

Walker 1211

Chapter 1211 Entertainment For The Tribe

Having eaten a few of the Stone Flesh mushrooms, Lin Mu started to feel their effect.

His eyes widened as a burst of spirit Qi, and vitality gushed out in his belly. It spread around rapidly as if wanting to escape, but Lin Mu's stomach seemed to have awakened as well. It controlled both of them as if a master cracked a whip and tamed it down.

The vitality started flowing into his cells first, getting them to the optimum level that they should normally be at. The spirit Qi, on the other hand, directly flowed through his meridian, directly turning into a liquid form without any need to do it manually.

By the time it reached the Dantian, it was like a tap had been turned on. His depleted spirit Qi levels started to restore, and Lin Mu felt a lot better than before.

"Marvelous... these alone are better than high grade spirit pills..." Lin Mu was left stunned.

While he knew that higher ranked worlds would have better resources, he had not expected even a literal land of exile would have better ones than a top sect.

"I reckon you liked them?" Elder Niji asked, seeing the face of Lin Mu.

"Plenty," Lin Mu said as he sped up his pace of eating.

One by one, the Stone Flesh mushroom started disappearing down his mouth. By the time the first basket was finished, Lin Mu had eaten over a hundred such Stone Flesh Mushrooms.

"We have more." Elder Niji saw that the young man was still hungry and willing to eat more.

The second basket was already prepared and Lin Mu didn't shy away from eating, quickly stuffing them down his throat as if afraid that they would run away. His speed of eating only got faster while the vitality in his body reached the peak.

At this point, his cells had reached the optimal levels that they should be at and the rest of the vitality was directly being stored by his stomach. The nameless technique of the Lost Immortal activated silently and stockpiled all the vital energy.

In less than ten minutes, the second basket was also finished.

Then the third was finished.

The fourth!

The fifth!

The sixth!

The seventh and the eighth!

By now, Elder Niji couldn't even speak and only gawked at the scene. The Haima tribe members bringing the baskets of Stone Flesh Mushroom were also left stunned. But they didn't stop their work and called for more baskets to be brought.

Soon, a supply line of Stone Flesh Mushroom baskets was formed as more and more Haima Tribe members joined to marvel at the act. This was something they had never seen before in their lives.

Their lives were mostly monotonous to start with, thus any form of new stimulus was fascinating to them.

Thus, they did their best to keep the supply line working and more and more Stone Flesh Mushrooms arrived.

'What in the name of ancestors is this? I never knew humans could eat this much... how does it even accommodate in his body?' Elder Niji was left confused.

At least in his case, he knew about the humans decently. But the other members of the Haima tribe only knew a fraction. Their understanding was barely at a surface level such that they only knew humans existed and that they were strong.

Constant chatter could be heard going on between them as they talked about Lin Mu.

"Do all humans eat like this?"

"Maybe they do. Perhaps that's why they are so strong."

"The Elder told us that even in humans, there are many kinds. Weren't there some that were thrown into the Land of Exile and we saw them die in a few minutes to the Chasm beasts?"

"That human isn't just a common human though, he speaks noble tongue, so he must be special."

"Yeah, and Jehu even said that he can jump higher. He actually jumped better than Jehu and his brothers, leaving them behind."

"If he can jump like that, then he must be very strong!"

The Haima tribe members talked amongst themselves, wondering just how Lin Mu could do something like this.

The one's that had a higher cultivation base among them though felt the energy fluctuations coming from him.

"His energy... it's getting stronger..."

Lin Mu's vitality had already been accumulated to the optimal level in his body's cells and now only his stomach was stockpiling it. But this also had the passive effect of increasing the energy fluctuation.

Not just that, but the rest of his body also started to change on a molecular level. It was as if his cells were interacting with the environment though the aura and learning about it. Bit by bit, they started to change their structures, adapting to the new world.

His Xiantian Physique showed its advantage here, becoming what it should have been.

The Xiantian physique was what the stronger powers in the higher worlds started with by default. And it was something that was adapted to the condition of their worlds that were of a high level.

Lin Mu was in the Xiaofan world and his Xiantian physique was thus 'tainted' by it. But it was slowly starting to return to its intended form.

It was like taking someone from a polluted smog covered city and placing them on the clear green mountains filled with the freshest air possible.

An hour had passed since Lin Mu had started eating and now the crowd watching was in the thousands. Elder Niji had been surprised too many times and now he only counted how many more baskets Lin Mu could eat.

Thankfully, the Haima Tribe had a massive stockpile of the Stone Flesh Mushrooms and what Lin Mu had eaten was barely a dent in it. The Haima Tribe had over a hundred thousand members after all, and everyday they would consume many times more than what Lin Mu had done just now.

Thus, to keep that many people well fed, they needed the production to be pretty great as well.

Chapter 1212 Restoration And Mutual Shock

~THUD~

"Haa~ that was a good meal..." Lin Mu finally finished eating and laid down the last basket.

At one point, he had directly started eating from the baskets instead of the trays and now there were tens of them lying around him.

If one counted the number of baskets, they would find them to be fifty four!

One must know that each basket appropriately contained a little over a hundred Stone Flesh Mushrooms and the size of each mushroom was between five to fifteen centimeters. If all of them were piled together, Lin Mu had basically eaten the same mass as a small house in one go.

Which was actually not the highest amount he had ever eaten before. Lin Mu had eaten literally tons of beast meat in the past after all. But the difference this time was of quality. Not only were these Stone Flesh Mushrooms vastly richer in Spirit Qi and Vitality, but they were also quick to be processed.

Thus, the amount of Spirit Qi and vitality he obtained from them right now was comparable to the hundreds of Beast corpses he might have eaten.

~HUU~

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he felt the fine changes in his body. He could sense his injuries healing, mainly his shoulder that was injured the worst. Along with that, the hidden sequelae in his body were also disappearing.

'My shoulder should be fully healed in a week at this rate.' Lin Mu estimated.

While a week seemed long in comparison to Lin Mu's healing abilities, it was actually very short considering the golden body he had. Being very durable also meant that it would be that much harder to heal once injured.

Having rested for a minute, Lin Mu opened his eyes and finally noticed the large crowd watching him. He glanced over at the tens of baskets lying around him and the bewildered look on Elder Niji's face.

