

## Walker 1291

### Chapter 1291: Informing Elder Niji And Others

"So what you are saying is, there is some being that is behind the creation of the Chasm Beasts?" Head Warrior Kulo asked.

"Yes." Lin Mu nodded his head for the eighth time. -Sigh-"All this is..." Head Warrior Kulo sighed. "Too much, I know." Lin Mu nodded again. "This is still good for us. At least we now 'mow the mystery behind the Chasm Beasts." Elder Niji spoke up. "Perhaps, but it gave us another mystery. Who is that woman or whatever being that is and why is she on that asteroid?" Head Warrior Kulo replied. The three of them had been talking for a while and Lin Mu had called them to Elder Niji's residence to talk about the Chasm Beasts. He explained everything he had seen, right from the broken statue all the way to the clan worship temple and the illusory woman that came from the indigo light ball. Lin Mu had hoped that Elder Niji might have some insights, but there was no use. They too, were as lost as Lin Mu was.

"Guess you are going to talk to Huyun Chuan about this now?" Elder Niji asked after a while.

"Yes, he's the only one left we can talk to. Though I would not want to tell him everything directly." Lin Mu answered.

"That might be for the best. That thing you saw on the asteroid is too dangerous." Even Elder Niji found it best to restrict this information.

"I'll see if we can get anything from him. Besides, I need to ask him about his 'rescuers' too. It's been a while and there are no signs of them." Lin Mu replied. "Yeah, we've kept a watch as you asked, and there are also patrols searching for them. If anyone appears, we'll know." Elder Niji stated.

With this done, Lin Mu headed out of the tribe and went to see Huyun Chuan. The man was doing relatively well for a prisoner and mostly spent his time in his cell sleeping. He was given stone flesh mushrooms as food every so often and didn't seem to be complaining anymore.

-shua

Lin Mu appeared outside the prison and waved his hand, opening a gate for himself.

"Huh?" Huyun Chuan who was lying on the ground, looked up to see Lin Mu. "Guess you have some furniture here too now." Lin Mu saw the stone bed and stool that were in the cell.

"The tribesmen brought me these in exchange for telling them some stories." Huyun Chuan answered.

"I see..." Lin Mu didn't really mind this. Huyun Chuan had no chance of injuring them and was the same a commoner now. Even a child from the tribe would be able to pummel him to death. Plus the strength of the tribe had greatly increased in this time with Nascent soul realm becoming the average cultivation base for everyone.

"So what are you here for today?" Huyun Chuan questioned. "I got a few things to talk to you about."

Lin Mu said before sitting down in front of him. He then took out a jade slip and passed it to the man.

"Take a look and tell me if you find it familiar or know anything." Lin Mu instructed. "Okay..." Huyun Chuan held the jade slip and went through its contents. In it he saw several images, some of which made him a little scared. "What the hell was that!?" Huyun Chuan asked. "That is what I wanted to ask Find anything familiar?" Lin Mu replied. "No! There's nothing normal in that." Huyun Chuan said, finding it absurd. "Where did you even see all this? And that... woman."

"I encountered here... somewhere here in the Land of exile." Lin Mu stated plainly.

"That thing is here?" Huyun Chuan felt a chill going down his spine. "How strong do you think she was?"

Lin Mu asked next. "She's easily at the peak of the Immortal realm. After all, she commanded a great control over energies. She was directly using the power of the Dao to do all that. I've only seen generals and old ministers of the Kingdoms use that. All of them are at the very least sixth tribulation immortals."

Huyun Chuan replied, confirming Lin Mu's suspicions.

'So it really is as I thought\_ I'll need to be a lot more careful,' Lin Mu noted. "Is there anything you find familiar or something you can tell me about from that?" Lin Mu asked again. "Hmm... other than that temple, I don't know much." Huyun Chuan replied. "Oh? You know about that temple?" Lin Mu said with intrigue. "Well, I don't know what that woman was or to whom the temple was made for, but I do recognize that style of temple." Huyun Chuan replied. "Yeah, it's a clan worship temple for ancestors, right?" Lin Mu asked. "Not just that, it's actually in a style that is specific to the old kingdoms. It's not popular anymore and they don't make them like that anymore." Huyun Chuan answered. "Whatever you saw was really old, like at the very least a million years old." He added. "I see..." Lin Mu furrowed his brows.

"The architectural style has changed now. I don't know much about it myself, but I can tell it's old since there are some ruins of a similar style in the Purple Sparrow Kingdom too." Huyun Chuan explained.

"Then is there anyone who might know more about this?" Lin Mu asked with a little hope. "The best place to find such information would be the kingdom's old libraries. If you can manage to get into the royal library, you will find detailed information about old clans, their administration methods, as well as history. Architecture should be included in that somewhere." Huyun Chuan said after thinking for a bit. "Alright." This gave Lin Mu some more hope. While he didn't necessarily need to find more about the woman, Lin Mu still wanted to know just how strong she was and what methods she was using. After all, the key to getting strong was to obtain more knowledge and expanding the scope of understanding..

#### Chapter 1292: Losing Aim And Finding New One

Lin Mu obtained a few more details from Huyun Chuan before getting to another thing that had been pending for a while.

"It doesn't seem like anyone's coming to rescue you." Lin Mu stated.

Huyun Chuan's expression fell upon hearing this, but he quickly forced a straight face.

"They just need more time. They are probably being monitored even now and need to wait longer. They will come get me, just you watch." Huyun Chuan reiterated.

"Mm... but even if they come, how will they exactly find you here? This place is vast and full of dangers. Are they even sure you would live long enough to be rescued?" Lin Mu said, depressing the man even more.

"Even if they get here, they will be limited how long they can search for. You surely don't think they will keep on searching for you non-stop without any clue?" He added.

Deep down, Huyun Chuan knew Lin Mu's words were reasonable, but he didn't want to believe them. He wanted to keep on hoping that someone would really come to get him later.

~Sigh~.

"Guess we'll just wait then. We'll get out some other way, if they don't come." Lin Mu said before taking his leave.

