

Walker 1281

Chapter 1281 A Proto-Fissure

From what Lin Mu had seen from the distance, the Chasm beasts were circling around a specific location. It was too far for Lin Mu to see it clearly, and now that he was in the middle of the area, it was hard to perceive.

This was due to the fact that the Chasm Beasts were all gone and there was nothing demarcating the area of interest.

"Hmmm... if I recall correctly, it should be a little further from here?" Lin Mu used his memory and tried to track back the path.

~hiss~

And when he reached a certain point, the twin snakes let out a wary hiss. Their pupils became narrow slits while their necks were stiff.

"What did you sense?" Lin Mu asked the two.

From their link, Lin Mu felt alarm and anxiety. Considering their strength and fearlessness before, their current state was a cause for alarm. Beasts had greater senses and instincts than humans at times, and Lin Mu knew to trust them.

After all, Little Shrubby had helped him in this aspect many times and had solidified Lin Mu's faith in beast instincts.

"It's even more concerning if the twins with their strong bloodline is reacting like this..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

His spirit sense was extended to the max and was sensing an area of ten meters around him. Lin Mu continued to walk, and soon felt something.

"What's this?" Lin Mu had come to a halt in the middle of an empty spot.

There was literally nothing here, no rock, no stone, no hill, nothing. Lin Mu thought that there might be something underground, but even when checking the depths of the earth, he found nothing.

~hiss~

The twins continued to hiss at the air, as if there was something invisible there.

"Hang on... can it be?" Lin Mu furrowed his brows as an idea came to his mind.

He closed his eyes for a second before opening them. This time his spatial perception was fully activated, and allowed him to see the secrets of space in front of him.

"No wonder they felt wary, but there was nothing here on the surface." Lin Mu muttered as he observed the area in front of him.

With his spatial perception activated, Lin Mu saw what looked like a thin layer of cracks in the air. They were fine like the cracks of a glass mirror, but at the same time; they emitted almost negligible spatial fluctuations.

Otherwise, someone like Lin Mu who was proficient in the spatial abilities, would have sensed it quickly.

"Hmm... isn't this called as a proto-fissure?" Lin Mu recalled some information.

A Proto-fissure was actually a form of spatial instability. It was the preliminary stage before the fabric of space would be torn apart. And when that happened, it would turn into a portal into the void.

Usually Proto-fissures were highly unstable and would rapidly turn into portals or an entire spatial crack.

Only when the space was cracking in a very steady manner would such a proto-fissure would be formed.

But there was another cause behind the formation of a Proto-fissures that came to Lin Mu's mind.

"Is there a plane behind this?" Lin Mu guessed.

Another reason why a promo-fissure might appear is if there was actually a minor plane attached to the world. Since the links between the plane and the world would be fixed, the formation of a fissure would be streamlined and smooth.

This would make the space turn into a Proto-fissure. But then, if this became a lot more unstable, it would turn into an entire Spatial Fissure. Something like that was dangerous enough to wipe out entire countries at once if left unchecked.

After realizing all this though, Lin Mu had another discovery.

"Why would something like this be in the Land of Exile though?" Lin Mu couldn't figure that out.

He waited and continued to observe the Proto-fissure for a few minutes before deciding to process further.

"I'll only learn more if I explore the insides of that plane." Lin Mu said to himself. "That is IF, it's even a plane."

Having made up his mind, Lin Mu got closer.

~hiss~

The twins were anxious, but Lin Mu soon calmed them down.

"It'll be fine. Don't worry, you two." Lin Mu petted them for a bit.

Once that was done, Lin Mu extended his right hand and activated the ring.

~shua~

The space in front of him turned blurry before the Proto-Fissures became visible to the naked eye. The ring continued to drain Lin Mu's spirit Qi while trying to open a stable portal to the supposed plane.

'The consumption of spirit Qi is a lot greater now. Not just that, the space seems to be a lot more 'durable' too. Guess that is the difference between a mortal world and an Immortal world.' Lin Mu discovered.

It took him about five minutes before the ring succeeded in opening a stable portal. While this could have been opened in less than a minute, if Lin Mu just forced it, the portal might not be stable with that.

"Let's check it out then." Lin Mu stepped into the portal, appearing in a new area.

Right away he could tell that the Plane and the Rust Sky world were closely attached.

'There was no sense of travel this time. It was more like passing through a curtain again... which means this minor plane might have just been manufactured.' Lin Mu concluded.

But that also means that Lin Mu would have a lot of things to explore.

But after taking a few steps inside, Lin Mu's brows furrowed.

"This... is rather... small." Lin Mu said.

There were very clear spatial boundaries just four meters away from Lin Mu. The entire area was like a small square with four meter long sides.

Lin Mu touched the 'walls' of the plane and sensed the volatile spatial energy behinds it.

"Yup... that's the void, alright." Lin Mu said before focusing on the main point of interest.

It was a broken statue that only had the bottom half of its legs remaining.

Chapter 1282 A Fast Wisp

Lin Mu looked at the broken statue in detail, making sure that he didn't miss anything. The statue was that of legs that were cut off just below the knee. Or rather, they were broke from that point.

It was unknown where the rest of the statue was, but from the way it was broken, he could tell it was struck by something hard. Or perhaps, the statue had just been built like this. There was a certain mystery to it that could not be revealed.

No matter what angle Lin Mu looked at the broken statue from, it seemed rather normal. There were no spirit Qi fluctuations coming from it and neither was there any other kind of energy coming from it.

"Just what is it?" Lin Mu wondered.

The twin snakes were still a bit wary, but Lin Mu also felt a hint of confusion from them. It was as if even they didn't know what they were worried about before. This made Lin Mu feel relieved too.

'I guess they were just wary of the Proto-fissure rather than the actual statue inside.' Lin Mu guessed.

It made sense that the instincts of the twins were good enough to make them careful about space and the void. Both were dangerous when not stable and could kill even the strongest of cultivators.

Fifteen minutes later, Lin Mu was sure that the broken statue had no peculiarity. Even the material it was made out of seemed to be a normal stone. Though Lin Mu had not given up on it entirely.

'Since it is here in such a space that was quite certainly manufactured, there is bound to be some secret to this.' Lin Mu thought.

He considered it for a bit before deciding to touch it with his hand. The spirit sense was also useless in this situation as it simply passed through as if it were air. It meant that there were no defensive or security arrays on the statue.

Having confirmed this, Lin Mu decided to just keep it for the time being.

'Perhaps, I'll learn more about it in the future...' He thought.

Lin Mu's hand extended and his index finger finally touched the surface of the broken statue.

~HUALA~

And when he did, Lin Mu felt alarmed.

"NO!" Lin Mu's blood raged and several of his abilities activated.

The golden body glowed bright and the armor of the Mortal Strengthening Scripture appeared. Even his sword intent awakened, protecting Lin Mu unconsciously. The True Earth Heart Dao Embryo within his beat like a war drum.

~ROAR~

Even the bloodline of the Great Slumber Bear awakened, as the illusory form appeared over his body, roaring at the broken statue.

Despite all these abilities and defenses though, Lin Mu realized that he had failed.

A barely perceptible wisp entered his body. It was almost transparent and if it weren't for Lin Mu's instincts telling him, he might not have even found it. Lin Mu's spirit sense tried to follow the wisp and soon sensed it enter his Dantian.