It was then that he realized what he had done.

'Shit! I did it again.' Lin Mu cursed himself.

"I'm sorry! Did I eat too much of your stores?" Lin Mu asked.

He knew what kind of a place the Haima tribe lived in and he didn't know if they could grow food well enough. Or even if they did well enough to feed their tribe and even had a stock, Lin Mu guessed that he might have eaten enough to deplete that.

At first Elder Niji didn't respond as he was still recovering from the entire thing. But when Lin Mu repeated, he finally woke up from his stupor.

"N-no... we have plenty more. Do you want to eat more?" Elder Niji asked, wondering if the man could still eat more.

"No! No!" Lin Mu frantically said, thinking that he might have offended them. "I've had enough."

"Oh, I see." Elder Niji replied.

"Will... your tribe be okay? Will there be a lack of food for the rest?" Lin Mu couldn't help but ask.

"Huh? No, no! We have a lot more." Elder Niji hurriedly replied.

"Really?" Lin Mu was doubtful.

"Of course." Elder Niji assured. "Come, I'll give you a look around the tribe to prove it." He added.

"O-okay..." Lin Mu walked after him while the crowd parted.

A few of the Haima tribe members still followed after them though, feeling curious while the rest dispersed and returned to their duties. They had already taken an hour's break while watching Lin Mu and there was more work to be done.

"This is the living areas of our tribe, but you should have already seen them." Elder Niji gestured with his hands.

It was the very first area that Lin Mu had seen and there wasn't anything special to it.

"After the living area, is the Elder hill where my house is. You've seen that too, so I'll take you to the harvest grounds of our tribe." The Elder spoke before speeding up.

Despite looking old, the elder could walk more vigorously than a young man. After all, even if he was old he had a cultivation base that was equivalent to that of a Dao Treading realm cultivator.

Lin Mu had sensed their cultivation bases and already knew that they followed a different path of cultivation that he didn't know about. And while they did have spirit Qi and vital energy in their bodies too, they utilized it differently.

He actually couldn't find any normal cultivation technique signature in them either. Making him think that it was actually similar to that of beasts, where it was just natural. They simply lived, ate and rested, and their cultivation automatically increased with time.

Then there was also the fact that even in a barren area like the Land of Exile, the concentration of spirit Qi was very high. It could easily compare to that of the special cultivation pavilions of the top three sects.

Simply cultivating here without any resources and depending only on the atmospheric spirit Qi would be the same as using several high grade spirit stones in a row.

This was the difference in standard of an Immortal world and a mortal world.

Elder Niji introduced some of the minor areas that came along the way before the two of them reached a narrow entrance at the back. It looked like there were several tunnels carved through it and there were many Haima tribe members passing through them.

There were several rows of such tunnels too, and large stone carts were being brought through them.

After going through one such tunnel, Lin Mu and Elder Niji reached their destination.

"This... is the Harvest Grounds of our tribe." Elder Niji spoke.

Lin Mu saw a vast open cave that had slabs of solid rock suspended with rock pillars. Each of these slabs was at least fifty meters wide and had several rows of soil placed on it. And on this soil grew thousands upon thousands of mushrooms.

The mushroom varied in size too and the biggest of them reached a size of over a meter in width!

Chapter 1213 The Areas Of Haima Tribe

Some of the Stone Flesh Mushrooms were light blue in color while some were a dark brown. The Haima Tribe members tended to small ones and harvested the large ones that were fully grown.

"Whoa... just how big is this?" Lin Mu was once again left stunned by the sheer scale of the harvest grounds.

These were easily bigger than most of the farms of the Xiaofan world. And all this was underground in a desolate area. The large scale farms of the Xiaofan world on the other hand, were all based in and around the fertile deltas of the main rivers.

"There are three more such sections. They are separated into different caverns." Elder Niji replied.

"Why not join all of them?" Lin Mu asked curiously, seeing that it might make things easier.

"We would, but that would cause the roof to become unstable. The separating walls also act as load bearing supports that prevent it from falling. Then there is also a water spring here, which might burst if we disturb any of the walls.

All this you see here was slowly carved and expanded over thousands of years. When our tribe was first exiled, there was nothing. They struggled a lot and back then, they were merely a thousand.

Over the years, several died and after around two hundred years, only half were left. It was then that they encountered the cave that we live in today. The protection offered by it allowed them to survive longer.

It was also here that they found a few Stone Flesh Mushrooms growing. Finding it edible, they started to cultivate it, eventually learning more about them and expanding it to the scale you see today.

With the population of the Haima tribe we have today, we need to keep the cultivation of these Stone Flesh Mushrooms as high as possible." Elder Niji explained in detail.

Hearing the history and founding of the Haima tribe's settlement here was a little inspiring for Lin Mu.

He reckoned if a tribe of less than 500 people could reach such a level over the years, then perhaps losing hope should be more distant than he thought. After all, giving time, any intelligent being will start to find ways to get strong.

And if they utilize the resources around them optimally, they will certainly grow stronger and stronger.

Elder Niji continue to show him things before they finally reached a new tunnel. This tunnel went up instead of down, making Lin Mu wonder if it was an exit as well.

'It really is another exit.' Lin Mu soon saw the light after reaching its end.

Several wheel like doors were blocking the way, but each of them had a small square window carved into it, allowing one to peer outside.

"This is our outpost for watching over Chasm Beasts." Elder Niji spoke before rolling the doors one by one.

~Rumble~

Once the doors were open, Lin Mu saw the vast open barren lands in front of him. In the distance, he could also see the Broken Chasm. As for their current location, they were actually on the top of a small mountain.

It was further away from where Lin Mu had originally entered from and melded into the background with the many other such mountains. No one would even be able to find this entrance unless they explicitly knew its location.

~Crumble~

Lin Mu walked a further and a little soil and stones fell off from the edge of the cliff.

"Climbing this way is not possible either. Even for beasts..." Lin Mu said.

"Indeed. It took our tribe thirty five thousand years to get here and establish this outpost. Before that we would simply hide in the cave until we felt it was safe to go out when the Chasm Beasts rampaged.

But it was tough, since the only source of water they had back then was located outside. And since they didn't know just how often the Chasm Beasts attacked, there was often a shortage of water.