Huyun Chuan stayed without moving, depressive thoughts going through his head without a stop.

It wasn't that Lin Mu didn't want to believe in Huyun Chuan's people.

'It would be a lot easier if they came to get him. As long as I have a look at the talisman, I should be able to make more of them. Maybe even an array that can directly get the tribesmen out.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

For now, he could only do his best to prepare and let the clan develop.

They need a firm footing if they were to venture outside. There was no telling the dangers they would face right after leaving the Land of exile.

'At least we have the saving grace with Elder Niji. His affinity for Water Dao is really unexpected. Even seems to be innate on some level.' Lin Mu remembered.

"Perhaps we'll learn more once the others breakthrough. Though maybe I can try and teach them some water elemental Qi skills or techniques?" Lin Mu pondered.

He did have a lot of them that were collected over the years, but having to change them to fit the Haima Tribe's requirements was going to be difficult.

"There's no harm in trying. We got time anyway... as long as I that desire doesn't flare up." Lin Mu's face darkened.

He had not forgotten that day, which had forced him into a state he didn't like. The feeling of having something stolen from oneself was hard to deal with. Especially one that incited pure rage within him.

Even now, Lin Mu could feel that desire if he focused his mind. It was something he would have to inevitably search for.

While thinking about all this, Lin Mu returned to his residence.

He put the twin snakes on their pillow and decided to rest as well.

'It's been months since I slept.' Lin Mu realized.

The last time he had slept was when that incident happened. He didn't dare to sleep after that.

"It should be fine now, right? Even if something happens, I'm at least a bit more experienced now and won't be caught off guard." Lin Mu said to himself before lying on the bed.

Closing his eyes, he dozed off quickly.

It seemed like luck was on his side, and he didn't encounter the same situation as before.

“Guess I was worried about nothing...” Lin Mu said in a hoarse voice after waking up.

He stretched his body and went to take a look around the tribe. He returned a few hours later and started to cultivate.

For Lin Mu cultivation was trying to deepen his understanding of the Dao Trace of Earth now. It would also help him learn more about his Dao Embryo and perhaps even take it to the next level.

He sat and meditated while the Dao shell floated in front of him.

Right now, the Dao Shell was in its miniature form and was about the size of a watermelon. The Dao Embryo within it though, was just the right size to observe. It was about the same as a human heart and allowed one to observe it in detail.

~lub~dub~lub~dub~

The True Earth Heart Dao Embryo continued to beat lightly, allowing Lin Mu to focus on it. He felt like this might be the best method to increase his understanding.

In the Dao Treading realm, there was no set method of doing things. Even if there were manuals, they merely described some general steps that one could take.

Only for Dao Embryos that were well established and recorded, were there any concrete methods.

But for Lin Mu, who had a unique Dao Embryo, he had to learn and discover everything on his own.

The more he listened to the True Earth Dao Embryo, the more connected he became to it.

Each vein, each beat, each vibration was being melded into Lin Mu’s being.

‘What is the meaning behind my Dao Embryo? Every Dao Embryo has a meaning behind its form, so where does mine come from?’ Lin Mu came upon this question.

‘True Earth Heart... a Heart made truly from the earth. A heart is the core of one’s body. It pumps the blood, which gives everything energy. Without it, one would be dead.

A Heart of Earth should do the same then?

But what can it supply instead of blood?

Something as important as continuing life... can it do that?’ The more Lin Mu thought, the more questions presented to himself.

He didn’t feel like these questions were bad though. To him, it only felt like more doors were appearing, each showing a new facet of his Dao Embryo.

Lin Mu continued to cultivate and ponder like this for several days on end, time turning into a mere afterthought.

Chapter 1293: Reaching The Dao Comprehension Stage

Lin Mu had entered a trance and had no sense of time.

While this was a little troublesome, it was also beneficial to him at the same time. His Dao Embryo that was floating in the Dao Shell in front of him kept on expanding slowly. Millimeter by millimeter it, grew.

Such was the Embryo Growth stage of the Dao Treading realm.

The more one's Dao Embryo grew in this stage, the better their comprehension of the Dao Traces would be. And the more they comprehended the Dao Trace the more their Dao Embryo would grow.

It was a looping cycle that started slow but sped up the longer one managed to maintain the state.

Lin Mu was in that condition. Perhaps it was because he was in a high leveled Immortal world that was on the precipice of World Ascension, the Dao Traces were very active. Lin Mu was progressing at a shocking pace and so was his cultivation base.

Two months passed like this and Lin Mu's Dao Embryo had nearly doubled in size now. It was now the size of a human head and looked very lively. The aura of earth spread from it, covering Lin Mu with a brown glow.

Only when this glow faded away did Lin Mu open his eyes.

~huh~

Lin Mu exhaled, and brown colored Qi escaped his mouth. This Qi was heavy and directly sank to the ground.

"Earth... Heart... and Truth..." Lin Mu chanted.

"Find the Truth of Earth and make it like one's heart... Comprehend the Dao of Earth and encompass the world..." A strange mnemonic appeared in Lin Mu's mind..

~SHUA~

Spirit Qi surged like a tide and drowned out Lin Mu's entire residence in one go.

The Haima Tribe members that were nearby all felt the sudden rise in spirit Qi and almost knelt on the ground. To them it was like they were suddenly pushed into a deep lake and the water was making it hard to move.

But this was just the start.

The spirit Qi started to surge into Lin Mu's body, but this didn't reduce the pressure of the people around. Instead, the pressure of the spirit Qi was replaced by a heavy aura. This aura expanded from Lin Mu's body and kept on growing.

First it was only spread in a two meter area around him, but then it covered the entire residence. Spreading further, it took in the nearby houses within its grasp and then the entire neighborhood.

Ten minutes later, the Haima Tribe was covered with the heavy aura and each member felt like their weight had doubled. Fine cracks could even be seen developing on the ground, and the Earth Fixing Array was working hard to fix it.

The Array too was changing under this aura.

