was still pretty tall and about the size of an average mountain. Thankfully, it was free of any beasts that could interrupt him or any plants that would force him to take an alternate route.

The only obstacle for him was the loose rocks that fell sometimes when he tried to climb them. Though it was not much of an issue for him since the rocks were simply shattered upon hitting his body.

His body was far tougher than the rocks, after all.

Upon reaching the top of the hill, Lin Mu finally got a better look at the area.

~Phew~

"This is really vast..." Lin Mu said as he marveled at the sky piercing mountains in the distance. They extended from one side of the horizon to the other, going around the dark valley that was behind him.

Speaking of the Dark valley, Lin Mu finally saw the other ends of it. It extended right from the edges of the mountain range to the place where Lin Mu had climbed from. Though the side completely opposite to it was not visible to Lin Mu as it was simply too far.

Even the Mountain range could not be seen on that side, simply turning into a thin line at that point.

~WHISTLE~

But while Lin Mu was assessing the area, his ears picked up a low sound. His eyes narrowed, and he immediately used blink.

~DENG~

The place where he was just standing was struck by what looked like a long javelin. It was over six meters long and seemed to be made out of solid rock that had been whittled down.

"Enemy!" Lin Mu understood.

He looked around but didn't see anyone on the ground.

'Where are they?' Lin Mu wondered.

~WHISTLE~

The low sound was heard as well, and Lin Mu dodged once more.

~DENG~

Another javelin landed on the place Lin Mu was standing at. It was the same as the one before, made out of rock. But this time, Lin Mu had a little more information.

"It came from a different side." Lin Mu noticed.

His eyes traced the possible trajectory based on where the two spears had landed and finally figured out where they came from.

"The hills!" Lin Mu saw three spears shooting up from the other hills in the distance.

The spears rose into the sky soundlessly, but when they started to descend after drawing an arc in the air, they would create a low sound. It was something that most people wouldn't even pick up on it.

It was easy to understand that these spears were intentionally made to be as silent as possible.

"Let's see who's targeting me." Lin Mu said with a smile, not feeling afraid at all.

He had checked the spears and knew that they were nothing special. They had no spirit Qi infused into them, nor any other skill. Even if they hit Lin Mu, they wouldn't do much to him, anyway.

Lin Mu gathered power in his legs as his thighs bulged, and calves tightened.

~BOOM~

He launched into the air like a spring and covered over five hundred meters before finally falling downwards. Clenching his fist, Lin Mu dived towards the hill below him.

~KABOOM~

The entire hill shook from the impact as cracks spread over it. A few large boulders at its edge directly rolled off while a deep crater was created at its top.

"\$%H&(\*\*)&^" A strange voice was heard by Lin Mu, making him turn to the side.

The voice was speaking some unknown language, but Lin Mu could tell that the tone was anxious.

"Let's see who you are..." Lin Mu walked towards the source of the voice.

~SHUA~

But just as he was walking towards it, an attack came towards him.

~THUD~

~CRUMBLE~

Lin Mu didn't move though and let it hit him. The incoming projectile was a rock that had been carved into a cannonball shape. It simply shattered upon hitting Lin Mu.

"@^&(#&(&" Some unknown words were spoken again, this time shock clearly visible in it.

Lin Mu raised his brows as he assessed the power of the attack.

'Roughly equivalent to the peak of the Nascent soul realm... the javelins were thrown with a lot more force, though. Different enemies then?' Lin Mu concluded.

And as Lin Mu got closer to the source of the sound, more voices were heard, this time though they were getting closer.

~CRACK~

Lin Mu swiped his hand and knocked away the boulder that was blocking his path. And when it was swept away, he finally saw the 'enemy' standing behind it.

"Huh?" But Lin Mu was surprised by the appearance of the enemy.

It was humanoid, but wasn't exactly human. It had two arms, a head and torso, but there were four legs on its body. The legs were oriented in a cross shaped form. The creature in front of Lin Mu was dressed in clothes that camouflaged it well, with several rocks and soil attached to its clothes.

The enemy stood up towering over Lin Mu. It was nearly four meters tall!

