

Walker 1241

Chapter 1241 A Breakthrough For The Tribe

"WHAT! REALLY?" Lin Mu's words were no less than a quake to Elder Niji.

He had long since marveled at the powers of the various experts. While Elder Niji himself could match against in raw strength against many, he also desired the more 'flashy' moves like making fire and summoning thunder.

Not to mention, there was also the added benefit of a life span increase. Even with the passive increase in the spirit Qi that the Haima Tribe members had, their lifespans were still the same as humans.

Not to mention, there was the upper limit of Dao Treading realm for the Haima Tribe. While there might have been many experts above the Dao Treading realm in the past and some in the Immortal realm as well, now there were none.

This also meant that the Elder of the Haima Tribe only had less than 4000 years to find his successor who also had to reach his level. Unfortunately for Elder Niji, three thousand years had already passed and while there were strong members like head warrior Kulo, there was no one that could inherit the knowledge that he held.

For that, the potential elder needed to learn Dao Script good enough to communicate freely.

Even though many tribesmen were now showing interest in learning Dao Script after Lin Mu's arrival, it was still not enough. With only a thousand years left in his lifespan, Elder Niji was not confident of teaching a disciple.

After all, he himself had only learned Dao Script from the last elder after over fifteen hundred years.

But now that he had a chance to increase his lifespan, he would have a better chance at finding a new elder. And if he was lucky, with the increased number of members showing interest, he might even have multiple candidates.

"What do we need to do then, Noble Lin Mu?" Elder Niji asked hurriedly.

"I'll teach you the method first and then you can explain to the rest." Lin Mu replied.

"Alright." Elder Niji nodded his head.

Lin Mu then spent an hour explaining a technique he had come up with.

It was a relatively simple method which expanded on the speeding and slowing down the flow of spirit Qi. Since the Haima Tribe was already getting proficient with this, Lin Mu reckoned this would be the best way.

The chance that he made in this was that one needed to do both speeding up the flow of spirit Qi as well as slow it down at the same time. At first one would split the flow of spirit Qi in their body in half and divided it into two circuits.

Then they would speed up the flow in one circuit, while slowing it down in the other. This would create a point of focus that should potentially draw in spirit Qi from the air. Once one managed to do it by splitting the circuits in two half, they would then reduce the size.

Instead of splitting the circuits in 50-50 parts, they would do so in 75-25 parts. Then once equilibrium was achieved in this fraction too, they could go smaller and smaller.

Lin Mu had even gone further and guessed that in the latter stages, one could then create multiple smaller circuits instead of just two of different sizes. The greater the number of circuits, the greater the number of focus points.

Lin Mu didn't know how far it could be scaled up, as there was no way to theoretically check it. The only way to do it would be a practical demonstration.

'Now the only hurdle is if the Haima Tribe and gain a control over this...' Lin Mu thought.

He had seen them achieve a meditative state of great focus, which was unusual for most experts, thus he had great hopes for them.

"This is certainly new noble Lin Mu. I'll try it out first myself, then I'll instruct the others." Elder Niji stated. "I think I'll be able to explain better that way."

"Yeah, you can do that." Lin Mu agreed.

Elder Niji first asked the warriors to wait patiently and then got to practicing. Lin Mu too sat nearby, watching him closely. His spirit sense was close to elder Niji's body, but didn't enter it for the fear of affecting the man's practice.

If anything happened, Lin Mu was confident of acting in time.

His eyes stared at elder Niji and traced the fine movements of spirit Qi in the air. For the first fifteen minutes, nothing happened and there was no change to the spirit Qi in the air. But after fifteen more minutes passed, Lin Mu sensed a wisp of spirit Qi.

The wisp of spirit Qi was moving in an irregular manner and it was the only one to do so.

"It should be starting now..." Lin Mu muttered.

Minute after minute passed as he sensed the irregular wisps of spirit Qi increasing in number. When 45 minutes passed, a qualitative change happened.

~shua~

All of a sudden, all the wisps of spirit Qi rushed towards Elder Niji's chest.

~Huala~

A wave of spirit Qi directly spread in the area and was sensed by all the warriors nearby.

"He managed to do it!" Lin Mu smiled.

Elder Niji opened his eyes, feeling the infusion of spirit Qi into his body. It was a familiar yet new feeling for him. They were long since used to spirit Qi being absorbed after eating the Stone Flesh Mushrooms, but now directly absorbing it though their skin was refreshing.

"It is a marvelous feeling..." Elder Niji muttered to himself as he gazed at his body.

"Congratulations, you did very well." Lin Mu spoke with a smile on his face.

"It is all due to your help, noble Lin Mu." Elder Niji didn't dare take the credit.

"Now, now, we got a lot more to do before we rejoice." Lin Mu chuckled.

"Of course." Elder Niji smiled and turned to the warriors.

He spent the next hour teaching them the method in their own tongue before they began the practice.

And just an hour later, Lin Mu saw the progress.

~SHUA~

"He broke through?"

Chapter 1242 Continual Improvements

In front of Lin Mu, one of the warriors had just achieved a breakthrough.

Lin Mu had seen him before, but didn't know the man's name. The only thing he knew was that he was one of the stronger warriors of the Haima tribe and was roughly at the start Nascent soul realm.

But now, the man had actually broken though and the spirit Qi waves coming from him showed that he was at the middle of the Nascent soul realm.

'From the Infant Soul stage to Child soul stage... this breakthrough is good.' Lin Mu estimated the gain that the warrior had.

Elder Niji and the rest also observed the man, sensing the increase in his strength. The breakthrough caused waves of spirit Qi to spread from the man, allowing everyone to feel it clearly.

Usually a breakthrough would not be this apparent as the spirit Qi in most Haima Tribe members would stay contained in their bodies. But now that it was done though an actual cultivation technique, the effects were clear.

"\$#^(\$&&(?)" The Haima Tribe warrior who had just broken through was surprised as well.

"Who is he?" Lin Mu questioned.

"This is Warrior Tumela." Elder Niji answered for Lin Mu.

"Warrior Tumela, congratulations on successfully cultivating as well as breaking through." Lin Mu spoke.

The man in question didn't understand all of Lin Mu's words, but then Elder Niji translated for him. Once warrior Tumela understood them, he saluted Lin Mu in respect. He was truly grateful to Lin Mu for teaching them this.