At first it was unaffected, but then the runes on it started to flicker. This changed to the array suffering under the aura, before adapting and being strengthened by it instead.

~TREMBLE~

Right now if one looked from the sky, they would see a mountain rising up from the ground.

This was the same mountain that was formed by the Earth Fixing array, but now it was growing too. Every second, its height increased by one foot.

What was basically hundreds of years of phenomena was finished in mere seconds. The Mountain rose into the sky, becoming nearly five thousand meters tall!

At this point, it was as if a bottleneck had reached and it could no longer rise.

The rise had not just come with a height increase either, but also a width increase. The mountain which only covered the ground surface above the tribe, was now five times as wide.

The prison cell Lin Mu had made for Huyun Chuan with a formation array was also included in this and was seemingly assimilated by the Earth Fixing Array.

“What the hell is this?” Huyun Chuan didn’t know the situation.

All he knew was that his body was incomparably heavy and that the illusory cell walls had suddenly turned corporeal. Instead of prison bars made out of illusory runes, they were now made out of solid rock.

The entire prison cell looked to be carved out of a single piece of large rock, looking aesthetically pleasing.

Huyun Chuan though didn’t have the time to appreciate it as he was rather uncomfortable. His cultivation base was sealed which meant that he had to bear the brunt of the increased weight himself.

Even breathing was hard to him right now, and if it weren’t for the fact that he had fallen on his back, he might have just choked to death lying on his chest.

The Broken Chasm which was originally quite some distance away from the mountain was now a couple hundred meters away. The area around it also seemed to have naturally merged with the mountain.

If one looked at it right now, they would think that it had always been there and hadn’t just grown in a short period of time.

Perhaps even Immortals might not be able to tell the difference.

Back inside the tribe, the only ones who were still standing right now were the members who had reached the Dao Shell realm.

As of now, there were less than fifty such members which included Elder Niji, Head Warrior Kulo and several Scouts.

“Elder Niji... Noble Lin Mu is...” Head Warrior Kulo didn’t know what to think.

“He is having a breakthrough again... It is certainly a bit troublesome.” Elder Niji said with furrowed brows.

“Then the tribe...” head Warrior Kulo said with concern.

“The tribe will be fine, they can endure this much. Perhaps they might even get to learn form this.” Elder Niji stated.

“Still... isn’t this a little extreme? Even your breakthrough wasn’t like this.” Head Warrior Kulo said with doubt.

“That is true. But at the same time, while both Noble Lin Mu and I are in the Dao Treading realm, we are in different stages. I’m merely at the Embryo birth stage.” Elder Niji replied.

“What about Noble Lin Mu? What stage has he reached?” Head Warrior Kulo asked.

He was quite interested as he himself had reached the Dao Treading realm recently, becoming the second person to do so. The more Dao Treading realm cultivators there were in the Haima tribe the better it would be for them.

Not to mention, with their breakthrough they would be able to record important information and then guide their junior tribe members with it. With the lost history of the Haima Tribe, this was a very important thing.

Lin Mu had instructed them to record every bit of their progress too. Even the smallest tips in cultivation were very important after all. And despite Lin Mu’s research into cultivation techniques for the Haima Tribe, there was a lot of uncertainties left behind.

Only by collectively learning would they be able to find new heights in cultivation.

Elder Niji thought about Head Warrior Kulo’s question for a minute before determining.

“There is no doubt... he had broken through to the Dao Comprehension Stage of the Dao Treading realm.” Elder Niji stated.

“Really? Doesn’t the Embryo Growth Stage along take hundreds of years to cover?” Head Warrior Kulo inquired.

This was something they had heard not just from Lin Mu, but Huyun Chuan had also confirmed this for them. The human nobles that progressed fast only did so by birthing familiar embryos that their clans or elders had grown as well.

Basically, they were copying other’s path and were being guided ahead. Their progress was bound to be faster than someone who was basically exploring and searching for their own path.

“That might be so for the average person, but Noble Lin Mu is far beyond that.” Elder Niji said before looking towards the direction of Lin Mu’s residence.

Head Warrior Kulo had a solemn look on his face as he looked at Lin Mu’s residence too.

“Take this opportunity to observe. Perhaps we’ll have an easier time later.” Elder Niji advised.

Head Warrior Kulo merely nodded in head, while the others in the room could only do so with their eyes.

They were transfixed and simply waited for the situation to pass.

Though deep within their bodies, fine changes could already be seen happening. Spirit Qi surged before being weighed down under the heavy aura. This resulted in it being condensed further, and increasing its quality.

This was something that only happened for those below the Dao Shell realm though. The ones above it had already concentrated their spirit Qi enough to make it incompressible for now.

Unless they reached the Dao Shell realm, they wouldn't be able to condense it further.

Back at Lin Mu's residence, the source of all this was calmly observing it all.

"So this is the Dao Comprehension stage..." Lin Mu muttered before raising his hand.

~SHUA~

Earth spirit Qi gathered within his hand and condensed into a small pebble.

"It truly is marvelous..." Lin Mu praised before controlling the aura and retracting it back into his body.

Chapter 1294: Hidden Details In The Dao Traces

Lin Mu could feel like a whole new world had opened up to him. He blinked several times and could see a new perspective around him.

"The Dao Traces of Earth are everywhere around me..." Lin Mu softly muttered.

All around Lin Mu, small specks of brown particles could be seen floating. They were rather different from the Earth Spirit Qi too, having a presence that gave one a feeling of firmness. Not just that, but when Lin Mu looked closer at the Dao Traces, he could see something more.

"Is that... a character?" Lin Mu's eyes continued to focus on the Dao traces and soon recognized the tiny character that was written on them.

"No... they aren't written on them. They are the same..." Lin Mu focused even more, finding that the character seemingly disappeared and turned into a single brown speck.

But when he observed it longer, the brown speck turned into the character. It was similar to how there were runes floating in the air when using formations and arrays.

The more Lin Mu observed the character the more details he found within it. The character itself seemed to be simple, but there were actually finer parts to it that were cleverly disguised.