But even if it was taller than Lin Mu, there was an expression of fear and shock on its face. Thankfully, the face of the creature was nearly the same as a human except it was a dusky grey in color and had rough patches that looked like scales on it.

Its ears were long and from them hung bone earrings.

Lin Mu walked up to the 'enemy' and casually picked it up using its clothes.

"Why did you attack me?" Lin Mu questioned.

~THUD~ THUD~ THUD~

It was at this time that three more enemies landed behind Lin Mu. They looked the same as the enemy that was in Lin Mu's hand, but were carrying several stone javelins on their back.

"^8#@^&#" They spoke, wariness present on their face.

One of them slowly approached Lin Mu, putting down the spear in its hand.

"##^(@\*&(&" It spoke, this time its tone a little gentle as if trying to placate.

Lin Mu raised his brows in surprise.

'They're trying to surrender?' Lin Mu wondered.

~clang~

~clang~

He then watched the others put down their weapons as well.

"Huh, want to do this peacefully? Fine, then." Lin Mu let go of the creature in his hand as well.

The guy landed on the ground and fell on its butt, fear in its eyes.

"@^(#&&#" The strange people spoke again, but Lin Mu understood nothing.

'Ah, the common tongue won't work here... they are of a different race.' Lin Mu understood.

"Umm... Can you understand me?" Lin Mu spoke again, this time in Dao script.

And when he did though, the strange people were surprised. Even more than when Lin Mu was holding their companion in their hands.

"Do you not understand me?" Lin Mu asked again, wondering if they didn't know Dao Script either.

He was hoping that they could, as this was a different world. The only hope Lin Mu would have at communicating was Dao script, as it was something that any world with cultivators should have.

'No, wait... considering how they look, they might not have reached the point of comprehending Dao script, perhaps?' Lin Mu thought.

The strange people weren't really dressed in any 'decent' or 'civilized' clothes. It wasn't even a matter of different cultures, but that the clothes were quite literally made from stitched rocks and mud plastered on them.

"Noble...?" And while Lin Mu was wondering how to talk to these strange people, he actually heard a word that he understood.

It had come from the guy he had taken hostage of temporarily. It had spoken a word that was from Dao Script!

"Oh? You understand me?" Lin Mu asked to confirm.

"Li-Little... Noble... Speak..." The strange person stuttered, clearly having a hard time finding words.

"Hmm... this'll be a problem." Lin Mu muttered.

"N-Noble... come..." the strange person spoke again and gestured with his hands in a certain direction.

Then it spoke to its companions and they too gestured in the same direction.

### **Chapter 1206 The Haima Tribe**

Seeing the actions of the strange four legged people, Lin Mu understood they were asking him to go some place.

'Probably their settlement.' Lin Mu guessed.

While it might seem a little suspicious to follow these strange people who had attacked him just a few moments ago, Lin Mu didn't feel any danger or malice from them. Or rather, now that he looked at them again, they seemed to be looking at him with a hint of respect.

This feeling of respect had come out of nowhere, which confused Lin Mu a little.

'The man said the word for Noble and that was certainly referring to me... but why would they call me a noble?' Lin Mu thought to himself, but decided to go along.

"Alright, show me the place you want to take me to." Lin Mu stated.

The four legged strange people nodded their heads and one of them took the lead. Lin Mu watched on as the four legged person crouched, as if gathering power in his legs. After two seconds, the strange person straightened them and leaped into the air like a frog!

~SHUA~

He streaked across the air, covering an impressive amount of distance. The second one did the same while the third one gestured to follow him.

"Let's just do as they are, then." Lin Mu too gathered power in his legs and leaped forth like a spring.

But his reach was even greater than the four legged people. So much so that he had already overtaken them by twice the distance.

"^^^&(\*@##%\$&" Unknown words were spoken with a hint of shock and awe in them.

Lin Mu looked back to see the four legged strange people trying to speed up. They caught up to him in less than ten seconds, letting Lin Mu leap once again. He didn't want to leave them too far back, after all.

There were possibly hidden dangers in the area that he might encounter. But if these strange people were guiding him, the chance of that happening was less.

Just like this, Lin Mu and the Four legged strange people continued to leap and jump for about an hour before they finally came to a halt.

"Come... Home..." The Strange person spoke in broken words.