But once it was there, it halted.

This allowed Lin Mu to see the form of the wisp clearly. It was smaller than a rice grain in size and yet its presence was quite imposing. How could something this small cause such an effect was a mystery to Lin Mu.

What was even more shocking was the speed of the wisp.

~WOONG~

But just as Lin Mu was watching the wisp, a new energy pulled onto it. This energy forced the wisp to split apart, telling it that it was not welcome

~RIP~

It was at that time that a change occurred. The wisp was torn apart into two fragments. One of them was pulled along the tendril of energy that had appeared in Lin Mu's body while the other rushed into the Nascent soul.

There the fragment of wisp turned into a small bracelet that hung on the Nascent soul's wrist. The second fragment though, continued to be pulled away.

'Where is it going?' Lin Mu wondered.

Tracking the path of the energy tendril, Lin Mu found it to be entering his right hand. Or more accurately the hand with the ring.

~HUSH~

The fragment of wisp entered the ring and disappeared inside. But Lin Mu didn't stop there, he was after all, worried about what it was. Hence, with a single thought, Lin Mu's mind arrived in the ring.

There, Lin Mu finally saw what was pulling the fragment of the wisp.

It was actually coming from the grey orb of spatial energy!

"Senior?" Lin Mu was surprised.

Xukong had been in a dormant state for a long time now and that great orb of spatial energy was where he was located. His avatar continually absorbed the spatial energy as a means to grow and recover.

While Xukong hadn't told Lin Mu how long he would be in a dormant state, he had started to think that it should not be too long. And now that he saw this scenario, he was feeling like that even more.

'Did Senior Xukong interfere to protect me?' Lin Mu wondered.

~POOF~

The wisp was quickly pulled into the grey orb of spatial energy, evidential being consumed by the being inside or something.

The surroundings felt eerily silent after that happened, and Lin Mu simply stood while observing everything. Ten minutes passed like this and there was no change to the grey orb of spatial energy.

~Sigh~

"Guess I was just hoping too much..." Lin Mu said with a sigh.

He withdrew his spirit sense and peered back into his Dantian, focusing on his Nascent Soul.

'It turned into this bracelet?' Lin Mu confused upon seeing the object.

As far as he knew, Nascent souls were not solid and any normal object would pass through it. And yet there was now a physical bracelet hanging from the Nascent soul's hand.

Lin Mu brought the Nascent soul closer, wanting to look more, but then he heard a voice.

"Lin Mu..."

"Senior!"

Chapter 1283 A Temporary Awakening And A New Channel

Hearing Xukong's voice was like a melody to Lin Mu.

"Senior!" Lin Mu called out anxiously.

"Mmmhmm..." A weak and muffled voice was heard in response.

"Are you okay senior?" Lin Mu asked with great concern.

"I... can't wake up... for now..." Xukong spoke slowly.

"Then when will you wake up? And how did you do it now?" Lin Mu questioned.

"That... thing... gave energy... My Avatar will... ready... soon... Not much time... is left..." Xukong continued to speak but Lin Mu found it hard to listen.

It felt like there was a lot of disturbance between Xukong speaking and his voice reaching Lin Mu.

'It almost feels like it is coming from... afar?' Lin Mu suddenly realized something. "Wait... perhaps it really is coming from afar!"

As far as Lin Mu knew, the body that Xukong had placed in his ring was just an avatar that he had made. Xukong's main body was still intact and lived in the Grand Void somewhere. He had appeared for a few moments when Lin Mu had used the World Essence crystal and after that there were no signs of him.

Lin Mu had wondered, just how did something like that work. But now that he had seen how Xukong was communicating, a thought came to his mind.

'Senior Xukong is technically switching between his bodies. The avatar and the true body. Thus if he needed the assistance of the World Essence Crystal to use his main body, he would need to weaken the limitation of the world.

And what was exactly what he had done.

But it had come at a cost, the cost being none other his ability to use the avatar and staying close to Lin Mu.

Xukong was not worried about himself though. After all, he was at a point where he could always recover and the only thing he needed was time. The one who couldn't recover from great trouble was Lin Mu.

"But if that strange wisp shortened the time needed for Senior Xukong's avatar to awaken, it must have some benefits for the mind..." Lin Mu reckoned.

He glanced at the bracelet hanging on his nascent soul's wrist and wondered if he could make use of it too.

But his initial attempts at making contact with it were a failure.

"Hmmm... I'll have to figure it out later." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Still, even if Lin Mu was never able to make use of it, he was already satisfied since Xukong had woken up. Even if it was just temporarily. At the very least, it was some extra hope for him. Hope that he would get to learn more about this world soon.

~huu~

Lin Mu opened his eyes finding the broken statue to still be there. He tilted his head and glanced at the twin snakes as well, finding them to be nervous.

"It's fine. I'm fine." Lin Mu petted their heads for a bit.

It was certainly shocking and scary for them. Not only had Lin Mu erupted with many of his abilities, but even the bloodline of the Great Slumber bear had been awakened. The oppression of that bloodline was actually ineffective on the Twin snakes, but with them being infants, there was still some fear.

~SKRESSS~

While Lin Mu was calming down the twin snakes though, he heard a strange sound coming from behind.

"WHAT?" Lin Mu turned around in a snap, gazing at a particular wall.

His eyes narrowed and Spatial perception activated, revealing the scene behind it.

'The spatial energy is being pushed aside?' Lin Mu saw the violent spatial energy of the void parting.

Something like this was almost always unnatural and was probably triggered by something as well.

~CRACK~

But while Lin Mu was observing it, he found cracks starting to appear.

"Oh no... that does not seem good." Lin Mu turned around and was just about to leave the minor plane when he had to pause.

~BOOM~

The spatial boundary collapsed and in came rushing two small jets of spatial energy. It seemingly twirled around each other before settling down and weaving together.

"Whoa! It's forming a channel!" Lin Mu had never seen a spatial channel being formed like this.

~WHOOSH~

Once the channel was completed, it created a suction force and directly pulled in the broken statue. Lin Mu was off guard and couldn't react in time to catch the statue.

"No... it might have just broken if I forced it to stop. It's good that it was pulled without a hitch." Lin Mu reckoned.

His fingers firmly held onto the twins snakes, preventing them from leaving his body. Though that might just be a little extra, as the twins could technically hide anywhere in his body.

A new situation intrigued Lin Mu now.

A new 'pathway' had opened up for him. He felt very curious about it and wanted to enter it. But he didn't forget the lesson he had learned just a few minutes ago. Lin Mu checked the pathway for any instability issues and found several.

Thankfully for Lin Mu, telling if something was spatially stable was a piece of cake. And if he made uses of the ring, his prediction would become even more accurate.

"Hmm... it would be a shame to go back without a proper look." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Having made his mind up, Lin Mu extended his left hand first before poking at the new pathway.

The surface of the pathway was smooth and unassuming.

~flicker~

And when Lin Mu's hand passed through it, he felt like he was coming out of a boundary.

"Hang on... this doesn't seem—" The force on him suddenly multiplied, pulling him across the teleportation channel.

"Shit!" Lin Mu cursed.

He could now only hope to wait the situation out, or make his way back.

Though both of them would be too difficult at this conjecture.