'The character itself is made out of several smaller characters...' Lin Mu realized.

He spent two hours like this before he finally recognized one of the sub characters that made up the main character on the brown spec..

"Earth! That's the Dao Script Character for Earth!" Lin Mu finally confirmed.



But this was merely the start of it all. While it seemed normal that the Dao Script letter for Earth would be within the Dao Trace, it was just one of them and there were more different characters hidden alongside it.

Three more hours later, Lin Mu recognized another character. "Stone..."

This time it was the Dao Script Character for Stone.

'Of course, stone is also a form of earth and thus should be a part of it.' Lin Mu thought.

Hours passed like this and Lin Mu continued to recognize more and more sub characters hidden within the brown specs of Dao Traces.

Earth...

Stone...

Mud...

Soil...

Boulder...

Marsh...

Mountain!

After seven sub characters, Lin Mu had reached a bottleneck.

"Why can't I perceive more of them?" Lin Mu was confused.

Now that he tried to observe the sub characters, he found them turning blurry. While he could still read the seven sub characters from the Dao Script, he could not read more.

~hoo~

Letting out a breath, Lin Mu decided to stop for now.

"I should rest and try later... forcing won't do me any good." Lin Mu softly said to himself.

He lightly blinked, and the brown specks of Dao Traces that were floating around him all disappeared. It was as if they were never there.

"The Dao Comprehension Stage is truly a unique level of cultivation... No wonder progressing from here is hard for so many people. It is simply too vast..." Lin Mu reckoned.

At this point in cultivation, one wouldn't absorb spirit Qi to further their cultivation base. Instead they would have to comprehend the Dao Traces, until they reached a point of epiphany and broke thorough to the Immortal Ascension stage.

Of course for Lin Mu, now that he was in a high leveled Immortal world like the Rust Sky world, it shouldn't be that difficult. He had after all formed a unique Dao Embryo and as per Huyun Chuan's information should be able to breakthrough automatically.

He wouldn't be like others who make use of Dao Treasures of Dao Essence crystals. And Neither would he be using an Ascension Spirit pill. His foundation was truly stable and should allow him to breakthrough directly at a certain point.

"Still... how do I reach that point? What is it that triggers a breakthrough to the Immortal realm?" Lin Mu wondered.

He knew that one needed to comprehend Dao Traces, and seeing how he had found fine characters within the Dao Traces, Lin Mu reckoned it was something to do with that.

'Even the documents and cultivation manuals from the sects of the Xiaofan world only describe the cultivation up to the Embryo Growth Stage of the Dao Treading realm. After that, the rest is up to the luck of the cultivator as well as their comprehension ability.' Lin Mu continued to ponder.

But no matter how much he thought, there was clearly no path that seemed to be presenting to himself other than to continue learning more characters.

"Maybe a change will happen once I observe all the sub characters." Lin Mu guessed. "Mmm, I'll do that then." He decided.

~SHUA~

At this moment though, Lin Mu felt a wave of spirit Qi coming from the distance. Normally he wouldn't feel it at this distance, but the breakthrough had made him a lot more sensitive than before.

"Oh? Someone is reaching the Dao Treading realm?" Lin Mu noticed.

He left his residence and jumped up to the roof. From there, it was easy for him to observe every corner of the Haima tribe.

"It's on the outer gate of the tribe." Lin Mu recognized.

The outer gate was where the main exit of the tribe was located and the people stationed around there were guards.

"Who could be breaking through there?" Lin Mu leaped in that direction.

His body soared through the air and quickly covered large distances with it. In just a few leaps, Lin Mu had already reached the outer gate.

There he saw several Haima members standing around a person. Lin Mu glanced at him and found him to be one of the members of the 'elite' guards that had trained with him once before.

"Warrior Midi is also having a breakthrough today. Seems like today is a very lucky day for our tribe." The people standing around said while gazing at their companion.

No one had noticed Lin Mu who was standing on a building nearby though. He didn't disturb them either, leaving after the Haima member had his breakthrough.

Chapter 1295: Self Development Of The Tribe

“The Haima Tribe all seem to have an affinity to the Dao of water.” Lin Mu confirmed after seeing Warrior Midi breakthrough.

While he had a good hunch after seeing Elder Niji breakthrough, he didn’t know that several others had also broken through in this time. Otherwise Lin Mu would have known that this fact had already become common knowledge in the tribe.

Wanting to discuss more about this, Lin Mu was currently on his way to Elder Niji’s residence.

“There he is.” As if expecting his arrival, Elder Niji was already standing outside his residence.

“Your guess is right as always elder.” And not just Elder Niji, but Head Warrior Kulo was also there.

~thud~

Lin Mu landed a short distance away from them, having an expression of intrigue on his face.

“You two sensed me?” Lin Mu asked.

“We did indeed.” They spoke..

“Spirit sense?” Lin Mu questioned.

“Why don’t you let us demonstrate it ourselves?” Elder Niji said while Head Warrior Kulo nodded his head.

~shua~

Then in the very next second, Lin Mu felt a thick tendril of spirit sense approaching his body. A couple seconds later, he felt a second tendril appearing as well, this one half as thick as the first one.

“This is good progress... almost five kilometers?” Lin Mu estimated the range of their spirit sense.

“Yes. We’ve been practicing and refining it further.” Elder Niji answered.

“We’ve also figured out a proper method for it Noble Lin Mu. And in our tests with other members it has proved to be rather useful.” Head Warrior Kulo added.

“Oh? That’s amazing.” Lin Mu had originally thought that he might need to make up a new method for them to develop and refine spirit sense, but they had done so on their own.

“Let’s talk inside, I understand you have somethings to say too?” Elder Niji suggested.

“That is indeed true.” Lin Mu nodded, walking in with the two of them.

Taking a seat at the table, Lin Mu spoke first.

“I saw Warrior Midi having a breakthrough to the Dao Treading realm just now. Guess your tribe has an innate affinity to the Dao of Water.” Lin Mu said.