Of course, eventually they learned more and even made several water reservoirs in case of emergencies." Elder Niji replied.

"I see... was the reservoir I crashed into also made by the clan?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, that one was a natural reservoir, one of the many. They are just holes really, and get filled up with water whenever it's monsoon season." Elder Niji answered.

"It rains here?" Lin Mu was surprised. "This isn't a desert?" he asked in confusion.

"Haha, I know it looks like one. While it is called the barren lands, it isn't because of a lack of water or resource. It is actually due to the Chasm beasts. They come out in tides and ravage everything, leaving nothing to thrive and no plants to grow.

Otherwise, there is actually plenty of water here. And even some plants grow, they are just hard to find and reach.

As for underground, there is a lot more hidden there, which is why our tribe digs tunnels so much, despite the fact we can traverse much better on the surface." Elder Niji explained.

"Oh yeah, your tribe can jump really far." Lin Mu replied.

"We can run quite fast, too. It is one of our innate abilities." Elder Niji said before his expression grew a little disappointed. "That is all we have since we cannot cultivate."

"Huh?" Lin Mu was confused hearing this. "But all of you have a cultivation base? Even the children seem to be in the Qi refining realm at the very least."

"That is something we have naturally and due to the Stone Flesh Mushrooms. We actually do not have a cultivation technique. When our clan was banished here, all our inheritance techniques were destroyed, and so were our elders that had the knowledge.

Only a few juniors were actually the survivors that were exiled and didn't really have the true knowledge of the tribe. Over the years we've tried to grow it, but it hasn't been that good." Elder Niji explained.

Chapter 1214 Uniqueness Of The Haima

Learning that the Haima tribe had reached the Dao Treading realm without a cultivation technique was stunning for Lin Mu.

While he himself didn't have a cultivation technique in the general sense either, he still cultivated according to a method he had devised himself. But the Haima tribe was basically doing it all passively.

"If you don't mind, can I check your body? I want to see how your cultivation actually is like? It is certainly not the same as humans." Lin Mu asked, doubtful if the man would accept.

Elder Niji tilted his head as if not understanding Lin Mu's question.

"Can't you see it already? How will you check it?" Elder Niji asked in confusion.

"Umm... with spirit sense?" Lin Mu replied.

"Spirit sense? What's that?" Elder Niji asked, much to Lin Mu's surprise.

"So you really don't know..." Lin Mu said before giving the man a short explanation about it all.

Having heard about it from Lin Mu, Elder Niji felt stunned.

"There is such a marvelous ability?! If we had it, so many lives would have been saved." Elder Niji said with a hint of regret.

"Since your tribe didn't have a cultivation technique, refining spirit sense was probably out of question." Lin Mu spoke. "Though in these terms of how your tribe can passively grow in cultivation but still not have spirit sense, it varies from beasts." He added.

Beasts had innate knowledge in their bloodlines, along with bloodline memories that they would automatically learn once their cultivation base increased. Thus, they even had the ability to refine their own spirit sense, or rather it happened automatically as well in some cases.

At first Lin Mu had thought of the Haima Tribe's condition to be a bit similar to that of beasts in terms of the passive cultivation. But the lack of spirit sense showed something else.

"We don't have the founding knowledge of our tribe, none of our heritage or inheritances. We are a mere fragment of our past glory. And heavens know if we can ever recover that." Elder Niji said with a sad face but shook it off after a minute.

"Though you can certainly check my body. Perhaps I'll learn more too this way." Elder Niji said next.

"Very well." Lin Mu nodded his head and extended his spirit sense.

It was still in the same state as before and had not improved in range. At most Lin Mu could cover ten meters of area with it, but right now this was more than enough.

~shua~

His spirit sense entered Elder Niji's body with a little resistance. Though he could tell that this was just the natural defense of the body. Getting past it was easy enough and Lin Mu soon saw the condition of the body.

'The organs are mostly the same as that of humans, but they are tougher and more durable. Can easily compare to that of a tenths stage body tempering realm human in quality.' Lin Mu checked the first objective.

After the organs, he went to the blood vessels that were following the same paths as those of humans, but had split in the lower part of the body due to double the amount of legs.

But it was also in the legs that Lin Mu found the difference. The muscles and tendons of Elder Niji were a lot more developed than other parts of the body. And could actually compare to that of someone at the 12th or at least the 13th stage of the body tempering realm.

'So one part of the body developed better than the other.' Lin Mu understood.

For the next part, he went to scan the meridians, which were a little harder to detect. Soon Lin Mu charted them, being careful not to damage them in the process. Since Elder Niji didn't actually cultivate normally, he didn't have the normal control over his meridian that a cultivator would have.

If someone probed a normal cultivator and checked their meridians, they would be fine, since their spirit Qi would prevent the meridians from being affected. But in the case of Elder Niji, the meridians were 'helpless' and would get harmed very easily by being unable to defend against Lin Mu's spirit sense.

'Their meridians are certainly different. Their thickness is less than that of humans, but their numbers are greater. The circuits are also vastly different... human cultivation techniques won't even work for them.' Lin Mu analyzed.

Next, Lin Mu went deeper into the body, finally reaching the Dantian. It was here that the things got stranger.

"Huh?" Lin Mu was audibly surprised.

"Is there a problem?" Elder Niji asked with concern.

"Not exactly... its just different than I thought." Lin Mu said as he observed the Dantian.

Elder Niji's Dantian wasn't in the normal circular shape like most beings. Instead, it was a three lobed circle. Similar to a triangle if they were made by joining three circles. The top lobe was the biggest, being three times bigger than the lower two lobes.

The two smaller lobes had several meridians coming from them, that specifically went to the legs alone. Lin Mu could see from this that there was a rich supply of spirit Qi to the legs of Haima tribe.

'Wait if it's like this... then doesn't it mean they can still use Qi skills?' Lin Mu had an idea.

Lin Mu peered into the Dantian, but did not find any Dao Embryo or a Dao Shell there. There wasn't even a Nascent soul there.

'So he is only comparable to a Dao Treading realm cultivator in terms of sheer spirit Qi quantity but does not have the same qualities.' Lin Mu understood.