He could after all sense the increase in his strength. Even if it was small, it was still a good increase which would normally take him several years to achieve. And yet that long-term gain was obtained in less than two hours.

In all cases, it was worth a lot to them.

Even for Lin Mu, this was a lot of new study and research material. With this initial success, he now knew what path to take for the future.

'I never would have thought the two baby snakes would allow me to have this epiphany... fortunate encounters can truly present in the most unexpected ways...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He let the warriors continue cultivating and observed them. From time to time, he would give them some advice and make a correction in their circuits. Even for Elder Niji and Head Warrior Kulo, there were a lot of suggestions.

And in just three more days, ten more warriors had broken, though. While it was just a minor breakthrough, it was still better than anything they had felt before. During this entire time, Lin Mu could see some flaws in the technique he had made as an experiment, too.

It allowed him to learn more and deepen his own understanding about cultivation, thereby increasing his own expertise. Then, after analyzing these mistakes and changes, Lin Mu improved on them further enhancing the experimental technique.

Two weeks passed in this and the warriors of the Haima Tribe continued to improve. It was around this time that Lin Mu discovered another issue.

"How will they form a Nascent soul?" Lin Mu wondered.

Many of the warriors that Lin Mu was teaching right now already had cultivation equivalent to that of at least the Infant Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm. There was no one else lower than that as the test candidates were only those that were strong.

'The cultivation of the Haima Tribe is mostly passive and is somewhat of a mix between body cultivation as well as Qi cultivation. But it does not give them the abilities of either path. But now that they are actually cultivating with a technique, they are still unable to follow the normal path of Qi cultivation.' Lin Mu pondered.

Forming a Nascent soul was very important for qi cultivator as they would be unable to comprehend the Dao Traces without it. A nascent soul allowed one to dissociate oneself from the normal cycle of 'mortals', giving them a chance for rebirth.

Their true souls would be able to make use of the Nascent soul and sense the profundities of the Dao, allowing them to progress further.

The lack of a Nascent soul was also what Lin Mu estimated as the reason for a lack of progress. Even Elder Niji was only stuck at the peak of the Dao Treading realm in terms of the spirit Qi he had.

He was unable to progress any further despite hundreds of years of consumption of Stone Flesh mushrooms. The minimum requirement for reaching the Immortal Ascension realm was one needed to touch upon the Dao traces.

For Qi cultivators, having no Dao Embryo basically made it impossible. And for a Dao Embryo to form, they needed a Nascent soul.

And it wasn't like they could take the body cultivation path, either. While the body cultivation path had no need to form a Nascent soul or Dao Embryo, it would still do the same, but through a different route.

The refinement of the five treasured organs was very difficult without the right techniques and resources.

While Lin Mu had managed to make an experimental Qi cultivation technique for the Haima Tribe, he sure as hell wouldn't be able to make a body cultivation technique.

'There are still some provisions for mistake correction in Qi cultivation... but for body cultivation the range for mistakes is very narrow. Not to mention I do not have enough references to make anything.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The only reason he was even able to make the experimental technique for Qi cultivation was because he had literally thousands upon thousands of cultivation techniques and manuals in his storage.

Not to mention the many more documents and books that gave one insight and tips for cultivation.

As for body cultivation, Lin Mu had a grand total of two techniques; the mortal strengthening scripture and the True Gold Body forging arts. It was already a miracle that Lin Mu could use the passive effects of other techniques to reach his current body cultivation.

And it wasn't like Lin Mu hadn't tested the use of Mortal Strengthening scripture for the Haima Tribe either. The results of that had only shown it to be incompatible with them. Thus, with all the failures, the only path left was Qi cultivation.

Days upon days passed like this and Lin Mu continued his research.

Two more months went by when Lin Mu finally had some significant progress with the experimental technique.

"Of course! I need to follow the example of the Great Slumber Bear. Senior Xukong told me that immortal beasts that were directly born in that realm merely needed to will it and their Nascent souls would be born." Lin Mu said out loud.

In front of him, a large stone board could be seen. Runes could be seen written on it, and they glowed with a faint white light.

Lin Mu used his fingers as a writing tool and quickly added more runes onto the board.

~shua~

Once he did, a qualitative change seemingly happened and the runes automatically assembled themselves into a unique order.

"There... let's see if this works." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He quickly called Elder Niji and asked him to bring in some weaker members of the tribe. Five minutes later, the elder had appeared at his doorstep along with five Haima Tribe members.

~Creak~

Lin Mu opened the door and gazed at the new candidates, finding them to be roughly equivalent to the mid to late stage of the core condensation realm.

"They will work perfectly." Lin Mu said.

"What do you need them to do, noble Lin Mu?" Elder Niji inquired curiously.

"They will cultivate with the new version I have made." Lin Mu plainly said before explaining it to the Haima Tribe members.

In the past few months, Lin Mu had been steadily learning the Haima Tribe's language. And while he had not mastered it, he was at least able to converse in the language.

"Is this all we need to do, noble Lin Mu?" The Haima Tribe members anxiously asked.

"Yes. As long as you follow this method, you should see some gain." Lin Mu replied in the Haima Tribe's language.

"O-okay." The members agreed right away.

They quickly sat down and first mediated for a few minutes to optimize their condition. A majority of the tribesmen had mastered the breathing method taught by Lin Mu, thus there were no issues in that.

Once that was done, they finally followed the experimental technique and made two circuits in their body. The slow circuit and fast circuits quickly pulled the spirit Qi in the air, forming a point of focus on their bodies.

'It's certainly faster than the first version.' Lin Mu could see the improvements right away.

Thirty minutes passed as the members steadily absorbed the spirit Qi, until finally... one of them formed a core!

~HUALA~

The spirit Qi within the body quickly turned into a core, but didn't stop there.

~RUMBLE~

Chapter 1243 Tribulation Scaring The Chasm Beasts

Lin Mu had not expected the reaction to be this fast. He had seen cores being formed many times before and they were never this fast to condense. Even if there was a lot of spirit Qi, it was still a gradual process and took some time.

But for the Haima Tribe member, it was almost in an instant. This opened up a lot of new possibilities for Lin Mu, allowing him to guess further possibilities.

~Rumble~

Though his surprised didn't just stop there. As the rumble of thunder could soon be heard. It had passed all the way through the Earth Fixing Array and reached the tribe underground.