“Yes, in the past fifty members that have broken through, everyone has the same Dao Embryo as well as the same abilities.” Elder Niji replied.

“Fifty members? There are more?” Lin Mu was surprised.

“Of course. Several members have broken through in the past three months. Noble Lin Mu has simply been too busy to notice it.” Elder Niji chuckled.

“Ah yeah...” Lin Mu smiled wryly.

“But noble Lin Mu seems to have had a rather great breakthrough too.” Head Warrior Kulo praised. “Are you an immortal already?” he asked curiously.

“Immortal? No... I’m still some distance away from that.” Lin Mu shook his head in disappointment.

“Really? You do give off a feeling like an Immortal though now.” Head Warrior Kulo spoke.

“What?” Lin Mu was surprised.

“I think Noble Lin Mu cannot sense it after all this time, but your aura has changed once more.” Elder Niji clarified. “Earlier your aura covered the entire tribe. But that was different than your normal aura that you have now... it is a lot more... firm.” He explained.

“Huh... I didn’t notice that.” Lin Mu was surprised, taking a second look at himself.

But even then he couldn’t tell much of a difference. To him, it felt just like normal.

“I hope I didn’t cause any trouble though. Due to my breakthrough’s I mean.” Lin Mu said with concern.

“Oh no, it was fine. While there were a few reports of fainting, it was okay over all.” Elder Niji dispelled his concerns.

“Not just that, but a few of us that were on the precipice of a breakthrough actually did it. Your aura and breakthrough acted like some kind of a catalyst. Even the spirit Qi of the entire area has risen by a level due to you. Allowing the weaker members to cultivate faster too.” Head Warrior Kulo stated.

“I see, guess the tribe is pleased.” Lin Mu replied after noting the change.

“That we are.” Elder Niji said with a smile.

He then took out several jade slips, all filled with different kinds of information.

“I’m guessing you want to know what happened in this time, so I already have it prepared.” Elder Niji stated.

“Perfect. I’ll take a quick look.” Lin Mu was pleased at the promptness.

Picking the first Jade Slip, Lin Mu scanned it, finding information about all the Haima Tribe members that had reached the Dao Treading realm. There were a total of twenty three such members in the tribe, which was a massive gain.

One could even say the strength of the Haima Tribe had literally been multiplied by fifty times!

But that wasn’t all.

Reading the other Jade Slips, Lin Mu learned that the Haima Tribe had great progress with their skills too. The modified Bronze Might Kicking technique had been fully mastered by the tribesmen now.

The Spinning variant of the Qi skill made by Warrior Shilo had also become a staple of the tribe's warrior now. It had become a lot more stable and its strength had also increased.

'Bronze Might Spin Kicks... So they gave it a new name.' Lin Mu read, finding it decent.

The next thing he learned was the spirit sense refinement method that they had developed. The moment Lin Mu read it though, he realized why they could learn it that fast.

'It's unique method that only the Haima Tribe would be able to use.' Lin Mu reckoned.

The way they had refined their spirit sense so fast was by weaving three wisps of spirit Qi at once. Even controlling once wisp was hard for most beginners, so three was definitely not possible for many.

And yet, due to the unique three lobe Dantian of the Haima tribe, they had managed to do this difficult task. And now just that, this method was actually easy for them and truly suited their physique.

Chapter 1296: Four New Humans Arrive

With the ability to use spirit sense, the overall strength of the Haima tribe had risen more. After all, spirit sense was a very important part of one's abilities. Without it a cultivator might as well be blind.

Oftentimes, they would detect an attack with their spirit sense first rather than their eyes or other senses. Plus, it allowed them to scan a vast area all at once, which could not be done with just eyes.

It was easily one of the best methods of qualitatively increasing one's strength.

"This is good. You've done well." Lin Mu couldn't help but praise them..

"Thank you Noble Lin Mu. It is all due to your initial guidance." Elder Niji replied.

"The juniors of the tribe are quickly learning this too. Since they don't need to be at a specific realm to learn it, we are intending to have them learn it from the very start." Head Warrior Kulo stated.

"Of course. The earlier they learn the better. Just refining spirit sense isn't enough either, one needs to adapt to it and get proficient in its use. That is something that can only come after time." Lin Mu agreed.

"Alright, we'll do that then." Head Warrior Kulo spoke.

Lin Mu continued to look though the jade slips and learned a few interesting bits of information too, like the fact that a few more humans had been seen far from the tribe..

"Oh? More humans arrived? Are you sure they aren't the ones that Huyun Chuan is looking for?" Lin Mu asked.

"No, they are different from the appearance Huyun Chuan said. They are also a lot weaker, none of them are immortals." Elder Niji replied.

"I see... still, it would be better if we go meet them." Lin Mu stated.

"Well... we tried to do that. From the four humans that appeared, two of them ran away thinking of danger and ended up coming across Chasm Beasts that killed them in an instant." Elder Niji said with a wry smile.

“Ah... shame.” Lin Mu couldn’t blame them either.

“As for the last two, they too tried to run but our warriors eventually caught up with them. This ended up in a battle, and no matter how much we tried to calm them down, they simply didn’t listen.” Elder Niji explained.

“Then... are they dead too?” Lin Mu questioned. “Did the warriors kill them?”

“No, of course not. Rather than be forced to kill them, we let them leave.” Elder Niji answered.

~pew~

“That’s better.” Lin Mu nodded his head. “Do we have their location?”

“Yes, we have been keeping tabs on them. A few scouts are in charge of observing them from the distance and also killing any Chasm Beasts that get close to them.” Elder Niji answered. “So far there haven’t been any strong chasm Beasts that would threaten us or them.” He added.

“Alright, guess I’ll go take a look. We need all the information we can get about the outside world. Just one person isn’t enough.” Lin Mu spoke.

“Do you need someone to guide you there?” Elder Niji questioned.

“Won’t be needed. I can get there on my own.” Lin Mu answered. “Besides, I may as well take the twins to feed.”

