

Walker 1501

[Chapter 1501 The Cultivators Vying For The Tree](#)

Having gotten a sense of the competitors, Lin Mu knew he needed to be fast.

"They should know this too. There is now way they don't know about each other being there, so why aren't they going towards the Violet Mystic Life Tree?" Lin Mu questioned after seeing the cultivators just waiting around.

It was certainly suspicious and made Lin Mu wonder what he had missed.

'Are they waiting for backup, or is there something dangerous there?' Lin Mu decided to eavesdrop on one of the groups.

Using Phase he sank into the ground and approached one of the groups that seemed suitable for him. They were waiting in one of the ruined buildings that had half of its roof broken.

There were two cultivators standing on the roof and keeping watch, while five were sitting inside. They had set up a few formations around their camp, but they weren't that hard for Lin Mu to bypass.

After a few minutes of working on the formations, Lin Mu gained entry to the area. He had already restrained all his immortal Qi fluctuations and had contained his aura too, preventing anyone from sensing him. After doing that, he found a suitable mound of rubble and peeked through it.

With how long these people had been here and the formations they had set there was no way they would think that there was someone watching them from within the building at all.

Though it also helped the fact that the building was relatively big and spread out. The cultivators sitting inside were also spread out, with some lying against the rubble and some simply sitting.

"How much longer do we have to wait now?" one of the people sitting in the building questioned.

He had a frustrated expression on his face and was holding his arm as if it were hurt.

"A couple more days at most. The elders will contact us as soon as they are nearby." Another man that was leaning against a broken pillar spoke.

He had some injuries on his body too, but they weren't that serious.

~Sigh~

"Why can't we just leave? We all know that the tree is not something we can get close too." A woman sitting on the side spoke this time.

She seemed to be the only one that was uninjured but had a tired expression. Her face was also pale and her immortal Qi fluctuation were also weak. Though Lin Mu could tell that she was at the Second Tribulation Stage of the Immortal realm.

"We have to. If we go back now, we'll be wasting the opportunity that will never come again. Just by being here, we'll be able to stake a claim when elders come. At the very least, we'll get some resources." The man leaning against the pillar spoke.

"Just for that? We already consumed a lot in the Desolate Blood battlefield! Why do you think we are in this state!?" A short man shouted.

He too was sitting on the ground, and seemed to be most injured among them. A part of his thigh was cut off while a few of his toes seemed to be missing, too.

Lin Mu who looked at the injury, found it strange.

'Did a beast bite him or something? Those don't seem to be teeth marks though.' Lin Mu thought.

He didn't think they were injuries from a weapon either, as it seemed to be quite different.

'Though there's a chance it might be a skill too. All of them have gotten injured in a recent battle and are lacking resources. No wonder they haven't healed up so far, even if some of their injuries are light.' Lin Mu analyzed their condition.

At the very least, he could confirm the fact that he had no threat from this group. With how injured they were and the lack of morale, it was certain that they wouldn't be vying for the Violet Mystic Life Tree.

But that still didn't answer the question as to what actually happened to them.

"How would I know that tree was so dangerous and could attack us!? We didn't even know what the tree was until we contacted the elders!" The man leaning against the pillar shouted back.

"Please! Don't fight right now!" The Woman pleaded. "We don't have that luxury. If the other groups decide to get rid of us, we won't be able to do anything." She added.

~Sigh~

"You're right..." the two men calmed down. "We just need to stay put and ensure that no one comes near."

After saying this, the man leaning against the pillar stood up and went to the roof.

"What's the situation of the tree?" he questioned.

"It still keeps on appearing and disappearing. Though it's becoming more often now." One of the two men standing on the roof spoke.

"Oh? Looks like whatever restriction around it is weakening." The man replied.

Lin Mu who heard this, knew that his original assumption was right.

'So the tree didn't appear as often before. No wonder the original news about the Violet Mystic Life Tree was just a rumor. They barely saw it before it disappeared, but now it appears more often.' Lin Mu understood.

It also made him figure out a few more things about the unique tree.

'There should be an array around it that hit it all this time. And now it's either running out of energy or something else is weakening it,' Lin Mu reckoned.