~THUD~

About a minute later, Lin Mu fell on his butt.

He was in a large room which had even more rooms attached to it.

Chapter 1284 A Damaged Building And Ten Apertures Blood Vein Flowers

"Ugh..." Lin Mu groaned as he felt a bit queasy.

"Rough Teleportation like this is never good..." Lin Mu tried to shake off the feeling.

He had just been forcefully teleported to a location that he didn't know much about. While Lin Mu had indeed tried to resist it, the effect had been too strong for him to react in time.

'It was almost as if it was lulling me into lowering my guard. And when I felt like it was fine, it suddenly increased the force and initiated a teleportation.' Lin Mu thought over the situation.

It was true that he had been fooled, but at the same time he realized that this had happened due to a lack of information and his own skill.

"I need to improve my spatial perception more... if I had it at a higher level, I might have detected this trap." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

After all, while Lin Mu could indeed see through Space and Void, there were limitations to his current understanding. If a more skilled person wanted to hide something, they very well could. And seeing the complexity of this place, Lin Mu was quite sure it was made by someone skilled at spatial manipulation.

~hiss~

The twin snakes hissed while hiding within his sleeves.

"It's fine. Don't worry." Lin Mu calmed them down before standing up.

~sigh~

'Since I'm here, may as well explore the area. Perhaps I'll find something useful or learn more.' Lin Mu thought before looking around.

His spirit sense was already extended, but couldn't reach the boundaries of this place. Lin Mu was standing in a large room that was about a hundred meters tall and equally wide. There was nothing here, but more entrances could be seen attached to its walls.

The floor of the room was made out of normal earth, but the walls were made from solid rock. There were also pillars at the corner of the room, holding up the ceiling. The pillars were perfectly square and had five segments of about twenty meters tall each.

Seeing the construction, it was evident that this place had been made by a human.

"Hmm... let's go there first." Lin Mu picked an entrance that was to the very left and began exploring.

There was no surprise in this room and it was just empty.

"Hmm... there's quite a lot of dust here." Lin Mu noted.

He checked the dust with his spirit sense and discovered something.

"Oh? It isn't just dust... there's ash too." Lin Mu saw several ash particles.

And when he looked through more dust, he found small fragments of paper too. They were very old and it was certain that this place contained a lot of them once upon a time.

"Did they all burn down somehow?" Lin Mu wondered.

This room wasn't as big as the one he had come from, being about twenty meters tall, but fifty meters wide. Unable to find out anything more than that, Lin Mu went back and picked another entrance this time. It was right next to the first one, but its insides were different.

Instead of dust and ash, Lin Mu found wet wooden flooring. And not just that, but there was even some rotting furniture here.

"Huh... this looks like an office." Lin Mu could see the remnants of what were probably wooden desks as well as several shelves here.

The wood had rotten too much, and most of the furniture here was in shambles. Even the flooring was soft at this point and Lin Mu's feet would sink in every time he stepped toward. The wet squelching sound was rather uncomfortable to hear too.

Seeing this had given Lin Mu a few ideas about what this place might be. But he didn't want to go wrong with his guess and decided to look at the other rooms as well.

The next room that Lin Mu entered was the same as the first room having dust mixed with ash. And the room after that had wet rotting wood floor as well as mottled furniture. This pattern repeated and a total of ten rooms were alternating in this pattern.

"There's no doubt, this place was probably a large administrative building." Lin Mu guessed.

One room was probably filled with shelves all stacked with documents and books and an office accompanied it. Several such rooms formed sets of offices, filling up the entire building.

Discovering this posed another question to Lin Mu.

'Why would there be a teleportation channel linking to this building? And why would the rooms with shelves be burned down while the offices rotting with water?' Lin Mu questioned himself.

Lin Mu now looked for an exit to this place, but didn't find any obvious exit. Even when probing the walls with his spirit sense he didn't find anything.

"Do I need to use Phase to get out?" Lin Mu furrowed his brows.

He didn't want to use Phase and accidentally end up trapping himself in some difficult place. Not to mention, he also had the twin snakes with him who couldn't exactly come along with him.

"Hang on... do you two feel anything around here?" Lin Mu decided to see if the instincts of the twin snakes had something to tell.

He communicated with them through the link, trying his best to make them understand. Thankfully, he was able to make use of the 'food' emotion and make them find a route out.

~hiss~

This time it was the White twin who had found something.

"What it Xiao Yang?" Lin Mu asked.

In response, the white twin flew out of his sleeve, jumping straight to the top of the large room.

~CRACK~

The roof seemingly cracked under the sheer power of the little snakes body and he drilled through it. Lin Mu furrowed his brows in worry and jumped after Xiao Yang.

~crack~crack~crack~

His fingers stabbed straight into the rock ceiling and ripped apart chunk after chunk. His spirit sense was scanning ahead but only found more rock.

'Is this place underground?' Lin Mu was puzzled.

He continued following behind Xiao Yang and after about two hundred meters of digging, Lin Mu finally sensed something new.

~Crumble~

The rocks above him crumbled apart after losing their foundation, allowing Lin Mu to come out on top.

~shua~

The familiar feeling of the space filled Lin Mu's senses.

Looking around, Lin Mu saw where he was.

"The Lesser Void?" Lin Mu could see a faint 'wall' isolating this area which was basically a large chunk of the earth.

It was like an asteroid floating in the vast expanse of the space, but in this case it was the void. There was a bubble like membrane isolating the entire area from being affected by the energies of the void.

But the surface of this 'asteroid' was rather contrasting against the darkness of the void.

"Flowers?" Lin Mu could see a garden of orange flowers spread all around him.

The flowers were about the size of a palm and had ten petals. Their stalks were green with a red line going through it while their leaves were triangular with dark red veins on them. A rather prominent energy could also be felt coming from them.

All this created a rather 'warm' environment, which almost made one forget that they were in the Lesser Void and not on a world.

"Xiao Yang! Wait!" Lin Mu suddenly shouted, seeing the white twin about to swallow a flower.

~snap~

Still, Lin Mu was just a moment late. Xiao Yang swallowed the entire flower with its stalk and leaves.

~hiss~

It then turned around and spat out a small streak of black energy.

"Yin spirit qi?" Lin Mu was surprised.

~SWOOSH~

Xiao Yin spent no time waiting and inhaled the small bit of Yin spirit qi. Seeing that both of them were fine, Lin Mu took a breath of relief.

~Phew~

'Seems like this place is a garden of some sort.' Lin Mu walked around and let the twins continue their meal.

Lin Mu knelt next to one of the flowers and examined it in detail. The more he looked, the more he felt like the flower seemed to be familiar.

"Wait a second... isn't this..." Lin Mu quickly took out the memoirs of the Lost immortal and flipped to one of the old entries.

"Yes, yes... this is it... The Ten Apertures Blood Vein flower." Lin Mu confirmed.

It was a rare flower that could be classified as an Immortal Herb. But many didn't know it was an even better herb for body cultivators. It was rich in Yang energy and could be utilized to make high grade elixirs that could be used by those at the Immortal realm!

As soon as Lin Mu realized this, he turned around.

"Oh no... I need to hurry!" Lin Mu used all his speed and collected as many of the Ten Apertures Blood Vein Flowers as he could before Xiao Yang ate them all.