"It really is like I thought... those that have not reached the equivalent of Nascent soul realm can still form their Nascent souls and it would also trigger a Heavenly Tribulation." Lin Mu muttered to himself as he continued to observe.

Far above the Broken Chasm, clouds had started to gather. These were different from the Rusty brown and red clouds that normally covered the sky. These clouds were dark and I could see arcs of light running through them.

~GUZAAAA~

The Chasm beasts that roamed around the area were alarmed by the presence of the tribulation clouds. They all looked up at the sky and roared at it, as if warning it that this was their land.

Their lack of intelligence was demonstrated here as a few of the stronger Chasm beasts decided to directly challenge the new 'enemy' that had appeared in the sky. Not to mention, they could sense great energy in the sky, which was a sign of food for them.

The Chasm Beasts that were at equivalent to the Immortal Ascension realm were the first ones to act.

~GUZAAAA~

They leaped into the sky, forming a black blur in the air.

~RUMBLE~

But just as they were half way to the clouds, a bolt of lightning fell down.

~BOOM~

The body of the Chasm Beast was directly blasted into dust by the lightning bolt. The dark clouds in the sky kept on rumbling and the roar of thunder could be heard far and wide. The sound soon increased in intensity and an oppressive feeling descended.

~GULALALLAL~

A change in the Chasm Beasts could be seen at this point. They had a hint of reluctance in their voice and they quickly turned back.

"The Chasm Beasts are afraid of Tribulation lightning?" Lin Mu had been watching the entire series of events through one of his mirrors.

Elder Niji and the rest witnessed it too and were pleased. They watched as the entirety of the Chasm Beasts in the area started to return to the Broken Chasm. They jumped into the chasm as if afraid that they would be blasted to death by the tribulation lightning as well.

'The punishment tribulation lightning is indeed stronger here... or perhaps it adjusts its power according to the being it is facing.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Though he also had a hunch that the reason why the Chasm beasts were repelled might be something to do with the fact that they were of the Yin attribute. And the tribulation lightning was that of the extreme Yang.

It wouldn't be unusual for both of them to cancel each other out even if the Chasm Beasts were strong.

"Seems like we might have another potential weapon against the Chasm Beasts. We now have a grasp on their weakness." Lin Mu said as ideas already started to form in his mind.

While he himself didn't have any Qi skill that could make lightning, what he did have were the methods to make formations that could release lightning. There were even a couple of spirit weapons Lin Mu had that produced lightning.

Though these weapons weren't as strong and were merely mid grade spirit weapons. But this didn't mean that they wouldn't come in handy. Lin Mu already had ideas about enhancing them further, or making entirely new weapons of the lightning attribute from the get go.

He certainly had a few materials that were of the Lightning element.

'And if that doesn't work, I might just use the tribulation lightning itself for this.' Lin Mu had some dangerous ideas about a new form of a weapon.

~RUMBLE~

But all of these thoughts were out on pause for the moment since the tribulation clouds were gaining power.

"Everybody get back! Create some distance from him." Lin Mu ordered.

The Haima Tribe warriors responded quickly, and there was now a distance of at least 500 meters from the warrior that was undergoing the breakthrough.

Surprisingly though, the man wasn't scared. He only seemed to be confused.

"What is happening?" Nulo asked.

"You will be struck by lightning soon. But don't worry, your body is tough enough to bear it. And once you survive, you will be a lot stronger than before." Lin Mu encouraged.

"A-alright noble Lin Mu." Nulo replied.

"Do well, child. You shall create a new history for our tribe." Elder Niji encouraged as well.

Elder Niji knew more than the warriors and had plenty of information about heavenly tribulations. Lin Mu had told him about this before, after all. He also knew how dangerous it could be, but compared to the Chasm beasts that they had faced for years, this danger was nothing.

If they had an opportunity to exceed their old limits, they were willing to go to any length.

~shua~

Lin Mu controlled the Earth Fixing array and opened up a small hole at the top of the mountain. He knew that the tribulation lightning would tear through the array otherwise and damage it.

With a hole there, it would pass through it, thereby taking the path of least resistance.

'Though the roof might need to be patched again later... perhaps is should make it retractable?' Lin Mu thought.

~RUMBLE~

A thunderous sound tore through the skies and a flash of lightning blinded all those that looked up at that time.

~BOOM~

The lightning bolt finally fell!

Chapter 1244 True Nascent Soul Realm

The power of the lightning bolt was great and created ripples in the Earth Fixing Array when it passed through the hole.

If Lin Mu had not made the hole, perhaps the Earth Fixing Array might have ended up getting greatly damaged. While Earth was good at withstanding lightning, one must forget this was still an array and was operated by thousands upon thousands of runes.

Each rune was made with spirit Qi which would be broken apart by the violent power of the tribulation lightning. After all, the Earth Fixing Array's function wasn't to stop or reduce the power of the Tribulation lightning.

Something like that was done especially through formation arrays like the Tribulation attenuation formation array. Thus even if the Earth Fixing array was technically stronger than the Tribulation Attenuation Formation Array, it couldn't bear the tribulation lightning bolts.

They Haima Tribe people were still stunned by the lightning bolt that tore through the roof of the tribe.

Thankfully, their fear was short lived as the lightning bolt quickly reached its target and dissipated.

Nulo who felt a great force hitting his head was almost knocked out. He didn't even register the violent power theft lightning hammering his newly formed core. If it weren't for the naturally tough bodies of the Haima tribe, perhaps Nulo might have really lost controlled and died.

But that didn't happen.

~KACHA~

Instead, the sound of clear cracking was heard.

"It worked!" Lin Mu said with joy.

~BOOM~

The next lightning bolt arrived shortly, striking Nulo again. This time though, the man was a lot more prepared and gritted his teeth to hold on. The power of the lightning directly entered his three lobed dantian and hammered the core once more.

~KACHA~

This time, half of his core was covered in cracks.

"Just a little more, you can hold on." Lin Mu motivated the man.

"You can do it brother Nulo!" The other Haima Tribe warriors also cheered him on.

~BOOM~

~BOOM~

Two more lightning bolts fell from the sky and struck Nulo.

~SHATTER~

And finally, his Core shattered into pieces and from within rose the Nascent soul. It looked like a small infant that had four legs and two arms. Surprisingly though, the Infant had a differently textured skin than the normal Haima.