Lin Mu even wondered if the Leafless Dead Forest was linked to this somehow. It was certain that the forest wasn't acting as a natural befuddling array before and had only done so recently.

'If the two events line up, that means the Leafless Dead Forest turned into a Natural befuddling Array just around the time the illusory restriction around the Violet Mystic Life Tree started to weaken.' Lin Mu guessed.

The reason behind it was still a mystery, but Lin Mu knew he'll eventually find out more. After all, his next step was to get close to the tree.

[Chapter 1502 The Weakening Barrier](#)

Lin Mu listened to the people in the ruined building talk a bit more and obtained some more information.

The most important thing he learned was the fact that they were all injured when they got near the tree. There were actually formations that could harm them there. All of them were caught off guard since they were unable to sense these formations at all.

And it wasn't just offensive formations either, there were trapping and binding formations mixed in it too.

'I wouldn't be surprised if some groups have already lost their members in this.' Lin Mu thought to himself as he sank back into the ground.

He moved away from the group and resurfaced next to Little Shrubby. Lin Mu had left him there as the beast could warn him about danger through their link. Not to mention, Little Shrubby could also assist quickly if needed.

It was an advantage to have him watch over his back, even if it was from some distance away. With Little Shrubby's speed, that distance was just a few second anyways.

Lin Mu was debating on checking up on other groups, but didn't wish to spend extra time on that.

"Let's just check out the tree first." Lin Mu said to Little Shrubby.

The two of them took a remote path that had no cultivators waiting nearby and proceeded. Walking through the ruins, Lin Mu saw the old buildings and houses that had been reduced to rubble.

He could almost see a hint of the past that these ruins held.

'This place was most probably a city. It doesn't seem like a military establishment at least.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He had heard from Alchemist Ruoxian that these ruins were supposed to be the base of some power of the past. That was also the reason why there was an Immortal Essence Crystal cache hidden here.

But now that he was actually looking at the ruins, it just looked like a normal city to him.

"There is a chance that big powers lived here once too, but over time their main buildings have probably been destroyed." Lin Mu muttered.

If he looked around, he could only see a couple of buildings in his line of sight that were twenty or thirty meters tall. The rest had all collapsed or were missing a part of their structure.

Lin Mu was looking for one such building too as that was where the Cache was most likely to be.

'The map that Alchemist Ruoxian gave cannot be used right now as the other cultivators are waiting there. I'll just have to use the tree as a reference point.' Lin Mu reckoned.

Since the Violet Mystic Life Tree needed a lot of nutrients, it was normal for it to have grown where the Immortal Essence cache would be. Thus with this hypothesis, Lin Mu guessed that the cache should be somewhere under the tree.

After a few minutes of walking, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby finally reached the near the area where they had spotted the Violet Mystic Life Tree.

"It hasn't appeared in a while... but it should be just a little distance from here." Lin Mu furrowed his brows and looked around.

He hadn't forgotten the words of the cultivators and how they had gotten injured.

~SHUA~

His Immortal sense spread around, trying to search for any hidden arrays or formations.

"There's one right there." Lin Mu quickly spotted a formation not so far from him.

It was hidden underground and one wouldn't be able to find it if they didn't look there with their immortal sense.

"They are certainly quite old, and were probably built before these building were erected here." Lin Mu observed.

Lin Mu continued to look for more of them and discovered several that were spread out. There was a variety of them that could easily kill an immortal if they weren't careful or had their guard lowered.

"They are certainly deadly. But one's like these are intended to protect highly valuable or scree locations. Guess the cache really was supposed to be here." Lin Mu figured out.

It would make sense for such formations to be built to protect a valuable asset like an Immortal Essence Crystal cache, especially a secret one.

But as Lin Mu continued onwards, he started to see some damaged formations too. Most of these were connective or relay formations that were used to link other formations. These would be the key to making an array from multiple formations.

'Looks like these used to regulate how the offensive formations worked. But now that there is no link, they activate whenever someone is nearby.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Thankfully for him, avoiding them was not an issue and those that he couldn't avoid were simply broken apart.

'Practicing with the Diamond Mountain Talisman sure is coming handy now... these formations seem easy even if they are unstable.' Lin Mu didn't feel any pressure dealing with them.

Still, it took him nearly an hour to cover this path before he arrived at a new obstacle.