Chapter 1285 Value Of Immortal Stones

Xiao Yang had already finished half of the flowers in the garden which alone was a large number. There were easily over a hundred flowers in the garden which would be a terrifying number if they were brought to be sold. The Ten Apertures Blood Vein flowers were something that could actually be sold for tens of Immortal Stones.

Immortal Stones were similar to spirit stones, but contained Immortal qi instead of spirit qi. One could say they were an upgraded version of spirit stones and were only found in Immortal worlds and above. They were a lot more valuable than spirit stones.

Even if someone had a million high grade spirit stones, they might not be able to exchange it for a single low grade immortal stone. It wasn't even a matter of cost, but rather the change it could bring forth.

Even if Spirit qi cultivators couldn't make use of Immortal stones, they could still use it to power some Immortal weapons. There were some lucky individuals in the myriad of worlds who held immortal weapons while they themselves were below the immortal realm.

With such weapons under their control, they could reign supreme for a long time. Even a Nascent soul realm cultivator might kill entire armies with the swing of an immortal weapon and slay Immortal Ascension realm cultivators. It was the equivalent of having a nuclear bomb.

Of course, such a thing only applied to the spirit cultivators who didn't have any immortal qi of their own and needed to depend on the Immortal stones to utilize such weapons.

For a false immortal who had not yet survived his first Immortal tribulation, he could still kill a spirit cultivator with an immortal weapon. The transaction of spirit stones to immortal stones would only be done between spirit cultivators after all, and for immortals it was needless to even consider.

In Lin Mu's case, Immortal stones would be quite useful for him. Even if he didn't have any immortal weapons, he could still utilize the Immortal stones in the most basic way: Currency.

Money was something one would need everywhere, and in the Rust Sky world, Lin Mu would definitely need it when he entered normal civilization. He would also need it to exchange for several resources that he couldn't get otherwise.

The Ten Apertures Blood Vein flowers would be a good way to kick start his venture into this world.

~Phew~

"Forty three... I managed to save forty three flowers." Lin Mu plopped down feeling rather scared.

He felt like he had almost lost a lifetime of a fortune but had still managed to grab back a handful. Lin Mu looked at the culprit behind his anxiety and saw him casually crawling back to him.

"Had your fill?" Lin Mu asked, unable to get angry at the child.

~Hiss~

Xiao Yang nodded his head as if to answer him before slithering up his arm and hiding under his sleeve to sleep. The other twin Xiao Yin had already fallen asleep after getting some Yin Spirit qi from her brother beforehand.

'Hmmm... They're getting stronger already...!' Lin Mu sensed the bodies of the twin snakes.

The Dao shells of the twins had already become half solid. This progress was really shocking and had been achieved in less than three days. If anyone from a mortal world were to see this, they might just die out of envy.

"If they keep this pace, they might end up leaving Little Shrubby in the dust in terms of cultivation base..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

The twins had great potential and talent, such that Lin Mu even wondered if they would reach the Immortal Realm before him.

"I won't be that slow, will I?" he wondered.

Regardless of whatever it might be, Lin Mu didn't mind it in the long term. The twin snakes would forever be attached to him, and the stronger they were the better it would be for Lin Mu.

After all, they were attached to him through the beast taming technique which couldn't be broken.

"Still... how can there be so many Ten Apertures Blood Vein flowers growing here? The condition here are less than ideal for them to grow." Lin Mu felt confused.

According to the memoirs of the Lost Immortal, the Ten Apertures Blood Vein flower needed a steady supply of blood along with rich amounts of qi.

The current location didn't seem to have any source of blood anywhere, and the closest source would be across the void in the Rust Sky world.

'Were they nurtured through some other method?' Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

But after thinking for a bit, he realized that it was unlikely for the Ten Apertures Blood Vein flower to have been cultivated by someone. The flowers were growing in a random pattern thus it was not possible for some herbalist or alchemist to have planted them here.

If someone intended to plant them, they would do so in a specialized and spaced out field that would give the best possible conditions to the Ten Apertures Blood Vein flower.

The more Lin Mu thought about this entire place, which was basically an asteroid, the more confused he got.

'An underground office with rooms alternating between flooding and burning. A garden filled with over a hundred Ten Apertures Blood Vein flowers as well as a membrane that protects it from the volatile energy of the void.' Lin Mu analyzed.

No matter what he thought, the scenario was just too strange for him to figure out an explanation.

"Guess I need to continue exploring..." Lin Mu reckoned.

With that in mind, Lin Mu moved away from the garden. The asteroid was several kilometers in size and thus there was plenty of space for Lin Mu to explore. Picking a random direction, he started to walk.

About ten minutes of walking later, Lin Mu saw a new structure appearing in front of him.

It was similar in design to the underground palace he had seen, but seemed to be greatly damaged. Plus it was situated on the surface instead of underground.

Chapter 1286: Unearthing A Wall And A Strange Danger

Lin Mu found it rather peculiar that the bricks were this different.

'Aren't they supposed to be protecting the core of the temple? Why are there no offensive formations on them. Not just that, they are different in quality than the previous bricks.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

His spirit sense had already probed the bricks, finding them to have no formations nor any runes on them. They didn't emit any spirit qi fluctuations either. If not for the fact that there were high quality bricks with strong formations earlier, Lin Mu would have thought this was just a crude temple.

After confirming that the large bricks were safe, Lin Mu finally touched them with his hands. And when he did, he felt something.

"This... how did I not feel it before?" Lin Mu was surprised.

Each of the bricks seemingly contained a large amount of earth essence. The earth essence was the higher form of earth energy and was rare to find in a mortal world. Even in an immortal world one might need to spend quite a lot of fortune to obtain a small quantity of it.

And yet, there was a lot of it contained within these bricks.

"No wait... the earth essence is flowing?" Lin Mu could tell that it was moving around.

He had not sensed it with the spirit sense, which made him think that perhaps it was beyond his current understanding. Perhaps it already fell in the range of 'immortal' instead of 'spirit'.

The only reason Lin Mu was even able to sense it after touching it was because of his high affinity to the earth element. He continued to sense the flowing earth essence and discovered that the earth essence was actually flowing in a specific pattern.

This made Lin Mu furrow his brows as it was unknown to him.

'It isn't any kind of a formation I know, this is something new...' Lin Mu was confused.

He had come across another thing that was not within the scope of his knowledge.

"I need to take this with me. At the very least, the Earth essence is very useful for me." Lin Mu decided.

He placed his hand on one of the bricks and tried to push it.

"HAA!" unexpectedly though, the bricks didn't budge.

Lin Mu didn't falter there though and used even more strength.

"Ugh... this doesn't work." It was disappointing to him.

After all, Lin Mu had great physical strength and Huyun Chuan had to admit that even an Immortal might not have such strength if they didn't use their cultivation base. This prompted Lin Mu to delve deeper into why it maybe like this.

Spending three hours in this, Lin Mu finally understood the reasoning.

He had tried to sense the movement of the Earth Essence within the bricks when he was pushing them. By doing this, he discovered that the Earth Essence would spread apart uniformly in a triangular repeating pattern.

This pattern formed a rigid matrix within the brick wall. The matrix linked up all the bricks and prevented them from being moved.

"Can I store them directly into the ring?" Lin Mu wondered.