Normally, this should have been impossible since the spirit Qi compression was close to impossible without a cultivation technique. But with the support of the Stone Flesh Mushrooms, Lin Mu reckoned they didn't even have to do that.

Plus, the three lobed Dantian and higher number of meridians naturally increased their upper limit of spirit Qi storage.

Opening his eyes, he looked at Elder Niji.

"What did you learn?" Elder Niji asked.

"Quite a bit. "

Chapter 1215 Why To Help?

Lin Mu wouldn't say that he was an expert at the anatomy of many races, but he had seen enough of them over the years that he could somewhat comprehend a new one and not be in the blind.

In the case of the Haima tribe, their other than their body's meridians and Dantian being more focused on the legs, the rest was the same as that of a human. But that didn't mean that the same cultivation techniques could be used by them.

If they tried to use them forcefully, they would quite possibly end up injuring themselves, or if they were lucky they simply wouldn't be able to use the technique in the first place.

Lin Mu explained all this to Elder Niji, letting him understand the intricacies of the Haima tribe people.

~Sigh~

"Seems like we are still at a loss..." Elder Niji spoke and shook his head.

"I don't think so. I have a large repertoire of cultivation techniques as well as skills that you might be able to use. As long as I have some time to scan more of your people and analyze what works the best, I might find something that works for your tribe." Lin Mu replied.

Hearing this, Elder Niji was a bit surprised.

"Why... Why would you help us to that extent?" Elder Niji questioned.

To him, their tribe was an exiled tribe that was being punished. They had lived in this desolate land for millenniums and were used to being miserable at times. Even the other people that they encountered in this time, whether they be humans or other races, were violent against them.

This was the first time they had seen a human noble and brought them to their tribe. And it surprisingly turned out to be good for them. But it could also be said that they had felt no malice from Lin Mu.

This was new for them and they were very sensitive to things like this. They might not have spirit sense, but their instincts were quite honed living in a harsh place like this. After all, they fought with Chasm beasts as well as violent criminals who were banished here as well from time to time.

Of course the criminals didn't really survive the Land Of Exile since they had no knowledge of it. The Haima tribe knew of the only possible place of safety in the entire place and also had a source of sustenance and water.

Combining all of these, they survived for many generations.

These many generations all suffered the same, trying to better their lives, but there was nothing here to guide them. And it wasn't like they could learn from the other criminals that were thrown here either.

The criminals were thrown into the land of exile with basically just the clothes on their back and had no supplies with them either. Which meant no books or documents to learn from and neither any cultivation techniques.

The Haima tribe had thus been living in ignorance for the most part, with only a little knowledge of their ancestors still remaining among them.

"You helped me first, gave me food, and told me about this place. This is the least I can do. Besides, it is my own desire for knowledge that makes me want to do this too. The more I learn about other creatures and races, the better I think I'll be able to improve." Lin Mu calmly said.

"I... I see..." Elder Niji was lost for words. "Human nobles are really cut from a different cloth, it seems... our ancestors were right."

"That might not be correct." Lin Mu corrected. "What I speak is the Dao script and it is something that can be learned by anyone. They can be good or bad, so you shouldn't hold on to that understanding or you and your people might fall in trouble." He stated.

"Ah! I shall keep that in mind." Elder Niji noted it in his heart.

Hearing Lin Mu's warning only made him that much respectful to him.

"Now then..." Lin Mu turned around, "can you tell me why we can't go past the Rust Hail Mountains?" he questioned.

Lin Mu definitely didn't want to be trapped in this place and wanted to find ways to leave it. The mountains seemed the most direct option, even if there was a little danger there.

'Is it immortal realm creatures that are the threat there?' Lin Mu wondered if it might be that.

If that really was the issue, then he might really have to wait to increase his own cultivation base first.

"The Rust Hail Mountains are very tall and a path that can be traversed isn't present. One can directly climb them, of course, but they would be killed by the Rust Hail." Elder Niji replied.

"Rust Hail? Hail made of rust?" Lin Mu asked for clarification.

"It is basically large chunks of rocks that fall from the skies. They fall at a great speed and will kill most beings that try to cross it. Immortals might be able to bear the impact of it, but they won't be able to withstand the air there.

We don't exactly know what is in the air there, but breathing becomes hard when it hails. The visibility also becomes very less and one will lose their path. And when that happens, one wrong step would mean falling from the Rust Hail Mountains." Elder Niji explained.

"Hmm... if the hail is that strong, then how are the mountains still intact?" Lin Mu questioned. "The hills and rocks around here are tough, but certainly not that tough." He added.

"We don't know. But the Rust Hail Mountains are a lot tougher than the hills and rocks here. On some level they match the rust hail that falls from the sky." Elder Niji said. "My grandfather used to say

that the Rust Hail Mountains are actually condensed over a long time from the hail that falls from the sky. Though I don't know if it's just an assumption or the truth."

Chapter 1216 The Rust Sky World

Hearing the reason from Elder Niji about why the Rust Hail Mountains were hard to cross, Lin Mu found more questions rising within his mind.

"Wait, if the mountains are so hard to cross... then how do the new criminals arrive here?" Lin Mu questioned. "They must have some way of sending them here, right?"

"We... don't know. They just appear in the Land of Exile. Our ancestors also said the same in records. One day, they just found themselves here and knew why they were sent here." Elder Niji answered.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows, having a good guess.

"Seems like a teleportation formation of some kind. That seems to be the only method to sending them without anyone knowing how." Lin Mu said.

"The thing that immortals used to traverse the worlds?" Elder Niji asked. "I've read about them before."

"Yes. There are many kinds of them, and some can indeed be used to traverse the worlds." Lin Mu confirmed.

"Then did you come to this world using it, too?" Elder Niji inquired.

"I did indeed... though this world wasn't exactly a choice." Lin Mu replied. "I just entered a portal that happened to bring me here. You could say it was an accidental thing." He added.

"Ah, I see... no wonder you would want to get out of here fast." Elder Niji understood.

After all, he would want to leave this place with his clan too.

"Still, if it really is a teleportation formation that brings in criminals here, then I might actually be able to find a way to get us out of here." Lin Mu said.

"What?! Really?" Elder Niji was shocked.