~THUD~

"Ugh!" Lin Mu stumbled into an invisible barrier.

~HUMM~

The air in front of him flickered lightly, but there were almost no abnormalities. Lin Mu placed his hand on the barrier, finding it to be solid by transparent. His Immortal sense was blocked and so was his Spatial Perception.

"So this is the barrier that prevented me from seeing the Violet Mystic Life Tree..." Lin Mu grasped.

~SHUA~

And just as he said this, he felt an energy fluctuation.

Then in the next moment, he saw the Violet Mystic Life Tree reappear. Its wide crown covered a lot of area while its Violet Leaves emanated a comfortable aura.

"It really is marvelous..." Lin Mu could feel the vitality emitting from the tree.

Most of it was being restrained by the barrier and couldn't get out, but what did was quite good.

"Wait... perhaps the tree itself is why the barrier is getting weak!" Lin Mu suddenly had a thought.

[Chapter 1503 Roots Of The Violet Mystic Life Tree](#)

Lin Mu sensed the barrier and the faint vitality that was leaking from it. He could sense the pulses of the tree's aura that were seeping out as well.

"If the tree's vitality is getting past a certain level, it is normal for the barrier to not be able to contain it. The pressure must be massive, especially since the barrier is containing it all for a long time." Lin Mu now had a better idea about the situation.

He reckoned that it wouldn't be long before the barrier wouldn't be able to bear it at all and would break. Once that happened, he could already imagine the effect it would cause on the surrounding area.

It wouldn't just be cultivators that would sense it. The native creatures of the Desolate Blood Battlefield would do the same and would probably come rushing here. This would only increase the danger that the people would face.

"That would probably be the point where everyone in the Desolate Blood Battlefield would know it. Even the Leafless Dead Forest's Natural Befuddling Array might not be enough to stop them." Lin Mu realized.

With the strong energy from the Violet Mystic Life Tree acting as a beacon, even the befuddling array could be ignored. After all, the array simply altered one's perception of direction but didn't actually harm one.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu prepared to analyze the barrier. His Immortal sense spread across it, trying to search for a node that would allow him access or at least a method to identify the type of barrier it was.

~shua~

But a few seconds later, the Violet Mystic Life Tree vanished again, causing the energy fluctuations to fall. It allowed the barrier to stabilize once more and prevent Lin Mu from using his immortal sense on it as it directly repelled it.

~Sigh~

"Guess I just need to take another route." Lin Mu first sent Little Shrubby into the Sleepscape and then sank into the ground.

He slid down along the barrier, trying to see if he could find any weak spots in it. After a few minutes of search, he found several spots on the barrier that were in disharmony.

'This might have been the nodes where the connective formations linked up. I can make use of them.'
Lin Mu was pleased.

After an hour of work, he was able to modify the runes of the nodes enough that it allowed him entry inside.

"Others might have been able to do the same, but the location of these nodes makes it difficult to do so for them. Doubt they would even discover them this far deep." Lin Mu thanked his luck.

Phase gave him a level of accessibility that others wouldn't have easily.

"No use in waiting, let's do this." Lin Mu entered through the temporary opening he had made and arrived on the other side of the barrier.

This place was still just soil and rocks, so Lin Mu needed to continue onwards before finding a suitable location. Though around this part, his immortal sense started to pick up something else.

"Roots?" Lin Mu could sense a dense number of roots that were spread in the soil.

He couldn't tell what kind of roots they were or how they looked like since he was still underground, but he could feel the vitality contained within them. Just that alone confirmed it for him.

"Are these the roots of the Violet Mystic Life Tree?!" Lin Mu was surprised by the sheer number of them.

The more he progressed, the denser they got until it reached a point where they formed an entire wall.

"This..." Lin Mu couldn't use Phase to pass through these roots now.

After all, they were alive and contained vitality. Phase wasn't a skill that worked on living creatures after all.

'Flicker wouldn't last long enough to pass through these roots either... they are too thick.' Lin Mu could already estimate using his immortal sense.

The wall of roots was at least a couple meters thick and was enveloping an area of nearly a kilometer!

Lin Mu decided to circle around and see if he could find an open spot. But even after fifteen minutes, he was unable to find the right spot to enter it from.