Thinking of the twins, Lin Mu wondered if they’ll wake up if he called for them. They seemed to be rather full after the large meal they had before and weren’t even affected by Lin Mu’s breakthrough.

Leaving the elder’s residence, Lin Mu headed back to his own.

“Xiao Yin, Xiao Yang, let’s go get you some more food.” Lin Mu called out.

He waited for five seconds, but the two snakes didn’t wake up at all.

~huh~

“Guess I’ll just keep them with me.” Lin Mu picked up the two infant snakes and put them in his robes.

It was better to keep them with him while they were sleeping, rather than to let them wreak havoc upon waking up and not seeing him.

Appearing on top of the mountain above the Haima Tribe, he got to take a look at its new form.

“Damn, it increased a lot more than before.” Lin Mu’s eyes scanned it all.

On one side of the mountain, he could also see the figures of the Haima warriors practicing. Due to how large it had become, they had to go farther to practice now.

“Their practice seems to be going well...” Lin Mu took a quick glance before leaping away

~THUD~

~SHUA~

His body soared across the air, traveling faster than before.

'Hmm, my strength has increased. It isn't as much as body cultivation, but it's still good.' Lin Mu discovered.

Speaking of body cultivation, Lin Mu didn't forget that he still had to further it.

'The Wood elemental spirit apples should have grown back in this time.' Lin Mu decided to consume them after returning.

He continued to leap and traversed large tracts of land. His destination wasn't as far as his last expedition, but it was in a different direction.

"Its good that they ran in this direction, at least they won't come across as many chasm Beasts." Lin Mu muttered.

The two humans had gone opposite to the location of the broken Chasm, which would help them somewhat.

'Though the water sources are also negligible in that direction... most of the water reservoirs are located near the Broken Chasm.' Lin Mu also recalled.

While they were cultivators too, there was a limit to how long even they could live without water.

"Hmm, Elder Niji said the two of them were roughly at the Dao Shell realm and arrived here about a month ago. It shouldn't be a problem for them to live a couple more months without water." Lin Mu estimated. "Of course that is if they are not injured or under distress..."

Hours passed like this, and about a day later, Lin Mu finally came across the location where the humans were supposedly situated.

"Noble Lin Mu?" The Haima Scouts in charge of observing the humans were surprised to see him here.

### **Chapter 1297 Seeking Out The Human Exiles**

"Elder Niji told me about the humans, I've come to get them." Lin Mu informed the six scouts.

"Oh that's good. We were getting tired of watching them." The Haima scouts replied.

"They are being bothersome?" Lin Mu asked.

From what he could see the Haima scouts were all at the Dao Shell realm. It was easily enough to overpower two human cultivators.

"Yeah, they keep ongoing further and further. One of us has to always keep an eye to ensure we don't miss them while cultivating." One of them spoke.

"Yeah, this is making it hard for us to cultivate calmly." Another one of them said.

"Ah, I see..." Lin Mu had almost forgotten that all the Haima members had now become obsessed with cultivation.





To a normal person or even a cultivator, there was nothing surrounding Lin Mu. Only those at the Dao Treading realm might be able to see faint energy fluctuations around him. But even those would be hard to sense.

~shua~

This only lasted for a few seconds, though, as soon after Lin Mu's appearance changed. He now looked like a rock!

All his aura had been hidden away and even his spirit sense fluctuations would not be felt.

And if someone tried to use spirit sense and probed this 'rock' they would only find it to be normal.

'Let's see if this is worthy of being a stealth skill...' Lin Mu sped up his approach.

Due to how the Dao Traces were linked up to the earth, one wouldn't even think that the rock was moving. Instead, it felt like the rock was already there.

One would easily miss it even if they tried to pay attention.

Lin Mu could have easily used his ring's skills, but he reckoned he may as well test out his new abilities.

...

"Hey Kunzi, what do you think those four-legged freaks are?" Within a hole, a man spoke.

The hole's top opening was only wide enough to let a two men stand in it, but if one looked inside they would see that it was rather wide. Four or five men could easily sleep in this hole, which could even be called as a small cave at this point.

"Who knows? We just need to stay away from them. You've heard the stories about the land of Exile. There is danger everywhere." The man named Kunzi spoke. "You've already seen the other two die from those strange beasts. Don't tell me you want that to happen too, Little Gian." He continued.

"Of course not. I'm just curious as to what they are. They are clearly intelligent creatures." The man named Little Gian replied.

"Mmm... just focus on keeping an eye out for now. We don't know if they will sneak up on us." Kunzi stated.

"Won't you find them with your spirit sense though?" Little Gian asked.

"You fool, what if they have some skill that can allow them to hide? We are in the blind here, so need to be careful." Kunzi replied. "Now stay alert! I don't want a repeat of last year. If you had been alert, we wouldn't have been caught." He scolded.

### **Chapter 1298 Little Gian And Kunzi**

Little Gian didn't mind the words of Kunzi.

The two of them had been friends since a long time and were brothers in crime. Besides it had indeed been his fault that they had been captured that time.

“I’ll make sure that I don’t make the mistake again.” Little Gian stated.

“Good. Now watch the surroundings while I prepare more things. I can only do so much without any materials.” Kunzi replied before getting to work.

He sat back down and picked up slabs of stones that were roughly shaped like a square. If one looked closely though, they would see that there was actually a small crystal in the center of the stone slab.

The crystal was pale white in color and looked similar to spirit stones. But at the same time, there were no spirit Qi fluctuations coming from it.

Kunzi held the stone slab between his palms and channel his energy into it. A couple minutes later, he put the stone slab down. The pale white crystal on it had increased in size slightly and cracks were also present around its edges now.

‘If only I had proper materials I would have been able to make better talismans. I can only use this crude method for now...’ Kunzi thought to himself before picking up another stone slab.

While he did this, Little Gian was peeking his head out of the hole and watched the surroundings.

The camp of the Haima Tribe scouts was a few kilometer away and also behind a large boulder so Little Gian could not see it. But he did know those strange people were still observing them.