"Yes. Though I need to see the Teleportation formation first. As long as I can analyze it, I might be able to find a way to reverse it." Lin Mu answered.

"That... will be amazing. If you really do manage to do that, our tribe will forever be in your debt!" Elder Niji said in an excited voice.

For the first time in over a thousand years, Elder Niji was feeling hopeful about his tribe's future.

"I'll try my best. But first I'll need to gather information... lots of it." Lin Mu replied with a smile.

"Me and my tribe shall assist you in this the best we can." Elder Niji nodded his head.

"Very well... though, do you know what's beyond the mountains, perhaps?" Lin Mu asked.

"YES! I do. Our ancestors mentioned it in the records too. Beyond the Rust Hail Mountains, there is a great sea. Thus, even if one escapes the mountains somehow, they will still be unable to get past the sea.

The only way might be to fly, but only those in the Immortal realm can do that. Additionally, the sea is not free of dangers either apparently. It is filled with great Immortal beasts that can eat up whole ships." Elder Niji explained with enthusiasm.

"Ah... that... complicates things a bit..." Lin Mu said, feeling that he might need to work on a lot more to get out of here, perhaps.

The two of them continued to talk for a while more, as Lin Mu asked more questions to learn about the place. The more he learned, the more he felt interested.

Lin Mu even learned the name of the world that he was in right now.

This world was called as the Rust Sky world. It was named aptly according to the appearance of its sky.

Lin Mu asked more about the sky and why it was like this, but even Elder Niji didn't know the answer. All Lin Mu got was that the sky had always been like this and there was simply no explanation.

But one thing that Lin Mu did learn from Elder Niji was that there were a lot of different lands in this world. And it was certainly a lot bigger than the Xiaofan world in size. Then there was also the fact that this world wasn't just inhabited by humans either.

There were several other races living in this world too, some even having entire kingdoms and empires of their own.

"Oh yeah, are there cultivation sects here?" Lin Mu questioned.

From all that he had learned from Elder Niji, he had not once heard the mention of any sect.

"No. Cultivation sects have been prohibited since times immemorial. The nobles of the human kingdoms do not allow the existence of any sect. The greatest authority of this world is held in the hands of the empires and kingdoms." Elder Niji answered.

Lin Mu was certainly surprised upon hearing this. He had learned from the memoirs of the Lost Immortal that sects existed in most worlds, even if they might not be common. But hearing that a world had directly outlawed sects was a new thing for Lin Mu.

"If there are no sects, then how do the cultivators learn and gather in this world?" Lin Mu questioned.

"They all need to join a kingdom or other royal powers to do that. They are the only ones that hold the things needed for cultivation. This is all that our ancestors have mentioned. There might be more, but we are in the dark about it." Elder Niji stated.

"I see... guess we'll just have to learn more once we get out of here." Lin Wu said, but then quickly turned his neck to gaze at something in the distance. "Or perhaps we get to learn something today itself."

"Huh?" Elder Niji followed where Lin Mu was pointing at and saw a small dot in the distance.

It was moving slowly, and a small shadow was also cast behind it that was barely visible.

"It's another exile." Elder Niji confirmed.

"Mmhhh... Can we go get it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Sure, I'll call the warriors." Elder Niji answered right away and shouted through the doors of the outpost.

Within five minutes, ten warriors had arrived and were ready to heed their commands. The target on the other hand, was still moving somewhere aimlessly and was within their sights.

Chapter 1217 Peace In Death

Lin Mu and Elder Niji set out to reach the target in the distance while the rest of the warriors followed. He finally got to see just how fast the people of the Haima tribe sprinted and it was certainly fast.

While it might not be comparable to that of Little Shrubby or Lin Mu's own speed, it was certainly a lot faster than any other cultivator at the same level. Then there was also the fact that he had yet to see other humans of this world and judge their standard, but Lin Wu wouldn't have to wait long now.

His group reached the target in about five minutes and soon saw it clearly.

"This..." Lin Mu came to a halt and was surprised by the person in front of him.

It was certainly a human, but he was not in a good state at all. His legs and arms were scabbed over as if they had been bleeding for a long time and his ribs were exposed from deep gashes.

It was a miracle as to how the man was even moving, even now. His eyes were dull and were half covered with matted hair that was caked in dust and dirt.

"Hey! Are you okay?" Lin Mu called out in Dao Script but received no answer.

He tried to speak a few more times, but the man didn't respond at all and continue to walk aimlessly.

"It's no use." Elder Niji placed a hand on his shoulder. "We've seen many others like him before. They are close to dead at this point and are living a hellish existence."

"W-what happened to him?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The Chasm Beasts... he clashed with them and was injured. He survived, but their toxins have basically wiped out his mind. Now he is only living on instinct." Elder Niji answered. "This is what the Chasm Beasts end up doing to those that survive their attacks."

"Then... does the Haima Clan also have such victims?" Lin Mu asked.

"No... we can't let them live on like that, so we help them find peace... in death." Elder Niji replied.

Lin Mu's expression fell, but he understood this was a better choice than letting them suffer. At the same time though, he now wondered just what kind of an existence the Chasm beasts were.

He had a hypothesis that the Chasm beasts were made out of the dark fog that filled the upper part of the chasm. But he himself had passed through it unaffected.

'If they have toxins too, then it should be part of the fog, right? How was I not affected?' Lin Mu wondered.

He could guess that it might be because of his body cultivation, but he couldn't confirm it. Looking at the effects of it, Lin Mu certainly found them terrifying.

"What do we do now, Elder Niji?" The Haima Tribe members that had accompanied them asked.

"We go to the mountains from here. Our guest needs to see them too." Elder Niji stated before looking at Lin Mu, who had walked up to the injured man.

Lin Mu's spirit sense extended and scanned the man's body, making sure that he missed nothing.

"This man... He's at the Immortal Ascension realm!" Lin Mu was stunned.

"Even immortals meet the same fate, Noble Lin Mu. They might survive longer, but they eventually end up the same. The Chasm Beasts spare no one. The only way to survive is to run and hide." Elder Niji explained.

"Doesn't your tribe fight the Chasm Beasts too?" Lin Mu asked in doubt.