It had wave like patterns on its skin that undulated with spirit Qi.

~SHUA~

With the birth of the Nascent soul, the Tribulation clouds quickly started to dissipate while a spirit Qi vortex formed above Nulo.

His cultivation base started to rise rapidly, and so did his Nascent soul. It grew from an infant to a child before finally stopping.

'They truly have a lot of untapped potential...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The rest of the Haima warriors cheered out loud seeing their companion finally breakthrough.

"Your name shall be forever recorded in our tribe's history, Warrior Nulo." Elder Niji congratulated.

"T-thank you elder." Nulo replied, his breaths a bit labored.

"Let him rest and stabilize his cultivation base for now. It'll take some time getting used to it." Lin Mu instructed.

"Yes, noble Lin Mu." The warriors responded and one of them helped Nulo get to his residence.

It wasn't that Nulo was feeling weak, but rather he had too much power in his limbs now. So much so that he couldn't muster it to follow his will right now. Lin Mu reckoned it might have something to do with the sudden transition from the absence of a Nascent soul to the presence.

"What do we do now, Elder Niji?" the warriors asked. "Should we continue?"

"Noble Lin Mu, what do you say?" Elder Niji asked in turn.

They knew that this was supposed to be an experiment. And now that there was some result, they didn't know if they had to stop. After all, Lin Mu had told them that he needed to gather more information from observing them.

"I don't see why not. Continue!" Lin Mu said with a smile.

He had already checked the body of Nulo and didn't see any problems in there. Plus he could sense that there were others that might reach the same point as Nulo as long as they continued.

'The more information I gather, the better I'll be able to improve the technique.' Lin Mu reckoned.

"As you command, noble Lin Mu!" the Warriors were happy.

They too wanted to experience the growth in power and could even feel a new found desire in their hearts. It was the desire to grow strong and let their tribes rise!

The entire group of Haima Warriors sat down at an equal distance. Seeing the tribulation lightning, they already guessed that it was best to put some distance between each other just in case more than one person broke through at the same time.

If that happened, they wouldn't be able to move in time and possibly get injured.

While they didn't know Lin Mu could intervene in a case like that and tank the lightning bolt for them, it was still a good decision.

Six hours passed by before the next warrior reached the point of breakthrough. Just like Nulo, his core formed in an instant and the Heavenly Tribulation came soon after. Thankfully, elder Niji had already informed the rest of the tribe to not panic because of this.

~SHUA~

Ten minutes later, there was now a second Nascent soul realm Haima Warrior in their midst.

Three more hours later, there was another.

And Six hours past that, there were five!

The number kept on growing bit by bit and four days went by like this.

~RUMBLE~

This time the tribulation clouds in the sky were massive and covered the entire Broken Chasm. This was due to the fact that six Haima Warriors were having a breakthrough at once!

Thankfully, they were also the last remaining members of the test group and there was more than enough space in between them.

~SHATTER~SHATTER~SHATTER~

Six cores shattered at once, giving birth to six nascent souls that all looked similar to each other, having undulating wave like patterns on their skin.

Chapter 1245 Devising New Methods From Old

The breakthrough of six Haima Tribe members was enough to shake the entire broken chasm. The spirit Qi waves spread across the tribe, and were felt by everyone. Even the children had felt them since they too practiced the breathing method.

"Perfect." Lin Mu said after seeing them succeed.

He had gathered enough data from this that he would be able to tune the experimental technique further. Another thing he also figured out from this was how to get the others who already had spirit Qi equivalent to the Nascent soul realm and above to breakthrough.

'I'll have to see which path works the best.' Lin Mu thought to himself while the Haima tribe members were taken back to their residence.

These were the last of the experimental group thus Lin Mu didn't need to watch over any for now.

"When do you want me to prepare the next group noble Lin Mu?" Elder Niji inquired.

"Hmm... I'll tell you the exact date later, but it will be at most in a month's time." Lin Mu replied.

"Alright. There's also a chance that we might get to practice on the surface." Elder Niji stated.

"Indeed... the Chasm Beasts are mostly gone now. Though we don't know if they'll return after the clouds dissipate." Lin Mu agreed.

Due to the constant presence of heavenly tribulation clouds as well as the lightning strikes, the Chasm Beasts had returned to the Broken Chasm. Lin Mu and Elder Niji both had observed on the mirrors how the Chasm beasts tried to challenge the clouds and were killed.

From this, Lin Mu had all but confirmed that the lightning was a weakness for the Chasm Beasts. Though he didn't exactly know if it was all kinds of lightning or just the heavenly tribulation lightning.

Regardless of that, knowing this was a great gain for the tribe. Even if they couldn't apply it right now, it didn't mean they wouldn't be able to do this later.

For now though, Lin Mu returned to his residence and slept for a night. He needed a clear and well rested mind to analyze the coming few things. He didn't even enter Sleepscape for this and truly had a full nights sleep.

The next day though, Lin Mu went fully into analyzing all that he had observed while also making multiple smaller experiments at the same time. He would call Haima members from time to time, and ask them to practice something while he observed their Qi circuits.

Little by little, he was progressing and the experimental cultivation technique was getting optimized. Plus, since this was Lin Mu's first time making an entirely new cultivation technique, he was learning a lot about his own cultivation, too.

The number of insights he gained from this was similar to the number he got from Xukong. Sometime it was even higher. He could feel his own foundation of cultivation getting stronger too and his perception became clearer.

Ten days later, Lin Mu finally devised a stable method for the stronger members of the Haima tribe to breakthrough.

"Can't believe something from the Northern Tribes would come in handy here..." Lin Mu said as he continued to write in the air.

The method that Lin Mu ended up coming up with was in a way to dissipate the cultivation of Haima tribe members. For any normal cultivator, this would be very bad and their hard work would all go to waste.

But in the case of Haima tribe members, it wasn't the same.

Because they never cultivated a cultivation technique in the first place, they couldn't be subjected to the same methods. Dissipation of cultivation was different from crippling, as crippling often involved the destruction of Dantian and meridians.

Lin Mu didn't want that, and it would be the opposite of what he was intending to do.

Since the Haima Tribe people only had spirit Qi equivalent to the amount that other cultivators had and no abilities like this, all Lin Mu needed to do was seal their spirit Qi. And the method to do this came from the Northern tribes.