"Okay," Lin Mu said as he took a look around.

His spirit sense was scanning the area, but with the range reduced to ten meters he didn't really find anything. There was another hill here, which was a lot taller than the others.

The strange people walked to the middle of this hill and used their javelins to knock on a rock. They tapped it in a specific pattern, after which they stopped.

'Is there a hidden entrance here?' Lin Mu wondered.

His spirit sense scanned the area and found a depression on the hill. It was covered with several layers of rocks that had been carved into the shape of a wheel. Only the top most rock that was on the outside of the hill looked natural.

~Tremble~

Vibrations could be felt in the ground as Lin Mu saw the rock wheels being moved one by one. Soon, he saw six more Four legged people appearing. They were the ones in charge of opening the 'entrance gate'.

"@^(\*\*&#^" one of the six guards saw the three strange people and spoke something to them.

They conversed among themselves before pointing to Lin Mu, who was standing next to them.

"#^(R#&\$#(&... Noble" The four legged person said.

The six guards had an expression of surprise on their face before nodding.

"Come... In... Meets... Elder..." The strange person said.

"Oh? We are going to meet your elder?" Lin Mu asked.

"Y-yes..." the strange person nodded.

'Maybe this elder can speak more coherently than this guy.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

This was the only reason he could think of them asking to meet the elder.

Lin Mu thus followed behind the strange Four legged people and entered the 'cave'. The corridor was wide enough for three of these people to walk side by side as well as tall enough to let them walk normally.

Lin Mu glanced at the rocks that were being used as pillars to hold up this corridor as well as a certain kind of plaster that had been lined on the walls, making it look a bit proper.

'This is relatively nice.' Lin Mu thought.

After walking for about ten minutes, they finally reached the end of the corridor. And when they did, Lin Mu saw a vast settlement in front of his eyes.

"Wow... Didn't expect this..." In front of Lin Mu were thousands of houses sprawled across the area.

There were torches and lamps everywhere, illuminating the settlement as well as thousands of four legged people going about their day. They were doing normal tasks and jobs, such as cleaning, weaving, cooking, and conversing in general.

"No matter what angle I look at this from, this is a complete civilization." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He continued to walk after the four legged people as they brought him through the large settlement. It was large enough to compare to Wu Lim city and possibly had the same amount of people.

The area wasn't flat either, having ridges and elevated places. There were different buildings built on them as well, with a myriad of paths that interwove.

Lin Mu observed the four legged people and found them to be wearing clothes made from flat stone plates that were attached to each other with strong strings made out of an unknown material.

The clothes that these strange people wore in the settlement looked a bit better than the ones that brought Lin Mu here.

'Maybe they are soldiers or something? Their clothing is also a lot more camouflaging than these people in here.' Lin Mu reckoned.

It was certainly a new experience for him to witness this all. And he wasn't the only one having a new experience either, as the four legged people in the settlement too watched him with a variety of expressions, the most common being interest and surprise.

They didn't seem alarmed due to Lin Mu, nor did they have any enmity against him. All this only made Lin Mu think that perhaps the three people had attacked him due to a mistake of some kind.

'Or maybe they were just defending their land.' Lin Mu guessed.

It was something normal to prevent intruders from entering one's land, after all. And Lin Mu couldn't blame them for trying to do their normal duties.

Though while walking through the settlement, Lin Mu was confused due to something.

'These people... they don't have a normal cultivation base.' Lin Mu discovered.

Even the three that had brought him here didn't have the same spirit Qi fluctuations that Lin Mu felt from cultivators. But what Lin Mu did sense from them was vital energy. It was in a far higher concentration than most cultivators Lin Mu had encountered.

'They were as strong as Nascent soul realm experts and don't have the same level of spirit Qi fluctuations. Rather, they are only half as strong as that. But then the vitality is also far stronger than a normal expert of that level.

It's almost as if... these two are combined?' Lin Mu analyzed.

Lin Mu would have thought that they were even body cultivators, but couldn't confirm it just from that.

'Hmm... just like the memoirs of the Lost immortal... there are many paths of cultivation in the world, and I seem to have encountered a new one today.' Lin Mu thought to himself with a look of interest on his face.