"We only do so when they come too close to the settlement, but even that is only when the tide has receded. We fight the stragglers that are left behind after a majority has returned to the Chasm.

Usually these are the weaker ones that can be killed by us. The truly strong ones easily kill Immortals." Elder Niji answered.

"I see..." Lin Mu now had a slightly better grasp on the situation.

Still he knew that this was not enough, and he needed to do more.

~grip~

Placing his hand on the injured man's chest, Lin Mu injected metal spirit Qi into him. The metal spirit Qi directly cut the man's heart as well as his Dantian, ending his life swiftly.

~shua~

A flame lit up on Lin Mu's hand next, which surprised the Haima Tribe warriors quite a bit. They stared and pointed at it, while chattering amongst themselves. After all, not everyone in the tribe had seen the different kinds of Qi skills.

And while the Haima tribe could make fire, it was only through the use of normal methods. They then watched Lin Mu throw a fireball on the dead body, burning it into ashes in a minute.

"We don't know what kind of a man he was, but may he find peace in the next life..." Lin Mu muttered.

"Come. Let's go to the base of the Rust Hail Mountains." Elder Niji spoke.

"Yes." Lin Mu nodded his head.

He had asked Elder Niji to do this before and since their excursion for the human had turned out to be a failure; he decided it may be better to explore the place more.

Lin Mu was interested in the Rust Hail Mountains and wanted to see just what made it special. He also wanted to see the toughness of the material it was made out of.

'If it is the same as the other rocks, I might just be able to blast it apart. Not like I've done it before...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The Rust Hail Mountains were still a couple of hours away from their current location, and it was best for them to be as fast as possible. While Elder Niji had agreed to take him there, there was still the danger of Chasm Beasts.

While it was relatively 'safe' on the periphery of the Barren lands, near the Rust Hail Mountains, the Chasm Beasts would still reach them eventually. The period of safety was only as long as the time needed for the Chasm Beasts to run up to them.

Other than that, they would also have to watch out for any Rust Hail that might cause rock slides. Falling boulders and such were very common.

After about two hours of travel, Lin Mu and the group finally reached the Rust Hail Mountains. This was the closest part of the Rust Hail Mountains, and extended in both directions for as far as one's gaze went.

With how far they extended into the sky, it was hard to even see anything beyond them. They directly pierced into the dark and rust colored clouds, leaving nothing to be observed. Lin Mu estimated that these mountains might be more than ten times taller than the tallest mountain in Xiaofan World.

Lin Mu knew that one couldn't even fly that high in the Xiaofan world as they would be restricted by the world itself.

'Even the world barrier was located lower than that...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"It certainly is nothing like I've ever seen before..." Lin Mu said as he stood face to face against the mountain.

~step~step~step~

Walking up to the steep wall of the Mountain, Lin Mu touched it.

~huh~

Closing his eyes, he took a deep breath.

The Haima Tribe warriors looked on in confusion as Lin Mu stayed in that state for over ten minutes.

"Elder Niji, what is the noble human doing?" They asked.

"Trying to find a way for us to leave this place." Elder Niji replied without moving his gaze from Lin Mu.

"What!?" The Haima Tribe Warriors were stunned.

Elder Niji then explained to them what Lin Mu had he had discussed. It took the old man about half an hour to do so, during which Lin Mu didn't move at all, still staying in the same position.

By the time Elder Niji was done explaining, the look in the eyes of the Haima Tribe Warriors had changed entirely. They now looked at Lin Mu with hope, hope that one day he would get them out of here.

And just as they were watching him, Lin Mu lifted his hand from the mountain wall.

"Did you learn something?" Elder Niji questioned.

"There is certainly uniqueness to this mountain. I can feel the Element of Earth within it, but it is not pure... there is something else within it that makes it different." Lin Mu answered.

Lin Mu had actually been using his Dao Embryo to sense the mountain. He wanted to see if he could control the earth within it to find a way out, but it didn't seem to respond to him at all.

While there was the Earth Elemental energy within it, it was not pure and was likely in a derivative form.

"What do you want to do now?" Elder Niji asked.

"Now? Now we take the crude way." Lin Mu said as his gaze sharpened.

"Everyone get back." He ordered.

Chapter 1218 A Crude Method

Upon hearing Lin Mu's words, Elder Niji got everyone to stand back.

"Further away," Lin Mu spoke again.

"More?" Elder Niji was surprised since they were already standing ten meters away from him.

"You might be able to withstand the aftershock, but they won't." Lin Mu explained.

"Alright." Elder Niji then got the Haima Tribe warriors to go further back.

Only when Lin Mu told them, it would be fine did they stop, but even that was already a hundred meters away. Once they were in the safety, Lin Mu began his move.

Standing in a horse stance, Lin Mu gathered power within his right fist. Vitality rushed out of his blood and flowed into his arm, before turning into the liquid vital essence and swirling within it.

Then spirit Qi mixed into it, turning it into a pink ribbon of energy that spun non stop within his arm. But it didn't end there.

~WHOOSH~

Waves of spirit Qi spurn around Lin Mu's entire body, getting concentrated around his arm.

"This is new..." Lin Mu had not experienced this before. "No, wait... the spirit Qi constitution... it's not high?" he was surprised.

So far what Lin Mu had learned was that he needed nearly three times or more spirit Qi to use a Qi skill in the Rust Sky World. But this turned out to be different for the Boulder Collapsing fist.

'Is it because I'm also using Vital Essence with it?' Lin Mu wondered and realized he might need to test it out more later.

He had not tested the Boulder Collapsing Fist ever since coming to this world, as there was simply no reason to. It was a move with high energy consumption and Lin Mu didn't want to use it needlessly when he was already lacking energy.

But now that he had replenished it all with the Stone Flesh Mushrooms, he could freely use the skill again.

As waves of spirit Qi swirled around Lin Mu's body, they became visible. A faint white energy could be seen moving and looked ethereal to all those watching. This was the first time Elder Niji or the Haima Tribe members were seeing the physical form of spirit Qi.

Not just that, but they also felt the presence of the energy.

"So this is what spirit Qi is like..." Elder Niji focused his attention on it.

The Haima Tribe Warriors on the other hand, were stunned. The pressure exuding from Lin Mu was otherworldly to them, and even the Chasm Beasts didn't seem to come close to it.