Kunzi had been preparing so that they could fight against them better, but to do that they needed more time.

There was no saying when they would be attacked, thus they needed to be fast.

‘Are there really no humans other than us here? What happened to the ones that arrived before us?’ Little Gian wondered.

While doing this thought, he suddenly felt like something flickered at from the corner of his eye.

“Huh?” His eyes narrowed, and he gazed in the distance, finding things to be normal.

‘Was that rock always there?’ Little Gian shook his head. “Everything looks the same here...”

But just to confirm it, he spread out his spirit sense. Taking Kunzi’s advice Little Gian didn’t forget to be thorough and checked the rock that he had seen too.

~shua~

His spirit sense probed the rock, finding it to be normal. There was nothing behind it and neither was there anything in it. It was just... rock.

~Phew~

‘Nothing there.’ Little Gian took a breath of relief.

He then turned around to look in the other direction. After all, they were in a hole, so anything could come from a 360 degree angle and every spot needed to be monitored. And since he wasn’t as talented with spirit sense as Kunzi, Little Gian depended on his eyes more.

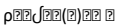
A couple minutes later, Little Gian turned around again, repeating the cycle.

PAN(D)A NOVEL “Huh?” But this time he felt like he had really seen something.

“What happened?” Kunzi heard the Little Gian’s voice and stopped his task.

“Can you come up here a second?” Little Gian wondered if he was mistaken.

Kunzi stood up and looked out of the hole.

“Do you see those three rocks?” Little Gian pointed. 

“Yeah, what about them?” Kunzi asked. “Did you see someone there?”

“No... but I think there were only two rocks just a minute ago.” Little Gian replied.

“Two rocks?” Kunzi said in confusion. “Let me check.” He narrowed his eyes and extended his spirit sense.

It traveled quickly and soon reached the three rocks that Little Gian had pointed.

All of them were unassuming and easily melded in the vast barren landscape of the Land of Exile.

This was another thing that caused a lot of people to die. They would simply get lost due to a lack of markers. Even if they had found a source of water, they would have to run away due to Chasm beasts eventually, and then they weren’t able to find their way back.

“Did you find anything?” Little Gian questioned.

“No... they seem to be fine. They’re just rocks.” Kunzi said having checked them with his spirit sense.

“Guess I was just mistaken then.” Little Gian replied.

“Hmm...” Kunzi hummed in response and was just about to sit back down, when he thought of something. “Hang on, did you see anything like this before?” he asked just in case.

“No. I did feel like some rock had appeared where it was not before, but when I checked it was fine.” Little Gian answered, evoking doubts in Kunzi.

“Where was that rock?” Kunzi questioned.

“There,” Little Gian pointed in the distance.

Kunzi followed his gaze and saw the unassuming rock lying there lifelessly. His spirit sense extended once more, but came up with the same conclusion.

It was just a rock.

“Strange...” Kunzi didn’t find anything there either, but he felt like there was still something wrong.

It wasn’t normal for Little Gian to feel mistaken twice in a row that too in a short period of time.

While he may seem a little silly, one mustn’t forget the man was still a Dao Shell realm cultivator and had good senses.

“Let me confirm it just in case.” Kunzi said and bent down to pick up something.

Little Gian watched him pick up one of the stone slabs.

“Huh, what are you doing with that?” Little Gian asked in confusion, but he realized. “Don’t tell me you are going to use one right away?” he knew just how much effort it took to make those.

“Better safe than sorry. We don’t know what kind of dangers hide here, it may be something unknown that can hide well.” Kunzi said before lifting his hand back and throwing the stone slab.

~shua~

The stone slab soared through the air and accurately landed where the three rocks were located.

A couple seconds later though, it activated.

~BOOM~

### **Chapter 1299 Sudden Appearance**

The stone slab that Kunzi had thrown looked unassuming at first. But upon landing between the three rocks, the pale white crystal within it let out a faint light.

A mere moment was all it took for it to release a large amount of energy and explode!

~BOOM~

The explosion was loud enough that the scouts of the Haima Tribe in the distance heard it too.

“What the hell are those humans doing?” One of the scouts said upon seeing the dust rising in the distance.

“Who knows?” Another one spoke.

~Sigh~

“Let’s just hope they don’t trouble Noble Lin Mu much.”

“Yeah, the faster he captures them the better for us. I wanna go back to the tribe and cultivate under the array again.”

Back at the place where the explosion had happened, no sign of the three rocks could be seen. All that was left there was a shallow crater that was about six inches deep and some fragments of stones.

There was no burning or scorching of the ground either, showing that the explosion wasn’t caused by heat or fire.

“Seems like there wasn’t anything there.” Kunzi confirmed.

“Yeah... thankfully.” Little Gian replied. “Though do you think this will pull attention to us?” he asked.

“If you mean those four-legged freaks, then yeah. But then they’ve already been tailing us for a month now. So there is no way they didn’t know where we were since the start.” Kunzi replied.

“Then do you think they’ll come close?” Little Gian asked next.

“No, I think this should serve as a good enough warning to them.” Kunzi replied.

“Yeah...” Little Gian agreed.

“I’ll get back to work.” Kunzi sat down and was just about to pick up the stone slab he was working on when he felt a chill go down his back.

“This is some interesting stuff.” A voice suddenly spoke in the darkness.

“Who?!” Little Gian heard it too and looked down knowing that this wasn’t Kunzi’s voice at all.

There they saw a pair of eyes that were barely illuminated by the dim light coming from the hole.

What was most shocking though was the fact that they were barely a meter away from Kunzi.

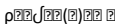
‘Who... what is that?’ Kunzi wondered.

He couldn’t understand how anything could get in here. Logically speaking, there was just one entrance to the little cave they had made and there were no signs of anything digging in either.

~shua~

A small flame lit up in the air next to the pair of eyes, revealing its appearance.

“A man?” Little Gian finally saw.

PANDA NOVEL.COM “A human?” Kunzi felt a little relieved at the fact that it was a human and not some other strange creature. 