It was none other than the Spirit Sealing Array that the northern tribes had used to suppress the army of the alliance in Xiaofan world. Of course, something on that scale wasn't what Lin Mu would be able to set up here.

Not only did he lack the detailed method of making the formation array, he also didn't the materials needed for it. But what he did have was the information he had taken from Ku Waowen a long time ago.

There was a method of making a small scale version of the Spirit Sealing Array. But even this wasn't something that suited Lin Mu's needs exactly. He would need to modify it in such a way that it would only restrain the spirit Qi that a cultivator already had in their bodies and not the spirit Qi in the air.

'As long as it works, the spirit Qi that the Haima members have can be restrained and they can breakthrough to the Nascent soul realm the traditional way. Once that is done, the seal can be lifted and their preexisting spirit Qi can be integrated, thereby speeding up their rate of cultivation.' Lin Mu finalized his draft.

~shua~

The last rune was written in the air, and it quickly joined the others in a line. The runes resonated with each other and the spirit Qi in the air thrummed. Lin Mu then took out a jade slip and held it up to the air.

~whoosh~

All the runes floating in the air rushed into the jade slip, securing the data for later.

~huu~

Lin Mu let out a breath of relief and stretched his fingers. He'd been using the air as a writing board and his fingers as a pen for a long time now. They now needed some well deserved rest.

About eight hours later, Lin Mu felt a lot better. "Time to get it started then..."

Chapter 1246 Spirit Cultivation Attenuation Formation Array

"Whoa!"

"How does noble Lin Mu do it?"

"So many pretty lights!"

The children of the Haima tribe were gathered around an open square. This area had been made recently since Lin Mu had requested for it. A few small hills had to be flattened for a large enough area to be obtained.

And currently above this large square thousands upon thousands of runes were hovering in the air. Some were arranged into small formations, while some were simply floating around independently.

But to the children of the Haima tribe, these were just pretty lights that moved. While they were quite curious, they didn't go past a distance. They were sternly instructed not to disturb Lin Mu while he was at work by their parents.

There were also several warriors standing around the area, just as a precaution.

In the middle of the square, Lin Mu was sitting on the ground while eight formation flags floated around him. There were ten more flags lying next to him along with an Inkstone that was half filled with ink.

In his hand was a fine brush made from spirit beast fur and high quality wood. Faint spirit Qi fluctuations could also be felt coming from it. And not just the brush, there were spirit Qi fluctuations coming from the Inkstone and the ink as well.

It was evident that all these were spirit tools, or more accurately spirit tools that were meant for formation masters.

Lin Mu had quite a few of them in the ring, but he had seldom used them. He mostly used his own spirit sense as a brush or even his fingers to make runes. But now that it was restrained in the Rust Sky world, he resorted to the spirit tools that had been lying around gathering dust.

The modified spirit sealing formation array that Lin Mu was making needed a lot more than just plain runes and smaller formations. It needed other components like formation flags, rune stones as well as formation plates.

The requirements could certainly be reduced but that would take a lot more research and optimizing. For now though, Lin Mu only wanted to set up the array once and let it be used for as long as possible.

"And done!" Lin Mu finished writing the last set of runes on the formation flags and put down the writing brush.

There were now a total of sixteen formation flags floating around him in two sets. One set had six flags and one set had ten flags, each set having different properties.

The formation flags were especially important for this array since they were in charge of actually making it work. The runes and formations floating in the air were merely connective and auxiliary in nature.

From the two sets of flags, the set with six flags was in charge of suppressing the spirit Qi of the cultivators that would stand inside the array. As for the set with the ten flags, it was in charge of injecting and channeling spirit Qi into the array from the surrounding air.

Lin Mu stood up and gesture with his hands.

~SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~

Three suppressive formation flags flew out first, implanting into the ground in a triangular shape.

~SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~

Waving his other hand, Lin Mu sent out five spirit Qi channeling formation flags. These formed a pentagonal shape the sides of which touched the points of the triangular shape of the suppressive flags.

~HONG~

Once these flags were set, the runes in the air resonated in response before automatically forming long rope like constructs that linked to these flags.

"So far, so good. Doesn't seem like there is any instability for now." Lin Mu's eyes carefully observed the array, looking out for any errors.

Only when he was sure that there were no issues forming, he went with the next step. He gestured with his hand again, sending the last three suppressive flags. These formed a larger triangle that was opposite in orientation to the previous one.

It encased the pentagon from before and caused a turbulent stream of spirit Qi to form.

'I need to be quick before the equilibrium breaks...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He quickly controlled the last five spirit Qi channeling formation flags. They formed a pentagon again, but in the opposite orientation from the previous pentagram.

Now there were two sets of mirror shapes set up concurrently.

~HUALA~

The stream of turbulent spirit Qi suddenly split apart into multiple strings and merged into the sixteen formation flags.

"It should be stable now." Lin Mu nodded his head.

The runes and formations in the air continued to change, creating a rather attractive light show for the Haima tribe children that were watching. Even the warriors acting as guards were amazed.

"Now for the final part." Lin Mu took out a formation plate and buried it into the center of the entire array.

~HONG~

A sonorous sound was heard in the area and a sudden shift in spirit Qi was felt.

~WHOOSH~

Wind started to spin around the entire array before entering through five points. This wind was nothing but the spirit Qi in the air being pulled by the channeling flags. Seeing it work as intended, Lin Mu smiled.

He observed the array for a few minutes, after which a thought came to him.

'I should name it... but what should it be?' Lin Mu wondered.

And after a couple of minutes, he had made his decision.

"Since it is meant to seal one's spirit Qi for 'readjustment' of cultivation base, I shall name it... Spirit Cultivation Attenuation Formation Array." Lin Mu declared.

~HUMM~

And as if to respond to his decision, the formation array resonated. A few runes automatically appeared above it that read, 'Spirit Cultivation Attenuation Formation Array'.

The words lingered in the air for a whole minute before merging into the array, forever making it known what it was and who its creator was.

Lin Mu walked out of the square and went to Elder Niji's place.

"Hope the warriors are ready. We shall start tomorrow."

Chapter 1247 Intentional Suppression

"We are all here, Noble Lin Mu!" The warriors of the Haima tribe said in unison.