And just as they continued to watch Lin Mu, he pulled his hand back.

~SHUA~

The energy reached a peak before Lin Mu finally punched out!

Boulder Collapsing Fist: Third Form- Devastator!

A pink ribbon of energy shot out of Lin Mu's fist, revolving endlessly. It pulled the air along with it, coloring it a shade of pink as well. But that was not all as the spirit Qi in the air too felt attracted to it, directly infusing into before turning into a long spiral.

The pink ribbon was now surrounded with a light pink colored spirit Qi spiral, giving it an elegant appearance. But within this elegant appearance was hidden a power that could eradicate everything that was in its path.

The Haima Tribe warriors felt like fainting just from watching it. Even at the distance they were standing, the spirit Qi within their bodies was threatening to burst out. It was like needles being attracted to a strong magnet.

Elder Niji was in a better state, but even he felt the pull of the spirit Qi in his body.

'No wait... the spirit Qi in my body is moving in a specific manner?' Elder Niji noted something else.

He focused on the spirit Qi and soon saw the paths that it took. He was actually learning his meridians circuits!

Elder Niji had never expected he would get to figure out how his meridians were without spirit sense. It was a fortunate encounter for sure, something that even Lin Mu didn't expect he would cause.

Lin Mu didn't know that he was causing this effect either, as his attention was focused on the mountain in front of him. The Pink ribbon of energy surrounded by the spirit Qi spiral seemed to have paused in air for a moment, but that was merely an illusion.

~BOOM~

The afterimage disappeared abruptly as the Devastator struck the Mountain. The area shook and trembled while the energy spiral drilled into the solid mountain wall.

~RUMBLE~

A rumbling sound was heard continually as the Devastator drilled into the hard rock. Dust and dirt filled the air, making it hard to see. Even Lin Mu was unable to grasp the scene with his spirit sense as the Devastator had roused the spirit Qi in the air, making it too chaotic to sense.

The attack lasted for about five seconds, after which a loud explosion was heard.

~KABOOM~

The explosion spread outward and threatened to hurt Elder Niji and the Haima Tribe members, but Lin Mu simply threw out a circular shield. It was one of the many defensive spirit tools that he had in the ring.

He had basically never used it since he never actually had to. His own defenses were far greater than the shield and even in the case of others, he never had to protect them since they would have their own defensive skills and tools.

But the Haima tribe had nothing of that sort, making it Lin Mu's work to protect them from the aftershock, which was stronger than he had originally expected.

Even at a distance of over hundred meters, the Haima Tribe members would have been struck by the fast moving debris from the explosion. These rock fragments were sharp and moved at a great speed.

It was the same as a Frag Grenade exploding and its fragments impacting everything in a spherical radius.

~CLANG~ CLANG~ CLANG~

The rock fragments struck the barrier created by the shield, creating sounds that lasted for about two seconds.

Chapter 1219 Change In The Boulder Collapsing Fist

Lin Mu waved his hand forcefully and cleared the dust in the air.

~WHOOSH~

Once it was swept away, the aftermath of his attack could be seen. A ten meter wide hole could be seen in the tough mountain wall. But upon seeing this, Lin Mu's brows furrowed.

His eyes focused on the center of the hole, trying to assess its depth. And when he finally did, he shook his head.

'Even Devastator isn't enough for this... the mountain is too tough and the impact reduces over the area.' Lin Mu thought.

The hole had a conical interior, and at its deepest point; it was over two hundred meters deep. This might seem like it was quite deep, but when compared to the size of the Rust Hail Mountains, it was nothing.

Besides, one must not forget the power of Devastator. This was the same skill that Lin Mu had used to destroyed literally mountains in the Xiaofan world before. And yet, here they didn't do the same amount of damage.

Granted, the mountain here was many times larger and tougher, the effect was still underwhelming.

"This..." Elder Niji was at a loss for words.

Even the damage that Lin Mu had done to the mountain was still incomprehensible to Elder Niji. He could barely see the end of the hole that had been drilled into the Mountain wall. Or rather than a hole, it was more accurate to call it a tunnel instead.

'A single attack did this to the mountain wall... if this struck someone, what would happen to them?' Elder Niji couldn't help but wonder.

The attack was simply too powerful for him. He recalled the attacks of the other immortal cultivators that had been banished to the Land of Exile and realized that even those didn't compare to this.

After all there had been no lack of exiled trying to escape this place. The Rust Hail Mountain was a barrier that they all wanted to cross but were unable to. Thus, they took the choice of making a tunnel and dig as much as they could.

And yet, they had failed more than once.

Many couldn't even break the rocks of the Rust hail Mountain, forget drilling a hole.

As for the Immortals who had tried this, while they could certainly damage the Rust Hail Mountain like this, it was not to this extent. At most, they might make a hole that was a couple of meters deep, or a bit more.

But it was not an entire tunnel that was ten meters wide!

~Sigh~

Lin Mu let out a breath and walked close to check the mountain wall again. Elder Niji and the rest approached him as well, while the Haima Tribe warriors trembled with each step.

"Noble Lin Mu... this power... I've never seen it before." Elder Niji spoke.

"Mm... this is a different kind of a Qi skill." Lin Mu replied.

"No, that's not what I meant... I've not seen such power even from an immortal." Elder Niji stated.

"Huh?" Lin Mu raised his brows and heard the past attempts at doing what he had done.

"They weren't even able to go more than ten meters deep?" Lin Mu asked doubtfully.

"Yes, even an immortal was unable to do this. At digging that far took them many days and eventually they had to stop because of Chasm Beasts." Elder Niji answered.

"Hmm... I see." Lin Mu said, thinking that the Boulder Collapsing Fist was certainly different.

It was something he had gotten from a spatial rift and may very well have been from a higher leveled world. After all, while it did say that anyone could practice it and any kind of energy could be used for it, the standard it had was for one to have a very strong body.

Those with weak body could certainly use it, but it would come at the expense of injuries.

Lin Mu himself had shattered his hand the first time he used it. Even after tempering his body, it took him a long time before he could use it without any injuries.

Something like this was not reasonable for most cultivators at all.