He placed his hand on the brick wall again and tried to store it, but nothing happened.

"Won't work. Do I need to unearth the wall?" Lin Mu wondered and started to dig around the wall.

After a few minutes, Lin Mu had dug around fifty meters. Though more accurately it was him punching the ground to break it and then storing it away to excavate it quickly.

"Now let's see..." Lin Mu placed his hand on the large bricks once more and willed it to enter the ring.

~shua~

"It worked!" Lin Mu was pleased.

The entire string of wall had now been stored in the ring since it was connected. Lin Mu had to dig out the entire periphery of the wall to make it able to be stored though.

"These will come in handy quite a bit later, I hope." Lin Mu said to himself with a smile.

Ever since coming to this place, Lin Mu had obtained three benefits. The first being the Ten apertures Blood Vein flowers, the second the new kinds of formations from the second layer of wall and third the large stone bricks with earth essence within them.

Just these along were worth the trip here. Though Lin Mu didn't forget that he still needed to find a way out.

'With the Lesser void right above me, I should be able to link up with the Rust Sky world. Though it might take a few tries.' Lin Mu thought while looking at the 'sky'.

His eyes eventually went to the central structure of it all, feeling curious as to what it really was.

"The pillars have channels built into them..." Lin Mu could sense the energy channels that could carry any type of qi or other types of energies within them.

But when he checked the ground for it, he found that they were cut off there.

'Strange, aren't channels like these used to draw energy from spirit veins? Even if this palace had been cut off from what was probably the main world, there should still be some linking remnants in the ground.' Lin Mu was confused.

A comparable example would be the spirit qi channeling formation array that supplied spirit qi to the various buildings and residences in a sect. But such things needed what was basically a pipeline made from runes.

But that was clearly not present in the ground, making the structures practically useless.

"Unless, there is something more to it?" Lin Mu wondered.

He touched the pillars wondering if there was something similar to the large bricks in them, but this time there was nothing unexpected.

~GELELELELELE~

But just as Lin Mu stepped into the central structure, he heard a strange sound. The sound felt like it had ran directly in his mind and didn't come through his ears.

He became alert and was ready to act at any moment.

~GELELELELELE~

The sound was heard again, but this time Lin Mu heard it in his ears to.

"It's coming from the front?" Lin Mu didn't see anything there at first.

~Whistle~

Then suddenly wind started blowing and spun around the area, forming some sort of a vortex.

"This doesn't seem good..." Lin Mu directly used blink to bypass the barrier and get away from the structure.

"Wait..." A whisper could be heard.

"Huh?" Lin Mu's ears perked up but he didn't drop his guard.

"Come to me..." a voice spoke from the structure.

"Who?!" Lin Mu questioned.

"Come to me... be part of me..." the voice spoke eerily.

"Yeah, no." Lin Mu turned around finding it incredibly suspicious.

~SWOOSH~

But before he could go any further, a cold wind blew him back.

~WHOOSH~

Another wind vortex formed, preventing Lin Mu from proceeding any further.

"Why are you leaving me?" The voice spoke again.

"Don't leave me alone..."

"Be with me..."

"Forever..."

Lin Mu felt chills going down his spine and his instincts shouted danger.

"Shit!" Lin Mu used blink to put more distance between him and the structure but more wind vortices continued to appear.

~HONG~

It was at this point that the chiming of small bells could be heard. Lin Mu glanced at the source and saw an indigo colored ball of light appearing there. There was a black outline around the ball, and a creepy aura was exuding from it.

"We shall be here... together!" a voice came from the indigo colored ball.

A stream of energy poured out of the ball making Lin Mu feel anxious.

'What is that?' Lin Mu couldn't tell.

It was unlike anything he had seen before.

~SHUA~

The stream of energy poured into the pillars and entered the ground. It then seemingly spread all over the area before the ground started to shake.

~tremble~

'Those channels weren't meant to pull energy from the ground... they were to send energy into it.' Lin Mu realized.

~Rumble~

The ground started to move and several mounds appeared. These mounds continued to rise and then changed shapes. Soon they took the form of beasts.

"Wait a minute, aren't they..." Lin Mu recognized the form of those beasts. "Chasm Beasts!?"

The beasts formed from the earth had the same shape as the Chasm Beasts he had fought before, with the only difference being that they were made of earth rather than the dark dusty fog of the Broken Chasm.

Thankfully their strengths weren't great, being at the Dao Shell realm. Lin Mu could sense this simply from their aura.

~SHING~SHING~SHING~

Several weapons appeared around Lin Mu before he waved his hand.

"Go!" Lin Mu launched the weapons at the earth beast.

~CLANG~ CLANG~ CLANG~

Upon hitting the beasts, the spirit weapons made solid sounds. But the power contained within them was still enough to break the beasts apart.

~Crumble~

The beasts broke into fragments and fell to the ground. But Lin Mu didn't feel relieved at that.

'Their aura hasn't disappeared yet...'

Chapter 1287: Fatal Encounter!

The broken fragments of the earth beasts were shaking on the ground, as if they weren't dead yet.

"This is going to be a pain." Lin Mu got ready for a potentially tiring fight.

~Rumble~

The broken fragment 'melted' into the ground before reforming into the beasts.

~GUOAAAAAA~

The beasts roared at Lin Mu this time, anger and violence apparent in their eyes. They lunged at him, wanting to rip him to shreds.

~BOOM~

But the moment the first earth beast came close, it met Lin Mu's fist instead. Its entire body shattered and was shot back. The smaller fragments pelted the other earth beasts behind, damaging them in the process.

~SHING~

The spirit weapons flew around, slashing the beasts apart once more. But that was not enough as more such beasts took their place. The broken beasts simply returned to the earth for a few seconds before reforming.

"Is there no end to them?" Lin Mu said after killing six waves of the earth beasts.

They were seemingly immortal but Lin Mu knew that was not possible.

'They were made by that indigo ball in the center so if I get rid of it, that should stop them from reforming.' Lin Mu thought.

Deciding to end it in one attack, Lin Mu entered the stance for the Boulder Collapsing Fist and spun the energies within his arm. A few seconds later, his aura flared up and strong energy fluctuations emanated from his arm.

Boulder Collapsing Fist: Third Form- Devastator!

A pink ribbon of energy shot out of Lin Mu's hand and spun in a spiral while destroying everything in its path. A two meter deep gully was left on the ground even though the energy had not touched it at all.

The Earth beasts that were in its path were turned into dust as well and the pink ribbon of energy reached the target effortlessly.

~BANG~

The pink ribbon of energy struck the indigo ball of light and it was as if the air was cracked. A barrier had appeared around the indigo ball, blocking the path of the Devastator.

"Won't be stopped that easily." Lin Mu could sense that the barrier was being eroded by the pink ribbon of energy.

~GELELELELELE~

As if sensing that it was on the failing side, the indigo ball let out a cry. This triggered a wave of pressure to fall over the area, and cracks started to spread all over the ground.

"You will not leave!"

"Your soul will be mine!"

The voice spoke once more, but this time it was a lot more clear.

'Is that a woman?' Lin Mu could now differentiate the voice and found it to be feminine.

~shua~

And just as he thought that, he saw the aura around the indigo ball flare up. It changed shape and took the form of a woman. The figure had no features and even its clothes could not be made out.