He ended up walking for around a kilometer distance before the four legged people brought him to a large building. It was built on a small plateau that rose to a height of fifteen meters tall.

This was certainly one of the tallest buildings in the entire settlement.

"Looking at its quality, it is certainly something made for a higher ranked person." Lin Mu muttered.

"%#^(\$&#\$(&" The strange person who spoke in broken Dao script said something out loud before tapping his spear on the ground.

Lin Mu watched on in interest as the door of the stone building opened after a minute.

~CREAK~

A loud creak was heard as the hinges of the stone door ground with no lubrication. And from the door walked out another Four legged person. But this person was a lot older, having a dry straw like beard.

He wore a woven hat on his head with robes made out of a similar material. This was the first person Lin Mu had seen here, wearing clothes made out of some kind of a textile.

But that wasn't all as Lin Mu could feel significant spirit Qi waves from this person.

"At least at the Dao Treading realm..." Lin Mu raised his brows.

This confirmed one fact for Lin Mu; he was now in a higher world than the Xiaofan world. After all, a Dao Treading realm expert would normally be the peak of power in the Xiaofan world and would be enough to run a large sect or even a kingdom.

And yet there was one in what was clearly a 'primitive' tribe.

"Are you the elder?" Lin Mu asked in Dao script.

"The children weren't mistaken... A noble." The elder said with a hint of surprise in his voice.

The surprise was momentary though, as he soon composed himself.

"We welcome the Human Noble to our tribe, The Haima Tribe!" The Elder greeted out loud

Hearing the name of the tribe and the words of the elder, calling him a noble, Lin Mu was intrigued.

## **Chapter 1207 Land Of Exile**

Lin Mu watched on as the Elder welcomed him.

"I am Lin Mu." He introduced himself.

"Ah, so the noble is named Lin Mu. How marvelous!" The elder spoke. "I am Elder Niji."

Hearing this only made Lin Mu feel strange since he didn't think there was a reason to go this far to praise him when they barely knew each other.

'Maybe it's the tradition for this tribe?' Lin Mu wondered.

"Come in. We can talk in comfort. I'll let the children take care of the rest." The elder said and gestured for Lin Mu to follow him.

"Alright." Lin Mu followed the old elder into the house he had walked out from.

~CREAK~

The door creaked loudly once more, as the two entered the building. In there, Lin Mu saw a relatively plain looking room with a low table and stone seats in the center. There were stairs to the side as well that went upstairs.

Taking a seat at the table, Lin Mu looked at the Elder intently.

"I reckon you have some questions to ask? I'd recognize that look anywhere. " The elder said, seeing Lin Mu's expression. "Don't worry, this is usual for people that come here for the first time." He added.

"What place is this, exactly?" Lin Mu asked, seeing that the elder was open to questions.

"This place is the Land of Exile. Though this is just the general term that is used for it. There are more areas within the Land of Exile, such as the Rust Hail Mountains, the Barren Plains and finally the Broken Chasm." The elder answered.

Lin Mu narrowed his eyes and guessed that the Mountains in the distance he saw were the Rust Hail Mountains as for the valley he came from was the Broken Chasm.

"Then this tribe is located within the Barren Plains?" Lin Mu spoke.

"Precisely." The Elder nodded his head before stroking his beard.

A thought came to him after listening to Lin Mu speak, and he questioned something.

"Nobel Lin Mu, are you perchance not from this world?" Elder Niji questioned.

"Oh? How did you figure that out?" Lin Mu asked in turn.

"At first I thought that you were simply a noble that knew about this place, but simply didn't recognize it. That is something that is usual, since no one would come to the Land of Exile of their own volition.

But seeing that you don't even know about the Land of Exile itself, there is a great chance you are not from this world." Elder Niji explained.

"You are correct. I am indeed not from this world." Lin Mu admitted. "Which brings me to wonder why you call me a noble? If I'm not of this world, how am I still a noble?" he asked next.

"You are a noble, since you speak the tongue of the nobles." Elder Niji answered.

"But aren't you speaking it too?" Lin Mu replied.

"I am indeed... but mine is merely an imitation. I speak the tongue but I have not comprehended it. Besides, only the humans are deemed to be nobles, unlike us of the Haima tribe." Elder Niji explained further.