"Seems like I'll just have to cut through it." Lin Mu said before taking out his sword.

~SLICK~

One slice was all it took to cut through the roots and open up a path for him. But doing so released a wave of vitality that even pressured Lin Mu.

"Ugh! This is strong." Lin Mu wondered just how strong it would be once the barrier shattered.

"Quickly store them away." Xukong's voice was heard. "The cut roots will wither up soon." He warned.

"Yes, Senior!" Lin Mu placed his hand on the roots that he had cut off and stored them in the ring.

This left a hole that was big enough for him to pass through. At the same time, he saw the part where the root was cut off being healed.

First the wound healed, and next it started to grow!

Lin Mu quickly entered through the hole before it closed behind him.

"That was fast..." Lin Mu hadn't expected the roots to regrow that fast.

"For a tree with such vitality, this is nothing." Xukong replied.

"Mmhmm... I'll note that." Lin Mu said as he continued onwards.

After a few more meters, he arrived in an open area that was filled with a lot of ambient energy.

Just a mere whiff of the energy was enough to tell Lin Mu what it was.

"A mine! This should be the Immortal Essence crystal Mine!" Lin Mu was sure of it.

He passed through the narrow part before appearing in the wide open cave.

"It really is it..." Presented in front of Lin Mu were swathes of crystals growing on the walls and floor.

But that wasn't all, as Lin Mu saw roots that had violet veins in them intertwining with these crystals.

"The Violet Mystic Life Tree has encapsulated the entire mine." Lin Mu understood.

[Chapter 1504 A Vast Mine And Tree Of Conflict](#)

Lin Mu had certainly not expected for the tree to have such a far reaching growth.

'Though considering how it has grown, it does make sense that it did this by capturing the mine.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

It posed several questions to Lin Mu too. After all, a magical tree like this would have been noticed by others a long time ago had it not been for the barrier that hid and protected it. But a barrier that could protect a tree like this was also not easy to make.

Lin Mu wasn't sure if the barrier was really meant to protect the cache.

"I just need to get what I came here for first. The rest can be taken care of later once I'm done..." Lin Mu walked ahead while observing the crystals that grew everywhere.

He could tell that they were different from the Immortal Stones or the spirit stones. While all of them were formed as crystals, their shapes and densities were different. Out of all of them, the Immortal Essence Crystals were the densest.

Their weight was higher, which resulted in their veins being formed in clusters. Their clusters were spread around in almost equal areas, probably due to being part of the original cache.

"If this was a fully natural mine, it would have formed a lot irregularly." Lin Mu understood.

He could also tell that the number of clusters grew as he progressed further. Which meant that the one's he was seeing here were the newly grown immortal essence crystal. They weren't from the main source at all.

"Just how far does this go?" Lin Mu had been walking for ten minutes now and there still was no sign of the main area.

From what he had heard from Alchemist Ruoxian, the Hundred Year of Essence Spring Stalactite would grow right in the core of the Immortal Essence Mine. It was a very sensitive and fragile material that needed to be in isolation to form.

'It certainly wouldn't form here...' Lin Mu thought to himself. 'I can't take any of the Immortal Essence Crystals from here right now either as there is no saying the effect it could cause on the Violet Mystic Life tree.'

Lin Mu had seen that the tree could respond to stimulus and was worried that if he made too much of a commotion, it could send tremors through the ground, causing the Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite to crumble.

At the very least, he needed to obtain the stalactite before he could get the rest.

Lin Mu ended up traveling for about fifteen more minutes, having to pass through literal cliffs of Immortal Essence Crystals. It was stunning to see the sheer amount of them and Lin Mu's body was reacting accordingly too.

His vitality flared up involuntarily as if desiring all that was around him. Even the two Apertures within his chest sped up as if in anticipation.

"How long do you think this mine has been forming for, Senior Xukong?" Lin Mu questioned having seen the scale of the mine.

"Hmmm... this isn't a natural mine so it's a bit hard to estimate." Xukong first spoke. "If it were a fully naturally mine that had formed from scratch, even ever million or so years, it would be barely five or ten percent of what you've seen so far." He answered.

"Really? That small?" Lin Mu couldn't help but feel surprised.