It was like a simple outline of a woman with long hair.

But what was not simple was the energy fluctuations coming from her.

"What is that even..." Lin Mu was scared at this point.

And it wasn't because of the eerie appearance of the woman, but because of the strange energy she was seemingly releasing. It was certainly beyond any spirit cultivator, and seemed to be greater than an Immortal cultivator too.

'It may not be on the same league as Senior Xukong, but it is definitely not any average immortal cultivator either.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

From the many descriptions and information about the immortals he had obtained till now, Lin Mu was dead sure the woman's figure wasn't just at the First, second or any Immortal Tribulation realm.

"If anything, it might be at the peak..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

For the first time in a long while Lin Mu was feeling fear. His back was covered in cold sweat and goosebumps covered his skin.

'I can't stay here any longer, I need to leave!' Lin Mu decided.

~SHUA~

Deciding to put caution to the wind, Lin Mu poured as much spirit qi as he could into the ring triggering it to create a spatial portal.

~RIP~

Though instead of a stable portal, what appeared in front of Lin Mu was a spatial tear.

A spatial tear was and portals were technically the same thing, they only difference was in their stability and safety. A portals was a safe way to traverse the void, while a tear was a risky and unstable mode.

One took a lot of energy to stabilize while the other created a tear haphazardly in the weak points of the spatial fabric. Considering Lin Mu's dire situation, he needed the process to be fast and thus even a tear was fine for him.

~SCREECH~

The woman's figure let out an inhuman screech, seeing that her prey was about to escape. Dark tendrils shout out from her back, chasing down Lin Mu. And just as he was about to enter the tear completely, he was caught!

"ARGH!" Lin Mu felt a searing pain on his foot.

It was his left foot that had been caught and it felt like burning coals had been placed on it. Lin Mu's great defenses were seemingly nothing against the dark tendrils.

'Her energy... its is of a way higher quality than the spirit qi. My defenses are like paper against it.' Lin Mu struggled to pull his foot out of the tendrils grasp, but was unable to do much.

"You will not leave! Your soul is mine!" The woman's figure roared.

No matter how much Lin Mu tried, his strength was simply not enough to go against the dark tendrils. He felt like he was an ant trying to pull a carriage.

'Her cultivation base is way beyond my state right now.' Lin Mu realized.

He tried to call for Senior Xukong, but he was still in his dormant state. Lin Mu had hoped that he might be able to wake up considering he had done so just a while ago, but there was no success.

Lin Mu was starting to fall into despair, unable to find a solution. He used all the skills he had, even going so far as to use his Dao Embryo to break the dark tendril.

Right now his Dao Embryo was the strongest method of attacking that he had, but even that was useless against this.

~shua~shua~shua~

More tendrils started coming towards him, and just a couple seconds later another one wrapped around his other leg.

"MELD!" Lin Mu used more of his spirit qi, wanting to directly sever the tendrils using meld.

~SPARK~

But much to his dismay, the power of the spatial skill seemingly stopped upon touching the tendrils. Or more like, they were resisting the change to the very space itself.

Lin Mu's heart fell upon seeing this, as he knew what this entailed. He recalled Xukong's words.

'A strong enough cultivator can resist and even freeze the changes in space even if he or she does not have skill with the spatial element.'

While wondering how he could get out of this predicament, Lin Mu didn't realize a change in his Dantian. Or more accurately the new bracelet that was on his nascent soul.

It let out a bright light which traveled out of his Dantian and then extended out from his body!

~HISS~

The dark tendrils were like clay meeting the sea and directly melted away from the light.

"NOOOO!" the woman's figure screamed in pain.

Lin Mu didn't dare to think what had just happened and decided to take the opportunity to escape.

~shua~

His body successfully passed through the spatial tear and entered the lesser void. He was now out of the 'atmosphere' of the asteroid from earlier.

Turning around Lin Mu could still see the asteroid in the distance. His legs were still burning in pain, but he simply ignored it for the time being, knowing that it was imperative to find a way back to the Rust Sky world.

'Doesn't seem like she can come after me here...' Lin Mu's eyes were locked onto the asteroid which was now covered with dark clouds.

Faint screams were also heard coming all the way here, only making Lin Mu more anxious.

'If that light was just a few seconds later, I might not have survived.' Lin Mu understood.

He realized his mistake and etched this fact into his mind.

"I've become complacent in the Xiaofan world. I cannot behave the same way here... it is not at the same state anymore. I am but a mere ant here..." Lin Mu said to himself.

Furrowing his brows, Lin Mu found himself running out of air.

'The ring should have more air.' Lin Mu pulled out some stored air from the ring and breathed it, extending the time he could stay in the lesser void.

His eyes narrowed and spatial perception activated so that he could find a way back.

Chapter 1288: Analyzing Failure

Lin Mu kept on looking over his shoulder to make sure that the woman didn't actually follow him out. By now he was nearly twenty kilometers away from the asteroid but even then the screams of the woman could still be heard.

The almost fatal encounter had made Lin Mu a lot more anxious than before. But at the same time he was now feeling enlightened.

He had obtained a placeholder that he could use as his target. That figure of woman was certainly at the peak of the immortal realm, or perhaps even beyond that. But at the same time it was restrained for some reason.

'Why is it that she can't leave that asteroid? Is she trapped there? Or perhaps sealed?' Lin Mu wondered.

With the level of strength she had seen, Lin Mu didn't know for sure if she could dominate the Rust Sky world, but at the very least she should have been able to break her confines.

"Even if I consider that she had been sealed, then how strong must that person be?" Lin Mu was greatly intrigued.

He continued to analyze the situation of the woman as well as the Asteroid.

Empty hall...

Offices with rotting wood...

Rooms full of ashes...

A clan worship temple...

Walls made out of high quality spirit bricks...

And a woman's illusory figure that could 'create' life...

Combining all these points only made things confusing and complex for Lin Mu. Several questions popped up in Lin Mu's mind.

For example: why would there be a clan worship temple on top of a set of offices?

Or why were the offices rotting with dampness and the document storage rooms burned?

Even the high level defenses of the clan worship temple were a bit strange. Lin Mu didn't know if it was because they had been broken down, or if they were always like that, but he now felt like they were actually not meant to defend against 'external' forces.

'Were they intended to keep that woman... or whatever that is inside?' Lin Mu considered this possibility.

"No... that can't be. Those defenses aren't much for her power." He rejected that option.

Even Lin Mu himself would be able to break them at his current level given enough time, not to mention someone on the level of that woman.

Continuing to think of this, a rather absurd idea came to Lin Mu's mind.

"Wait... could it be that the defenses are really meant for outsiders? And seeing that it is a clan worship temple, people should have worshiped there. So this was meant to keep those worshipers outside?" Lin Mu deliberated.

It didn't make entire sense, but it there was also the factor of missing information. All the guesses that Lin Mu was making was on the basis of incomplete information. There were likely to be a lot of things that might shine a light on this matter somewhere else.

'Still, there is one thing I can confirm for sure.' Lin Mu thought as his eyes glinted.

"The Chasm Beasts are definitely made by that woman. That energy she uses can imbue life or perhaps some level of consciousness into matter. And that dark dusty fog is some kind of material that is being used by her to make Chasm Beasts." Lin Mu noted.