This was interesting information for Lin Mu, as he had not expected there to be something like this. Especially since the Elder was speaking basically the same as what Dao Script was supposed to be like.

"You have not comprehended the Dao Script?" Lin Mu said in slight confusion before talking out a sheet of paper with a few sentences written on it. "So you can't read this?"

"Yes, I cannot. I was merely taught to speak the words. But this was simply memorization." The elder elaborated.

"I see... but still, why is it that only humans are deemed nobles?" Lin Mu questioned. "Can you or your people not get the same status?" he wondered.

"Well... one does not give the rank of a noble to a slave, do they? Our Haima tribe is inferior to that of the humans and we have been servants for many generations." Elder Niji said before his expression fell. "Or we were... once upon a time. Now we are merely exiles banished and forgotten..." he added, his tone forlorn.

Lin Mu raised his brows, finding it strange. As far as he could tell, the Haima Tribe didn't really seem to be inferior to humans. At least not from the strength they had shown him already.

'No... this world is different. The standard for humans might be far greater than the Xiaofan world.' Lin Mu reckoned.

Thinking over this, he felt curious about the Haima tribe as well as the Land of exile. After all he had been here for over a month now... though most of it was spent in the dark valley.

"Can you tell me more about the Land of Exile and the places within?" Lin Mu inquired.

"Of course. We almost never get visitors and this is the first time in my life that I'm actually getting to talk to someone in noble tongue. This was one of the wishes that I've had for a long time, so feel free to ask as much as you want." Elder Niji spoke.

His tone was filled with excitement, just like old people would show when they found someone new to talk to after a long time.

"The Land of Exile, just like its name states, is meant for people who had been exiled. Either as a punishment, or refuge. While most that are sent here are criminals, there are still some that come here to hide.

Unfortunately, this isn't a place of peace and safety. There is danger aplenty. The worst of which is the Broken Chasm." Elder Niji explained.

"The Broken Chasm is the dark valley, right?" Lin Mu asked, feeling a little confused about the elder's words.

"Yes. Though calling it a valley isn't really correct." Elder Niji replied.

"What's the danger there, though? I've been there for over a month and didn't even see any beasts there." Lin Mu finally asked.

"YOU, WHAT?!" Elder Niji suddenly exclaimed.

## Chapter 1208 The Broken Chasm

Lin Mu was taken aback by the sudden exclamation of Elder Niji, making him wonder if he had spoken something wrong.

"Is there something wrong?" Lin Mu asked in a concerned tone.

"Did you really spend a month in the Broken Chasm?" Elder Niji asked in disbelief.

"Yes... there's nothing down there. No beasts or any other life... no wait, there is some moss growing there." Lin Mu answered.

"How is that possible?" Elder Niji said under his breath.

"What kind of a danger is there in the Broken Chasm, anyway?" Lin Mu asked, wanting to know more.

"It is the greatest danger of the Land of Exiles... The Chasm Beasts. They are strange illusory beasts that don't have solid bodies. They live in the Broken Chasm and come out from time to time, spreading across the Barren plains, hunting for anything living." Elder Niji answered, much to Lin Mu's surprise.

"I... didn't see any of them down there. Is there something more to them?" Lin Mu was even more confused now.

"I... don't know... there should be Chasm beasts living there, I'm sure of this. I've seen them come out of there with my own two eyes." Elder Niji replied.

Hearing this, Lin Mu realized there was a discrepancy here.

"Wait, by seeing it yourself, do you mean you saw the bottom of the Chasm? Like you saw the beasts climbing all the way from the base?" Lin Mu asked for clarification.

"Of course not. The Chasm is bottomless... or so we've thought all these years. Our people who went there, either accidentally or intentionally, never returned." Elder Niji stated.

"Well, the chasm certainly has a bottom. And I've explored some of it. Sure, it is very deep, and it took me a little over a week to even climb it. The Dark fog spread at its top makes it hard to figure out directions too. Thankfully, I had some illumination tools to help me." Lin Mu elaborated.

"The Dark fog? You mean the Chasm Miasma isn't filling the chasm entirely?" Elder Niji was surprised once more.