They were standing in front of a large green tent that seemed to be illusory. There were faint runes flowing along its surface as well.

~shua~

A long line appeared on the tent before it widened to become a doorway.

"Five people can come in at once." Lin Mu spoke from the doorway.

The illusory green tent was none other than the Spirit Cultivation Attenuation Fomentation array. It merely looked like a tent, but it wasn't actually one.

The warriors of the Haima tribe discussed among them for a few seconds before deciding who would be the first five to go forth. All the warriors that were present here had spirit Qi that was equivalent to that of a Nascent soul realm cultivator at the very least.

There were about a hundred of them present right now and more would come after this batch had finished passing. This was all instructed by Lin Mu yesterday to Elder Niji and had been followed accordingly.

~step~step~step~

The five Haima warriors walked into the array nervously and reached its middle.

"You all can sit in those circles." Lin Mu instructed.

There were five glowing circles on the ground and were situated at an equal distance from each other.

"Yes!" The warriors quickly obliged.

'Learning the Haima Tribe's language was certainly a good decision. Makes things a lots more efficient.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Over the past couple of months, he had been learning from Elder Niji and had quickly learned the language. While he wouldn't say he was as proficient as a native, it was still enough to communicate in simple words.

Once the five Haima Warriors took their place, Lin Mu walked to the center of the array where a small illusory pillar was present.

~shua~

Placing his hand, Lin Mu activated the entire array.

~HONG~

As soon as that was done, the entire array let out a humming sound that felt like a bronze bell ringing. Lin Mu left the array using blink and came to a designated area.

"How long will it take?" Elder Niji, who was waiting here for Lin Mu, questioned.

"Shouldn't take longer than a few minutes for their spirit Qi to be suppressed. As for the breakthrough, that'll depend on their individual talent." Lin Mu answered.

"I see... hopefully our people will not disappoint you." Elder Niji replied.

"They haven't so far. Or rather, they have only exceeded my expectations." Lin Mu honestly stated.

"That's good..." Elder Niji said with a smile.

He too, was excited about the entire process. He wanted to see his tribe breakthrough their shackles that had been unknowingly set up. It was hard to know if these were intentional or not, but regardless of it all, he would ensure that his tribe grew strong.

And for that, Elder Niji had willingly allowed the weaker members to go for the breakthrough first.

Lin Mu had actually offered him to be the first person to breakthrough. After all, the Haima Tribe would grow strong faster if they had a strong person in the lead. But Elder Niji had rejected him after hearing the details.

The one who was inside the array would be unable to leave until they had a breakthrough. And the time needed to do this would increase greatly depending on the initial amount of spirit Qi contained within their bodies.

For people like Elder Niji and Head Warrior Kulo, who were the strongest in the clan, this process might even take days to weeks.

The old man couldn't let his juniors wait like that, and wanted them to be the first to experience it all. Plus to him, it didn't matter if it were the weaker tribe members that went through this first or him, the end result would be the same.

With that in mind, he told Lin Mu to let the others do it first. And now, the process was already underway.

~SHUA~

"AAHHHHH!" A mix of cries could be heard coming from the array suddenly.

The expression of the Haima people turned tense and Elder Niji's brows furrowed. "Will they be alright?" he asked with concern.

"Pain like this is bound to happen since the array is currently suppressing their spirit Qi. It's like forcibly taking away a part of your blood." Lin Mu replied.

"I see..." Elder Niji nodded his head. "My tribesmen aren't that weak to falter just from this. They shall soldier on bravely." He stated proudly.

"I think so too." Lin Mu agreed.

His eyes stayed locked onto the array while his spirit sense was continually monitoring the array. Lin Mu could sense the changes occurring inside and knew that the Haima Tribe warriors were under a significant amount of pain.

Their expressions were also contorted, and if anyone watched them right now, there was a great chance they would be terrified.

'It was good to make the array opaque. If the other warriors saw this, they might get discouraged. Thus, even if they went in after that, they might fail simply because they weren't determined enough.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

This was a slightly tough decision that one could even consider a little cruel. But Lin Mu knew it was important for the tribe. In fact, even if the situation inside wasn't hidden, the tribesmen would still go forth with it.

But by hiding it, Lin Mu could keep their morale high, thereby allowing them better chances.

Plus, there wasn't any actual harm being done to the Warriors. The Pain they were feeling was mostly from the meridians that were screaming out due to the disappearance of the spirit Qi.

But in reality, the spirit Qi was just being suppressed deep within their bodies.

Ten minutes passed like this, and the sound of cries had stopped long before.

~SHUA~

It was at this moment that the second part of the array activated and a massive amount of spirit Qi was injected into it!

Chapter 1248 A Successful Experiment

"And here it starts." Lin Mu said upon seeing the spirit Qi being pulled into the array.

"That was fast." Elder Niji said in surprise.

"Indeed... I was expecting a little delay." Lin Mu agreed. 'I'll adjust it according to a weaker cultivator next time. It should be even faster then.' He noted.

Lin Mu's mind quickly observed and analyzed the changes before coming up with solutions on the spot. The more he worked like this, the more amazed he was. Lin Mu could realize the mystery and joy of formations.

It greatly helped his learning pace and allowed him to improve at a faster pace.

After all learning from practical experience was a lot more insightful than just doing rote memorization.

Two hours passed like this before, a change was felt. It was very subtle, and other than Lin Mu and Elder Niji, no one else noticed it.

"The first person to breakthrough has appeared." Lin Mu spoke.

"So that was a breakthrough? What realm did they reach?" Elder Niji inquired.

"This should be the formation of a core. With a Nascent soul realm breakthrough we will see the tribulation clouds again." Lin Mu replied.

"Mmm... the Tribulation clouds are rather good for us too. They are helping scare the Chasm Beasts away." Elder Niji said.

Lin Mu nodded his head and knew that this was an unexpected gain of it. While they didn't know how long the large scale beast tide would last, the presence of the heavenly tribulation seemed to have a suppressive effect on the Chasm Beasts.

Elder Niji and Head Warrior Kulo had observed the outside of the mountain in the past month, during which Lin Mu was researching. They had learned that the Chasm Beasts didn't appear for about three days after the tribulation clouds went away.

From this, they assumed that each time a heavenly tribulation appeared, it would grant them about three days of respite from the Chasm Beasts.