Perhaps there was more to the technique, but the majority of its pages were missing. Luckily, there was still the starting part and the introduction of the skill left. Without it, Lin Mu might never be able to learn it at all.

Though this was just for the initial part, the three forms that Lin Mu had made were entirely new. There was no telling if it was part of the booklet too, which could be possible, but the many different elemental forms were probably his own.

Then there was the change in the appearance of the Boulder Collapsing fist.

'The pull of spirit Qi was there in the Xiaofan world too, but it was not this strong.' Lin Mu thought.

Furrowing his brows, Lin Mu pulled his fist back again and gathered energy in it.

Boulder Collapsing Fist: First Form: Impact!

~BOOM~

Another hole was punched next to the already existing hole. But this time it was a lot more shallow and narrow. The hole formed was two meters wide and about four meters deep. Additionally, there was no suction force.

Elder Niji and the Haima Tribe warriors were startled from Lin Mu's sudden attack, but they were not affected by the same pressure like before.

"Hmm... interesting." Lin Mu rubbed his chin. "You all should retreat again." He said to the Haima Tribe people.

They quickly ran back, without even needing to know the meaning of Lin Mu's words. They could understand the intent very easily, seeing what he had just done.

Lin Mu got into the horse stance again and gathered spirit Qi within his arm.

~WHOOSH~

This time an even greater pull was felt by everyone and when Lin Mu punched out the needle of energy turned into a large spike instead!

Boulder Collapsing Fist: Second Form- Piercer!

~SHING~

The needle of energy drilled into the mountain wall and for ten seconds, nothing was heard.

~BOOM~

Finally, an explosion was felt, but its sound was rather muffled.

Chapter 1220 Three Choices

Along the explosion a plume of fine dust was shot out of the hole created by piercer. It was evidently the crushed material and was rather fine, almost like dust.

Lin Mu observed it and found it to be a lot deeper than the hole created by Devastator. But at the same time it was narrow and definitely could not be entered like the large tunnel.

~Sigh~

"While its deeper, its not usable." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

While he observed his handiwork, the Haima Tribe people walked up to him feeling shocked. They couldn't muster any words to speak and knew that the person in front of them was very powerful.

One of them was especially terrified, this being none other than Jehu, the Haima warrior who could speak in broken Dao script. He had fought with Lin Mu and so had the other two warriors.

While they had surrendered after seeing him overwhelm them easily before, realizing that he was simply holding back was even more terrifying for them. They had never seen anyone that could cause this much damage to the Rust Hail Mountains, and it was chilling to imagine what would happen if an attack like that struck them.

Perhaps even their bones and souls would be reduced to nothingness.

"A-are you done, Noble Lin Mu?" Elder Niji finally spoke.

"Yes... though it seems like our endeavor would be a lot difficult than I thought." Lin Mu replied.

"But you managed to create such a large hole." Elder Niji said in doubt.

"I know... but this is not enough. Even if I continually do this, which I cannot, the time needed to drill through the entire mountain would take far too long. Besides... there is another problem," Lin Mu said and pointed to the edges of the hole. "We might have a chance if the hole stayed as it is... but this is recovering."

Elder Haima looked closer and saw that the rock was actually growing back!

It was slow, but the longer they watched, the faster it was getting. While it was not closing abruptly, Lin Mu could estimate that the entire hole might close up in a few days. As for the hole made by Piercer, it would take even less time, perhaps just a few hours.

With this disappointing discovery, Lin Mu guessed that he might need to take the route of using a teleportation formation. But for that, they would need to be lucky enough to catch someone that had just been banished here.

Doing that was a lot more difficult than just talking about it. The teleportation array would only appear for a brief moment, then one would also need to get there in that time. At least Lin Mu had the confidence of locking onto the array, as long as his spirit sense touches it once.

Then even if it disappeared, he might still be able to decipher it.

Elder Niji who had been watching Lin Mu who was thinking intently, felt a little lost.

"Do we not have a solid chance?" Elder Niji asked.

"We might... or might not currently. But we definitely will in the future." Lin Mu said with confidence.

Lin Mu after all, had more than just his own expertise to depend on. As long as Xukong awakened, Lin Mu was sure that he would be able to figure out some solution.

'Then there is also the factor of adapting. Once my body has gotten used to this place, I might be able to do a lot more.' Lin Mu thought and raised his hand towards the mountain wall.

"Meld..." Lin Mu lightly spoke and waved his hand.

~shua~

The mountain wall was soundlessly cut!

Elder Niji barely noticed it but the Haima tribe warriors didn't.

~step~step~

"Hmm... manipulating space here is indeed harder... the spatial fabric is tough." Lin Mu noted.

The cut in the mountain wall was about a meter deep and was smooth, just like Meld had done before. But this cut was made with Lin Mu's full force of Meld. On Xiaofan world, Lin Mu barely needed this much power to use Meld or cause damage with it.

Which only showed him the different levels of spatial laws in higher worlds. Xukong had already informed him about this and it was just Lin Mu confirming it.

'So now I have three paths... either find a teleportation array and reverse it, blast the mountain apart with Devastator or cut it with meld.' Lin Mu assessed his choices.

All three of them would need time for him to work with. But the latter two options were something that were sure shot. All Lin Mu needed was more time, and he would eventually be able to do it.

"Let's return for now." Lin Mu said.

"Alright." Elder Niji agreed, not even bothering to ask how Lin Mu had cut the mountain there.

'He didn't even touch it, and unlike before, there was no powerful pressure. It was silent and undetectable... a lot more dangerous.' Elder Niji thought.

The group returned to the outpost and descended into the Haima tribe from there. Lin Mu talked with Elder Niji for a few hours before he was given a place to sleep.

It was an entire house that was close to Elder Niji's own house and was good enough for Lin Mu.

"The bed is rather large... though guess it is meant to accommodate the tall bodies of the Haima tribe people." Lin Mu said, seeing the bed that was over two meters tall and four meters wide.

Though the bedding on it was not something that Lin Mu would prefer. Thankfully, he had a lot of soft mattresses stored in the ring. Simply putting one on the bed frame, Lin Mu was ready to do something he had not done for a long time: Sleep.

Ever since walking up in the cavern down in the Broken Chasm, Lin Mu had been awake. It had now been over two months and it was about time he rested.