"No, it is only floating on the top. And even then it's merely a fraction of the entire chasm's height. It was only around two hundred meters thick. A majority of the chasm down below is actually clear." Lin Mu revealed.

"This... changes everything..." Elder Niji was stunned. "Though this doesn't explain why you didn't encounter any Chasm Beasts."

"Perhaps you were just mistaken about it too?" Lin Mu said while striking his chin. "You said you've seen them come out of it, right? Like from the dark miasma?" he asked.

"Indeed. Everyone has seen them come out from there and this has been so for over a hundred thousand years of our tribe's existence here." Elder Niji stated.

'They've been in exile for a over a hundred thousand years? That's possibly longer than the entire history of the Great Zhou Empire and its people...' Lin Mu was shocked, since this was just one tribe of an entire world.

If an exiled clan had a history of over a hundred thousand years, Lin Mu wondered what the main residents of the world were like.

Pushing these thoughts to the back of his mind, Lin Mu focused on the topic at hand.

"Maybe you are not wrong about the source of the Chasm beasts. They do come from the Broken Chasm, but maybe not from the bottom." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

"What do you mean? Where else would they come from?" Elder Niji wondered.

"The Miasma itself. You've said they have no solid form. Then perhaps they are made out of this miasma? It would explain why I saw none of them down there." Lin Mu explained.

Hearing this, Elder Niji had a face of epiphany and he seemed to have figured out something.

"The Chasm Beasts come out in waves every so often. This time the interval has been long, and they haven't been seen for over two months now. If what you say is correct, then... the Chasm Beasts are only in existence for a specif amount of time." Elder Niji speculated.

While Lin Mu had never seen the Chasm Beasts till now, it wasn't as if he didn't know of other similar existence. Lin Mu had read about a few such creatures that were formed from different energies or materials.

They would come into existence under specific conditions and that might be the same case here.

Lin Mu thought about it more, wondering what the reason might be for the existence of Chasm beasts.

"Why has the interval been this long? Was there anything different this time?" Lin Mu asked, feeling curious.

"Hmmm... there was indeed something. Something fell from the sky two months ago. It crashed into the reservoir, but when we went to check it we didn't find anything. All that was left there was a deep hole, the bottom of which could not be seen. Oh, and the water in the reservoir was gone too, possibly drained into the hole." Elder Niji answered.

"Fell from the sky?" Lin Mu's brows raised as a thought came to his mind.

"Did anyone see what the object was? Or how it came?" Lin Mu asked further.

"It came from beyond the clouds and created a hole through them when it fell. It was surprising as we seldom see the sky above, so the children noted it well. As for the object that fell, they said that the object glowed in a golden light.

But due to the speed at which it fell they couldn't watch it for long." Elder Niji replied.

Hearing this, Lin Mu all but confirmed what must have happened.

"I think I know what the object was and also where it went..." Lin Mu said with a wry smile.

"What?" Elder Niji questioned.

"That was me..." Lin Mu answered, letting his golden body glow.

The glow which was usually hidden, spread in the hall, illuminating it faintly.

"I was knocked out when I fell, so I didn't remember all this. But that was definitely me falling and crashing."

### **Chapter 1209 A High Ranked Immortal World And World Ascension**

Lin Mu's words were certainly shocking to the Elder, but after thinking over it and witnessing everything, he had no choice but to believe it.

"So you really did come from another world... Still crashing into the Land of Exile was possibly one of the worst possible outcomes." Elder Niji said, a frown on his face.

Hearing this brought Lin Mu to another one of the questions he's had on his mind. As far as he had seen, there wasn't really anything blocking them in here. He had seen the Rust Hail Mountains in the distance, and while they were tall, they still seemed to be traversable to him.

Additionally, since the Land of exile was considered like an 'open prison', the people here should be looking to escape at all times. Especially considering that there was basically no warden or any authority looking over them.

'Or perhaps they are and I just don't know.' Lin Mu thought.

"Is there no one that has left this place? I mean, can't they just cross the mountains or fly over them?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No... at least over the hundred thousand years of our tribe's history, there has been no one that escaped the Land of Exile. Flying is simply not possible for us mortals. While Immortals can still fly here, they can't go past height, especially not above the level of the Rust Hail Mountains." Elder Niji answered.