And in their current situation, when the Large Scale Chasm Beast tide was underway, the more they could shorten it, the better it would be for them. In fact, Lin Mu himself had made a point of observing the situation outside during the tribulation.

~shua~

Thirty minutes after the first Haima warrior reached the core condensation realm, another warrior did too. And an hour after that, two more broke through. The fifth and final warrior broke through fifteen minutes after that, and now all of them were in the core condensation realm.

With this, Lin Mu now had a baseline to set for next time.

'Now to see how long it takes for the first person to reach Nascent soul realm. With their natural talent and the boundless supply of spirit Qi, it shouldn't take long.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Fifteen hours passed before the Haima Tribe heard the sound of thunder in the sky.

~RUMBLE~

"There we go... still a little faster than I expected." Lin Mu muttered and took a note.

He then waved his hands and controlled the Earth Fixing Array to open a hole at the top. There was already a hole in the tribe's ceiling from last time and it would be enough for the tribulation lightning bolt to pass through unhindered.

~BOOM~

The first lightning bolt arrived within a minute and passed through the Spirit Cultivation Attenuation Formation Array with ease. The array didn't suffer any damage at all and simply allowed the bolt to pass through.

~Phew~

"At least the array works as intended even in tribulation." Lin Mu took a breath of relief.

He was a bit nervous and unsure about this part, but now he had the confirmation for it all.

~BOOM~ BOOM~ BOOM~

Four lightning bolts was what it took for the first person to breakthrough successfully.

The spirit Qi fluctuations of a Nascent soul realm cultivator soon appeared and were felt by every nearby tribesmen.

~Ding~

Lin Mu took out a metal plate and tapped on it, making a crisp sound.

~thud~

In the next second, a Haima tribe member appeared on the outside of the green tent.

"Carry him away!" Lin Mu ordered.

This warrior who had appeared was none other than the first Haima Tribe member to have broken through. Currently, his complexion was a bit pale and his head was charred black. But other than that, his life was safe, and he was even conscious.

It was just that the man was unable to speak because of exhaustion.

The warriors on standby quickly carried their kin to safety and let him recuperate.

Lin Mu focused his attention back on the array and observed it nonstop for two more days. On the third day, the final warrior reached the Nascent soul realm and the array finally paused its work.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and walked towards the last warrior, who had just been ejected by the array.

Three days of continues observation without a break had exhausted Lin Mu. Though it was mostly mental exhaustion, since he was making fine changes and analyzing the array as well. With how much he used his brain, it was bound to happen.

But his work was not over yet.

"There's still one last thing left..." Lin Mu muttered to himself and checked the body of the last warrior.

His spirit sense probed the man and gave Lin Mu an image of his Dantian.

There, a Nascent soul with a wave like undulating patterns floated above a sea of spirit Qi silently. And at the bottom of the spirit Qi sea, Lin Mu could see a tiny marble.

'The compression of the array is even greater than that of a core.' Lin Mu was surprised.

The tiny marble was none other than the suppressed spirit Qi of the warrior. Though Lin Mu found it to be a little too small.

'Hmm... this can't be all of it.' Lin Mu searched through the rest of the warrior's body and saw more such marbles.

'So that's way... if it is like this, then their further progress will only be better.' Lin Mu concluded.

Chapter 1249 A Year In The Rust Sky World

It had now been over a year since Lin Mu had arrived in the Rust Sky world.

After he had found the method to let the strange Haima Warriors breakthrough, the tribe's power had steadily increased. Around a third of the Haima tribe members had a Nascent soul now.

And not just that, but the average cultivation base of the tribe had also risen greatly, reaching the core condensation realm now. If not for the fact that there was a limitation to how many people could use the spirit Qi gathering array at once, this number might be even higher.

The experimental cultivation technique that Lin Mu had made also became a lot better. It not only allowed the Haima tribe members to cultivate normally, but a few members had even begun to form their own spirit sense.

This was currently limited to the strongest members of the tribe of course, but it was growing as well.

The first ones to master this were none other than Elder Niji and Head warrior Kulo, along with other warriors that were below him. The two strongest members of the tribe had also gained their own Nascent soul in this time.

As for the restriction that was placed by the Spirit cultivation attenuation formation array, it was slowly dispersed over a month. This allowed the Haima tribe members to reintroduce their older spirit Qi to their bodies and fully assimilate it into their new cultivation base.

Though there were still some restrictions depending on their older cultivation bases.

In the case of Elder Niji, while he still had the same spirit Qi stores as that of a Dao Treading realm expert, he couldn't exert the same level of power. As of now he could only exert the same strength as that of a Shell Initiation stage Dao shell realm cultivator.

Elder Niji was also the first one to form a Dao shell, even if it was just an outline for now. He was steadily adding his older spirit Qi to this and solidifying its form. Lin Mu had advised him to simply form a spherical Dao shell since he had no idea what affinity they would have later on.

He was hoping that Elder Niji's breakthrough to the Dao Treading realm would allow the tribe to gain a guideline for the Dao Traces. Lin Mu had no idea what their affinity to the Dao was like, though he had estimated that it shouldn't be bad.

Another thing that Lin Mu was confused about was the Nascent souls that the Haima tribe members had formed. They all had the same undulating wave like patterns, but Lin Mu was unable to identify what the meaning of that was.

They didn't show any direct affinity to an element either, so it had left Lin Mu at a loss. He reckoned that perhaps when Elder Niji reached the Dao Treading realm, he would be able to figure it out.

His best guess was that the patterns on the Nascent soul might have something to do with the Dao Traces that the Haima Tribe had a natural affinity to. Since all of them had the same type of a Nascent soul, it was unlikely for there to be any other possibilities.

Other than the growth of the Haima Tribe, there were many other changes too.

The biggest one being the fact that the large scale Chasm Beast tide was now over. Elder Niji was sure that it had ended early due to the regular appearance of the Heavenly tribulation.

Even now, someone would undergo a heavenly tribulation every other day.

Lin Mu reckoned that if the Haima tribe existed in the Xiaofan world and had the same level of growth, it would have single handedly overtaken the entire world with their sheer number of experts.

It only humbled him about the different standards of the worlds.

The passage of the Chasm Beast tide also meant that Lin Mu and the Haima tribe could now go out. And at this moment, they were standing outside the large mountain made by the Earth Fixing array.