"And considering that the Chasm Beasts were out searching for that small square of hidden plane, it should be on the orders of that woman. She wanted that broken statue of legs, or more accurately that wisp that was hidden in it." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

His spirit sense entered his Dantian and glanced at the bracelet that was on the Nascent soul's wrist. Its glow had dimmed a little, and its presence also seemed to be weaker.

'That thing protected me and melted away that woman's powers. I can safely assume that they are foes in some regard. This would make sense if the woman was searching the statue out to destroy it.' Lin Mu thought.

He wondered if that wisp was also sealed in that broke statue, perhaps. And the reason it came out of it was because of Lin Mu being there and touching it.

The bracelet couldn't help but seem like a special thing to Lin Mu now.

"The power it contains is mysterious yet powerful. It could even help Senior Xukong's avatar recover faster." Lin Mu reckoned.

While Lin Mu continued to think about the woman and what the strange wisp was, he was also searching for a way out of the lesser void.

The thing was, there was a very clear way to get back to the Rust Sky world. But that also meant going back to the asteroid where the woman was. This wasn't something that Lin Mu wanted, as it would only mean his death.

There was only one option left for him, and that was to find another place that might be close enough for Lin Mu to open up another portal. Or at the very least, a crack and possibly slip out of here.

Thankfully, he had sufficient supplies of air in the ring along with spirit stones, so he didn't need to suffer for long. His spirit Qi stores were restored and most of his injuries were healed with the help of pills.

And for the first time since getting the golden body of the True gold Body forging arts, Lin Mu had a scar. Or rather, two scars.

The scars were spiraling around Lin Mu's legs all the way from his ankles to his knees. This was the same spot where the tendrils of the woman had wrapped and burned him.

'Even after the skin is healed, the scar is still there. Though the effect of the True Gold Body forging arts is also active and the scarred area is as tough as the rest of my body.' Lin Mu noticed.

As it was just a cosmetic flaw, Lin Mu didn't mind the scars being there. If it was something like the scarred area being weaker than the rest of his body, he would have to be worried quite a bit.

At that point, it would become his Achilles Heel. Or rather, in his case 'Achilles leg'.

That would be really unfortunate and Lin Mu would have to change a lot of his tactics in order to make his vulnerability less severe.

~Thud~

~CRACK~

Suddenly, Lin Mu heard the sound of something colliding.

"Huh?" Lin Mu's eyes tried to find the source of the sound in the darkness of the void.

~Crack~

Thankfully, the sound was heard again, allowing Lin Mu to lock onto it.

~Shua~

Lin Mu amped up his spatial perception to the maximum and looked at the area where the sound had come from. There he saw two 'blots' on the spatial fabric. One of the blots was several times bigger than the other and they seemed to be touching each other.

Lin Mu flew towards them, wanting to take a closer look.

'Maybe it will be the solution I need to get out of here.' Lin Mu hoped.

It was a saving grace that Lin Mu could still 'fly' in the void. Though it might be more accurate to call it floating instead.

In the Rust Sky world he was forced to stay on land due to the laws of the world. In the Lesser Void, while he was still technically under its rules, there was one thing missing: Land.

Without Land there wasn't any specific 'direction' to the gravity and therefore no way for Lin Mu to be forced in some position.

One could also say that Lin Mu was simply a weightless feather that was being propelled by the spirit Qi being spread out from it.

A couple of minutes later, Lin Mu finally reached the two 'blots' that were visible in his Spatial perception. He switched back to his normal vision and created a fireball to illuminate the area.

"More Asteroids?" Lin Mu discovered that the two 'blots' were in fact, two more asteroids.

They were considerably smaller than the one before but were still quite large.

The bigger one of the two was about half a kilometer in diameter, while the smaller one was just a hundred meters in diameter.

The smaller asteroid seemed to be hitting the bigger one every so often and was the source of the sound that Lin Mu heard. Looking closer, Lin Mu saw the cracks that had been created on the larger asteroid along with the equally large crater.

"The smaller asteroid is tougher than the large one, huh..." Lin Mu saw no large cracks or craters on the smaller asteroid.

But just as he was observing them, he felt a very faint fluctuation in the space. Narrowing his eyes, Lin Mu got closer and tried to track the fluctuation he felt.

~THUD~

The small asteroid slammed into the larger one again. The sound produced from it coincided with the spatial fluctuation!

"THERE! That's a node between the lesser void and the Rust Sky world!"

Chapter 1289: Narrow Escape

Lin Mu's eyes locked onto the place where the smaller asteroid was hitting the larger one.

At first it seemed normal, but in Lin Mu's Spatial perception he could see a node hidden there.

"No wonder they two asteroids keep on colliding. It isn't themselves are causing that, but rather the node there. It's making an attractive force that causes this." Lin Mu understood.

Having understood this, Lin Mu became a bit more cautious. After all he knew if something could cause such large asteroids to clash, it must have some great force. He didn't know what would happen if he got in between them when they were about to crash.

'That would not be a good way to test my durability for sure...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He continued to fly towards the two asteroids and reached them after about ten minutes. They were farther than they appeared to be.

"Just as I thought, the node is really there." Lin Mu could sense the spatial fluctuations a lot more clearly now.

~THUD~

~CRACK~

He also got to experience the crashing of the two asteroids. Since he was standing on the larger asteroid, the entire ground shook like an earthquake was happening. But Lin Mu was immovable.

"This makes it easy." Lin Mu said after letting his body's weight be fully released.

It kept him anchored to the ground and he didn't fall either.

~crack~crack~crack~

Each step he took created cracks on the ground. Lin Mu soon started to run and the cracks from his steps also got wider. Evidently he was exerting a lot more force than before.

'Just a little more...' Lin Mu's eyes were locked onto the small asteroid.

He was calculating the time it would take to crash again. Since he wanted to open a portal and slip in through the node, he needed to do it at a precise time.

"NOW!" Lin Mu took a leap and activated the ring.

~SHUA~

His spirit Qi started draining rapidly as a force exerted from his hand. The location of the node started to flicker before a thin but long tear appeared in the air.

"Just a bit more..." Lin Mu watched as the smaller asteroid kept on getting closer and closer.

It even seemed to be speeding up the closer it got. Lin Mu was standing in the crater created from the constant crashes and thus had some extra time before the smaller asteroid would strike the ground.

The air rippled as the thin tear started to expand slowly.

"Come on, come on..." Lin Mu urged the ring to work faster, and poured even more spirit Qi into it.

~WHOOSH~

The smaller asteroid was coming closer and was about a hundred meters away from Lin Mu.

100 meters...

90 meters...

80 meters

..

.

.

.

.

20 meters...

10 meters!

A dark shadow now covered Lin Mu as the smaller asteroid hid everything behind it.

"OPEN!" Lin Mu shouted and jumped into the narrow portal that had barely opened up.

It was just enough to let him pass sideways, but he managed to do it.

~BOOM~

The smaller asteroid finally crashed into the ground, and the portal dissipated with that too.

"Haa... HAA... Haaa..." Lin Mu panted and looked back at the place where the portal was there just a moment ago. "I made it..."

Lin Mu felt his heart beating fast like a horse. It took him a minute to calm down, but the anxiety faded away with that too.

Taking this chance, he looked around the area.