‘No, I can’t lower my guard. If he can get in, then he must be dangerous!’ Kunzi realized he had almost made a mistake.

“Who are you?” Kunzi asked warily.

“Don’t worry, I won’t do anything to you.” Lin Mu spoke. “As long as you two don’t do anything stupid.” He added.

~gulp~

“And why should we believe you?” Little Gian questioned, while secretly circulating his spirit Qi.

He was ready to act the moment anything happened.

~shua~

“Well, for starters.” Lin Mu lightly spoke before a wave of spirit Qi spread from him. “If I wanted to, I could have suppressed you two from the start.” He stated.

“D-Dao... Dao Treading realm.” Little Gian and Kunzi both recognized.

‘This pressure... He’s close to becoming an immortal too.’ Kunzi who had better senses, realized.

“Correct.” Lin Mu nodded his head. “Now then, why don’t we all peacefully talk? You two have made my friends chase you for quite a while now.”

“Your friends?” Little Gain said in confusion. “But we didn’t see anyone else?”

Kunzi though, seemed to have guessed.

“Those four legged creatures... those are your friends?” Kunzi asked warily.

“Yes. They’ve been trying to talk to you since the start, but you all just kept on running,” Lin Mu replied.

“Humph, you really expect us to believe some strange things in the Land of Exile, of all places?” Kunzi retorted.

“That... does make sense.” Lin Mu nodded. “Though I assure you, they only meant to talk to you.” He said, but it didn’t make the Kunzi and Little Gian feel any safe.

“Let’s do it like this. How do I make you trust me?” Lin Mu asked.

Kunzi furrowed his brows and thought for a few seconds before replying. “Tell us who you are and what those creatures are first. Then what is it that you want with us?”

“Alright.” Lin Mu agreed. “I am Lin Mu, and those people so saw earlier are the members of the Haima Tribe.”

Kunzi didn’t forget to pickup the word ‘tribe’, which made him raise a brow.

“A tribe? You mean to say, there is an entire tribe of those creatures?” Kunzi found it hard to believe.

The common knowledge about the Land of Exile dictated that there was danger everywhere and most people would not survive for long. For a tribe to have formed in that time was astonishing. Especially considering that they were certainly not human.

‘If it was a human tribe, I would have understood, as it would just mean the exiled humans have banded together. But those Haima tribe members... I’ve never heard or seen any of them before. Either they are very rare, or... natives of this place,’ Kunzi quickly analyzed.

“That’s right. They do have a tribe, and it is also where I’m residing. You should come with me. There is plenty of food and water, along with shelter from danger.” Lin Mu answered. “And just to prove to you...” he then took out a basket full of Stone Flesh Mushrooms.

~thud~

Lin Mu also put down a barrel full of water.

Seeing this, the two humans were surprised, but didn’t take things directly.

“What do you want in exchange?” Kunzi asked carefully.

“I want to know information. Such as who you two are, where you came from and what is the situation outside.” Lin Mu stated plainly.

### **Chapter 1300 Kunzi And Little Gian's Crimes**

Lin Mu’s question was not something Little Gian and Kunzi had expected. To them, it was almost nothing to ask in exchange for safety.

“Alright, we’re willing to speak.” Kunzi decided, and Little Gian nodded in agreement as well.

“Good. We can talk outside, at the camp nearby. You two can eat as well.” Lin Mu stated.

“Okay, that is fine with us.” Kunzi replied and the three of them left the hole.

Lin Mu didn’t forget to take a look at the stone slabs that Kunzi was working on. They looked unlike any formation plates or talisman to him and he was intending to ask about them later.

After leaving the hole, Lin Mu didn’t walk straight to the camp though. He instead used Blink went to the first rock that Little Gian had spotted. There he picked up the twin snakes. He had left them there upon seeing that he may have been seen by the two humans.

Not wanting to take any chances, Lin Mu hid the sleeping twins using the Earth Dao Traces and continued onwards. His caution turned out to be right as Kunzi directly threw an explosive and blew up the place he was in.

If not for that fact that he had left behind the twin snakes, he would have left them at the site of explosion after using Blink. Without them though, he was free to move around using his skills.

That was one of the restrictions he had while keeping the twins with him. He could use his ring’s skills but they would not allow the twins to come with him.

And while he could have directly reached Kunzi and Little Gian using Phase, Lin Mu didn’t do that. His aim was to train his proficiency with the Earth Dao Traces and the new method of stealth he had made.

If he could develop it more, it might become one of his very useful skills later.

Though to Kunzi and Little Gian, his methods seemed very mysterious.

“How is he doing that? Is it a moment type Qi skill?” Little Gian asked.

“I can’t tell... it’s too fast for me to tell.” Kunzi replied. “Regardless, it is very concerning. We can’t offend him easily.” He said firmly.

“Mmm...” Little Gian agreed.

“Look! It’s noble Lin Mu.” The Haima Scouts soon spotted them approaching from the distance.

“He has the two humans with him too.”

PAN(D)A NOVEL “Seems like they’ve come to an agreement.”

“That’s good. At least we can head back to the tribe now.”

The Haima Scouts were pleased and happy with the fast progress.

“Welcome, Noble Lin Mu.” The Scouts greeted him.

“Can you cook some of the stone flesh mushrooms while I talk to the two humans?” Lin Mu asked.

“Of course. It’ll be our pleasure.” The scouts said before getting to work.





“In a way, yes... The people of the Auction house wanted us to be killed since we had seen the content of those cultivation techniques and Qi skills. But according to the laws of the Cloud Fall kingdom, it didn’t levy a death penalty.

But it was still enough for us to be exiled.” Kunzi answered.

“Hmm... I see.” Lin Mu felt satisfied that the two weren’t some really heinous criminals.

Theft was something he could tolerate. After all, he himself has stolen quite a ‘lot’.

“Also, do you know the two other humans that were exiled? The ones you came here with?” Lin Mu questioned next.

“We don’t know much. We simply happened to be together when they sent us in here.” Kunzi replied.