Lin Mu had seen that there was no way to fly in this world with his current cultivation base. Even using a spirit weapon to fly didn't work, as they would simply fall down. Forget flying, Lin Mu couldn't even use his spirit sense to control the weapons here.

If he wanted to fight using them, he would have to use them with his own hands. It felt like he had returned to when he was starting out as a cultivator in the past, and it felt a bit humbling to him at the same time.

'Perhaps this is the difference in the level's of the world...' Lin Mu reckoned.

Still, it wasn't as if Lin Mu didn't know about this would be happening. Senior Xukong had told him about the restrictions he might face and he had also read about them in the Lost Immortal's Memoirs.

But the issue was, the restrictions in this world seemed to be a little too harsh even for a world with immortals in it.

Lin Mu had read a few experiences of the Lost Immortal and in them, the man was in an immortal world, but could still fly despite being below the Immortal Realm. Then there was a latter entry that showed something else to Lin Mu.

In that, the Lost Immortal was already in the Immortal Realm, and was in a different world. In this world several cultivators of spirit realm also existed alongside immortals. And in this world, they too were unable to fly.

The levels of an Immortal world that allowed a cultivator below the immortal realm to fly and one that didn't were vastly different.

'Senior Xukong even said a term for it... A World Ascension...' Lin Mu recalled.

World Ascension was a unique event that very rarely happened. It was already known that there were many layers of the void, and each layer had multiple sub-layers. It was in the different layers of the Greater void that the realms existed.

These realms were split according to the quality of the worlds that existed, whether they be simple planets or other complex forms of worlds. In this, the worlds would be grouped together in a common realm.

For example, the realm that the Xiaofan world existed in would have other worlds of the same level, or a couple levels above and below it. This range of different leveled worlds was relatively narrow.

But there came a time when a world would continually grow to a point where the laws of the realm where it existed in couldn't contain it. This was the period where the world would start to push against the limits of the realm and eventually ascend to a higher ranked realm.

All this was very complex, and many experts had spent their entire lives in learning and studying it. And yet it was not enough.

It was all controlled by the will of the Heavens and was mysterious as to how it worked.

If one considered a simplified comparison, it was like an Immortal ascension realm expert breaking through and reaching the immortal realm. But this time, it wasn't a human but an entire world doing the same.

But there was a reason this was so rare, despite the fact there were an uncountable number of worlds in the cosmos.

It was that most worlds that reached the point of World Ascension would simply fail. And in the process they would also destroy that entire realm and the other worlds that existed within it.

It would eventually lead to a realm collapse and the contents of that realm would return to the void.

Then perhaps in the future, this matter would condense once more and the space would stabilize to give birth to a new realm.

This was the cycle of the myriad worlds and realms.

And in all this, only the void was the constant. It was the foundation on which everything was allowed to come into being and without it, nothing would exist.

Lin Mu's mind pondered on many possibilities in a matter of seconds. But in the end, he understood that the only way he would be able to figure out his next move would be to gather even more information.

'Besides, it isn't like there isn't a benefit to a world that is on the edge of reaching World Ascension. It only means I can find better resources than an average immortal world!' Lin Mu thought to himself as a smile appeared on his face.

Looking at Elder Niji, he spoke once more.

"Please tell me more about the Land of Exile and what is beyond this?"

### **Chapter 1210 Stone Flesh Mushrooms**

Lin Mu's desire for more information was met with a warm response from Elder Niji.

"Of course, I'll be happy to. I seldom get to talk to others this much. The children in the tribe are also too distant from me and have their own duties to fulfill. Besides, I don't want to expand their ideas too much or they would just be disappointed at their reality." Elder Niji said, a trace of melancholy in his voice.

Lin Mu could see the benefit in this too.

'If they knew there was bounty in the world but they were never fated to see it, they would certainly be depressed.' Lin Mu reckoned.

He would have not found it good, and would have even thought it oppressive to keep information like this. But knowing that the Haima Tribe had been trapped here for over a hundred thousand years, perhaps it was better this way.

Even with the conflicts in his heart, Lin Mu knew better not to judge them, as he did not know what they had gone through.