~DENG~

~DENG~

~clang~

~Clang~

The Haima Tribe members were currently sparring with each other. They couldn't do the same in the tribe underground, because of an increase in strength before.

'It was a good idea to do this outside... their power would have caused a lot of damage otherwise. Especially for those that are not fully in control yet.' Lin Mu thought.

He was sitting on a ledge on the mountain and was observing the sparring session of the warriors. Head Warrior Kulo was guiding the warriors and correcting them whenever they made an error.

~step~step~step~

The sound of steps was heard, and Lin Mu sensed someone approaching.

"How do you feel about the children, Noble Lin Mu?" Elder Niji asked.

He too sat down beside Lin Mu and watched the sparring that was happening at the bottom.

"They are really fast at mastering the martial arts I've given them." Lin Mu stated.

"That's good. As long as they don't disappoint you, I'll be pleased." Elder Niji said with a smile.

Lin Mu had given the Haima Tribe some basic martial arts to practice. Since they still couldn't practice any Qi skills, Lin Mu reckoned this was another way for them to get stronger.

If anything, it would increase their raw fighting skills. Another factor that made him choose the basic martial arts was the fact that they were made with humans in mind.

One thing the Haima Tribe lacked was experience in fighting humans. They were mostly proficient in going against the ferocious Chasm beasts. But Lin Mu knew this could become a really problematic thing if they came across the humans outside the Land of Exile.

Here they could overwhelm the human exiles simply thought of numbers, but the same tactic won't work when the humans were in majority.

Not to mention, the Haima tribe was exiled too and there was a great chance they would come in conflict with the human empire that did that to them.

Chapter 1250 The Hungry Twin Snakes

Lin Mu had the concern that when the Haima tribe left the land of exile, they would be attacked.

They didn't know what was outside of the land of exile, and it was likely to be dangerous. For all they knew, there could be guards or an entire army posted there at all times. Which was why Lin Mu needed them to be proficient against humans too.

'Even if the Haima Tribe has a similar form like normal humans, their battle style is still different. Though their speed should help them in overcoming this.' Lin Mu thought to himself as he continued to observe the spars.

Lin Mu's own understanding about formations, cultivation and even the Dao had increased in the time that he had spent in helping the tribe.

Even though he didn't cultivate fully in this time, his cultivation base had still grown. In fact, it was faster than when he cultivated normally, so there was basically no loss to his own progress, either.

Lin Mu could even feel his understanding about the Dao of earth deepening.

'If I had this level of comprehension back then, I would have been able to save a lot more people...'
Lin Mu thought, as a hint of sadness appeared on his face.

Elder Niji noticed this but did not ask about it. He knew from his years of living that it was best not to ask certain questions. If Lin Mu wanted to, he would tell them himself.

"Noble Lin Mu! Noble Lin Mu!" a frantic voice was suddenly heard, prompting Lin Mu to turn around.

"What's the problem?" Lin Mu asked, seeing the anxious expression of the Haima member that had come running.

From the path that he had taken, Lin Mu could tell that he had come right from the tribe.

"The snake! The baby snakes have awakened!" The Haima member replied. "They're bouncing around and have collapsed half of your residence!"

"Huh?" Lin Mu raised his brows in surprise.

After the first time that Lin Mu met the twin serpent, the two of them had fallen asleep and not woken up. He had been wondering when they would, and they finally had.

Lin Mu closed his eyes for a moment and checked his link with them, sensing an emotion coming.

"Of course... they haven't learned how to communicate yet. Otherwise, I would have known the moment they woke up." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He got up quickly entered the mountain before descending to the tribe underground.

~BOOM~

~CRACK~

The residence that was given to Lin Mu was in a bad state now. Two of its rooms were turned to rubble and more walls were under demolition. The casual of it all was two streaks that were piercing through them all.

~SHUA~

The two streaks sped up and targeted another wall.

But just as they were about to hit it, they hit a golden object instead.

~CLANG~

"Stop it now, you two." Lin Mu said in a stern voice.

His hands firmly held onto the two snakelets, making sure they didn't slip out.

~hiss~

Only after he felt that they didn't struggle anymore did he open his fingers to take a look. He could feel their tongues licking his palm too.

"Now then, what's got you two so restless?" Lin Mu asked through the link.

But he got no answer while the twin snakes only stared at him blankly. After a minute, though, Lin Mu felt a wave of emotion from them and recognized it this time.

"You two are hungry?" Lin Mu realized. "Don't worry, I got some food." He said before taking out a basket of Stone Flesh mushrooms.

The baby snakes stared at the mushroom as if not knowing what to do.

"Oh wait, let me show you." Lin Mu picked up one of the mushrooms and showed the two snakes how to eat it.

Seeing this, their eyes glinted before they pounced at the basket. In less than thirty seconds, the basket was completely emptied out.

But Lin Mu's brows didn't ease up at all, as he could tell they were still hungry. He checked them with his spirit sense and realized that there was basically no difference in their status.

The two snakes then hissed at each other lightly and raised their heads.

~SHUA~

Two wisps of energy rose from their mouths. One of the wisps was black, while the other was white. The black wisp had come from the white twin and the white wisp had come from the black twin.

The wisps were quickly sucked in by the matching twin and they looked at Lin Mu again.

"Yin spirit Qi and Yang spirit Qi?" Lin Mu recognized what the two wisps of energy were.

'But this time it was very little... do the Stone Flesh Mushrooms not provide them enough?' Lin Mu realized that there might be another problem for him.

From observing the two snakes, he could tell that each twin only absorbed the elemental Qi that matched its own body. It would either release the opposite element or convert a part of the energy for the other twin.

"Hmm... just the stone flesh mushrooms isn't enough huh..." Lin Mu pondered.

The last time when they had eaten, they had consumed the remains of the Chasm Beasts, which was of the Yin element. The black twin snake had consumed it all before converting a part of it for the other sibling to consume.

After analyzing this, Lin Mu was sure that the twin snakes needed food that was rich in either Yin or Yang elemental Qi.

'With such a low efficiency of conversion, I don't think it'll be good to depend on the Stone flesh mushrooms. It might be fine for a couple of times, but in the long term it would be bad. Not to mention, the tribe needs to stockpile for the future when we leave the land of exile.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Having thought this, Lin Mu understood there was only one thing to do now.

"Let's go hunt some Chasm Beasts."