"Where is this place?" Lin Mu couldn't help but question.

He certainly knew he wasn't in the lesser void anymore and was back in the Rust Sky world. The space around felt firm and wasn't as unstable as that of the lesser void. But at the same time, Lin Mu was surrounded in darkness.

His spirit sense extended, but didn't find any walls around him. The only solid surface was underneath him.

~shua~

"Let's brighten this place up a bit." Lin Mu ignited a fire ball on his hand.

With the light from the flames, he could finally see his surroundings.

"Oh, hang on... isn't this..." Lin Mu could now see stone walls in the distance.

But not just that, he could see chiseling marks on the walls too.

"I'm in one of the tunnels carved out by the Haima Tribe, aren't I?" Lin Mu guessed.

Lin Mu knew that the Haima Tribe had a lot of underground tunnels and caves excavated over the years. Other than the main cave where the tribe was, there were several branches of smaller tunnels and caves extending from it.

There were even a few that had collapsed over the years and some that were invaded by Chasm Beasts. Such tunnels were closed up by the Tribe so that no more beasts would get through.

"Seems like I'm in one of the collapse tunnels." Lin Mu came across a lot of rubble, along with large boulders that were blocking the path forward.

From the looks of it, the tunnel was naturally collapsed.

'Hmmm... at least I won't have to travel far back to the tribe. Though its surprising that I ended up this close despite the fact that I entered the Lesser Void quite far away.' Lin Mu pondered to himself.

But then after a minute, he realized something.

"No, I was far away originally when I entered the small place with the broken statue. But then I was pulled into the lesser void and went through a teleportation channel." Lin Mu mut

tered, analyzing his situation.

'Guess that was what sent me this far back. But then, doesn't that also mean that woman is rather close to the Tribe?' Lin Mu felt a lot more worried now.

~Sigh~

"I should first get out of here." Lin Mu said before getting to moving the rocks.

Since the twin snakes were sleeping under his sleeves, Lin Mu couldn't really use Phase. Otherwise, getting through here would be rather easy.

About ten minutes later, Lin Mu had cleared out enough rubble to let him pass thorough.

"Who's there?!" After getting out though, Lin Mu heard a voice.

Chapter 1290: Elder Niji's Dao Embryo

Lin Mu felt pleased upon hearing the voice.

"It's me Lin Mu!" he said in the Haima Tribe's language.

"Noble Lin Mu!?" The Haima tribe member that was patrolling the tunnels was surprised.

This tunnel was properly illuminated and the Haima tribe was also carrying a torch with him.

"How are you here? Didn't you go out from the surface?" the Haima felt confused.

"It's a long story." Lin Mu shook his head. "We should first head back to the Tribe." He suggested.

"Alright. Please follow me. I'll take you back." The Haima tribe member replied.

"Where are we, though? This doesn't seem to be the normal tunnel routes." Lin Mu asked, feeling curious.

"We are in the farthest tunnels of the tribe. No one really comes here after the Chasm Beasts dug in once. While we killed them back then, we still avoid this area. Plus, there isn't really a use being here." The Haima member replied.

"Why dig this far, then?" Lin Mu questioned next.

"There was a mineral ore vein nearby. That was the reason why this area was further excavated. We wanted to see if there was more to mine here, but we didn't get anything. Only the first ore vein we found was valuable enough to mine.

After that was depleted, this area became useless." The Haima Tribe member answered.

"I see..." Lin Mu nodded his head. 'Since it's one of the farthest tunnels of the tribe, it should still be fine.'

The two of them traveled for about half an hour before coming across more Haima members.

"Noble Lin Mu! It's Noble Lin Mu!" the Haima members shouted upon seeing Lin Mu appear from one of the tunnels.

The shout attracted everyone's attention, and now Lin Mu had over a thousand people staring at him.

"Hello!" Lin Mu waved his hand, finding himself in one of the caves where they grew Stone Flesh Mushrooms.

A few members approached them and asked the Haima, who had brought Lin Mu some questions. They were wondering why Lin Mu was here too.

"I'll head on to meet Elder Niji first, need to tell him some important things." Lin Mu stated, not wanting to talk to them right now.

There were a lot of questions in Lin Mu's mind, which he hoped Elder Niji might be able to shed light on.

'They also need to know the source of the Chasm Beasts.' Lin Mu thought.

He ran through the halls and reached the main area of the tribe in just five minutes. From there, a single leap was all it took for him to reach Elder Niji's residence.

Lin Mu's spirit sense felt the energy fluctuations in the air, making him realize something.

;

"He broke through again?" Lin Mu raised his brows.

~CREAK~

The door of the residence opened without Lin Mu having to do anything.

"Welcome back, Noble Lin Mu." Elder Niji had a smile on his face.

"I see that you've had some progress." Lin Mu said, trying to estimate the man's cultivation base now.

"I have indeed..." Elder Niji nodded his head.

~SHUA~

He waved his hand, and a small sphere flew out of his chest. The sphere was light blue in color and had wave like patterns on it. This was none other than Elder Niji's Dao Shell.

But what was surprising was the object that was present inside it.

"You formed a Dao Embryo?" Lin Mu noticed the small rhombus shaped object inside.

"I did indeed. Just last week." Elder Niji nodded his head.

This was faster than Lin Mu had originally expected. While he knew they would adjust to the spirit Qi soon enough, actually forming a Dao Embryo was an entirely different matter. After all, one needed to sense and comprehend the Dao Traces to make one.

Lin Mu had left the Tribe about two months ago, thus Elder Niji's progress was quite good.

'The workers in the farm also seemed to be at the Nascent soul realm, now that I think of it...' he recalled.

Lin Mu glanced at the Dao Shell and the Dao Embryo within it, trying to figure out just what it was.

"My Dao Embryo is called the Tide Scale." Elder Niji spoke, guessing Lin Mu's thoughts accurately.

"Tide Scale?" Lin Mu was confused. "Tide as in a water tide?" he asked.

"Yes... My Dao Embryo came from the Dao Trace of Water." Elder Niji confirmed.

"The Dao Trace of water?" Lin Mu found this rather unexpected.

"How did you develop something like this? It doesn't make sense... you haven't even seen a sea or any large water body." Lin Mu questioned.

"I... don't know either. I just had an epiphany out of nowhere and by the time I came out of that state, I already had the Dao Embryo." Elder Niji answered.

"Huh..." Lin Mu knew this wasn't something normal. 'If he had enlightenment and the Dao Embryo formed automatically, then... isn't this an innate Dao Trace?' he reckoned.

The Haima Tribe had lived in the land of exile for a long time. Thus, most of them never even heard of a sea, not to mention see any large water body. While they did indeed see water, as there was enough of it underground, it was still unexpected.

After all, usually one would only form a Dao Embryo related to the things one had experience.

"Also," Elder Niji wasn't d

one yet.

~SPLASH~

He waved his hand and spirit Qi rose from his body. It turned corporeal before taking on a blue shade. The spirit Qi then flowed forward, turning into water!

"I can make water now." Elder Niji stated.

"This is impressive..." Lin Mu started to think of how this could be made use of.

"How far does your ability go? Can you also manipulate water?" he asked.

"Of course. Creating it is the hard part. If there is already some water present, I can control it like a limb." Elder Niji waved his hand once more and three streams of water came out of the house.