"So, why is it that one cannot get past the Rust Hail Mountains? What kind of danger prevents them from crossing?" Lin Mu questioned.

~THUD~ THUD~ THUD~

"@^(&#\$(&"

Just as Elder Niji was about to answer him though, a few taps were heard from the outside and a few words were also spoken in the language of the Haima tribe.

"Ah~ we can continue this with our meal. I reckon you must be hungry?" Elder Niji asked.

"Famished." Lin Mu replied.

He really was hungry and was looking for a settlement mainly, so that he could find something to eat. Though he had gotten distracted from all the information after coming to the Haima tribe.

"Good, let's head to the dining circle, then." Elder Niji said and brought Lin Mu out.

'There are no beasts here, and I didn't really see any plants other than the glowing moss before.' Lin Mu was certainly interested in seeing what the Haima tribe actually ate.

Though he knew that the tribe had access to fuel as he had already seen burning lamps and torches here.

In a couple of minutes, they reached an area that was circular in shape. There was a large fire pit in the center and a circular stone table surrounded it. There were stool like stone seats set around this table, made without any backs so that the four legged Haima tribe people could sit on it.

This was a common thing Lin Mu had seen since coming here. There were no seats with back support here. Or any normal chairs, either. It was just common stool like seats. The bodies of the Haima tribe didn't permit the normal human furniture.

Near the 'dining circle', Lin Mu saw a few other members of the Haima tribe there. He recognized two of them being the ones who had brought him. They were carrying stone baskets filled with something and placing them near the fire pit.

"Please take a seat." Elder Niji said and Lin Mu followed it.

The two familiar Haima tribe members then opened up the baskets and revealed their contents.

"Stones?" Lin Mu was puzzled.

In the basket were objects that looked like stones around the size of a normal palm. They were of different colors and ranged from deep brown to a light blue.

'They seem like pebbles one would find in a river...' Lin Mu thought. 'Hang on... does the Haima tribe eat stones?' he had almost forgotten that different races might have different dietary habits.

While Lin Mu watched on with a puzzled look, the two Haima members picked out the brown colored and darker stones out from the basket and placed them on the table.

"You can start with these, as they are ripe. The children will cook the rest for us." Elder Niji stated.

"What is this?" Lin Mu finally asked and picked up a brown colored stone.

It felt hard to the touch and had a smooth texture.

"These are Stone Flesh Mushrooms. They are the only food source that grows stably in the Land of Exile." Elder Niji said. "Try and break them," he prompted.

Lin Mu held the Stone Flesh Mushrooms and exerted some force.

~CRACK~

A firm crack was heard, almost like someone had broken an egg. The Stone Flesh Mushroom in Lin Mu's hand split in two and the interior of it was revealed. Unlike the hard and stony exterior, the interior was a mix of red and pink, almost looking like flesh.

Lin Mu could also smell a faint fragrance from the Stone Flesh Mushroom that felt, unlike anything he had ever smelled.

"You can eat the soft flesh inside it and leave the hard exterior." Elder Niji demonstrated.

Unlike Lin Mu though, he didn't split the entire Stone Flesh Mushroom in half. Instead, he skillfully tapped the mushroom in a specific spot and simply peeled the entire thing off in one go, leaving the flesh inside intact in one piece.

Lin Mu scooped out the two halves of the flesh and put one of them in his mouth.

"Mm?" Tasting the new type of food, Lin Mu certainly found it different.

The taste wasn't bitter or sour, but there was some sweetness and a hint of savoriness to it.

"Not bad..." Lin Mu said after swallowing it.

~Crackle~

While he tried his first piece, the two Haima members were cooking other light colored Stone Flesh Mushrooms in open flames. They slowly started to turn darker and crackled in the heat.

Once they were done, they placed those mushrooms in front of Lin Mu as well.

"The hot ones taste a bit different. Maybe you'll like them better." Elder Niji said, prompting Lin Mu to try them as well.

Lin Mu cracked them open, not minding the scorching heat coming from them, and smelled a more savory fragrance from them. Putting them into his mouth, Lin Mu found a peppery taste.

"They do taste better when hot." Lin Mu said, finding them more to his taste.