"Yes. Immortal Essence Crystal Mines are rare in the first place. For them to form, an area doesn't just need to have a lot of vitality, but its location should also coincide with a natural focus point where the flow of the world's energies concentrate.

Only then would they truly form. But in the case of this mine, it was started from an already mined set of Immortal Essence Crystals. I'm thinking that there must be several grades of these crystals in them, including peak grade immortal essence crystals for it to trigger the transformation.

But even then, it should have taken a few hundred thousand years to reach that point." Xukong explained.

"Hmm... so this is quite old. Considering the legendary battle happened over a million years ago, the mine should have also started to form around that time." Lin Mu muttered.

"Yes. But I doubt, even with a million years to grow the mine would have reached this level of growth." Xukong was suspicious. "I don't think the mine has grown just due to natural factors. I think there is something else contributing to its growth." He stated.

Hearing this, Lin Mu understood what Xukong was implying.

"The Violet Mystic Life Tree... it has contributed to the growth of the mine..." Lin Mu said with some shock.

"Yes... it is likely that the Violet Mystic Life Tree originally started off growing with the help of the mine, but as it grew its natural ability to absorb Immortal Essence also grew. It might have resulted it concentrating it in its roots, which eventually led it to contributing to the Immortal Essence Crystal mine." Xukong explained his hypothesis.

"That does seem likely... But doesn't this mean that if this is left as is, the Violet Mystic Life Tree could continue to contribute to the growth of the mine?" Lin Mu wondered.

"That might be possible... but it's something that only future would tell." Xukong replied. "All the other Violet Mystic Life Trees I've seen had been harvested not long after theywere discovered."

Hearing this, Lin Mu had a thought.

"How would you compare this Violet Mystic Life Tree to the one's you've seen Senior? How big is it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Compared to the other three I've seen, I would say it ranks second size wise." Xukong answered.

"Second... that means its quite big isn't it?" Lin Mu spoke. "And valuable?"

"Very... all Violet Mystic Life Trees end up causing wars and great conflicts. One as big as this would easily invite trouble from hundreds if not thousands of powers." Xukong replied.

[Chapter 1505 The Hundred Year Old Essence Spring Stalactites](#)

Learning all this from Senior Xukong, Lin Mu was sure that him coming this early was the best.

"The Violet mystic Life Tree can increase one's lifespan right Senior? By much can it do that?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It depends on the part of the tree. The Fruits are the main method of increasing lifespan and it can increase one's lifespans by a thousand years. Of course, a cultivator can only eat one fruit. Consuming them again will have no effect and might actually cause them a backlash.

The leaves of the tree can also increase one's lifespans, but it does not work for immortals. For those below the immortal realm though, it can still be a saving grace. Though they do not increase more than ten years of lifespans." Xukong answered.

"What about the trunk, branches or the roots?" Lin Mu asked feeling curious.

"The trunk, root sand branches don't have the same effect." Xukong replied. "Though they all have other uses. The Roots can be refined into healing pills, while the branches and trunk can be used to make immortal tools." He added.

"I see... so its useful all over." Lin Mu was impressed. "If the tree is carefully cultivated, one can enjoy the benefits for years to come." He understood,

"That is true, but it has never happened." Xukong denied.

"What? Why's that?" Lin Mu asked, but the realized it himself. "Of course... the conflicts won't let it happen, will it?"

"Indeed. With so many powers are fighting for one thing, it is hard to control greed. They would rather destroy the long term gains and repay the entire tree rather than wait and let others have an equal share." Xukong agreed.

~Sigh~

"Guess it'll be the same fate for this too..." Lin Mu muttered. "Though maybe we can get some benefits from it before that."

The biggest benefit was obviously the fruits and Lin Mu would be able to exchange them for a decent fortune. Though the roots didn't seem like a bad option either as they could be refined into healing pills.

'Maybe Alchemist Ruoxian might be able to do it too...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

~DRIP~DRIP~DRIP~

The sound of something dripping could be heard, which snapped Lin Mu out of his thoughts.

"Water?" Lin Mu spread his immortal sense around searching for the source of sound.

He was currently passing through a narrow gap between two walls that was created due to roots growing between them. Because of this he couldn't tell where he was going or what laid ahead, but with his immortal sense he quickly grasped it.

"There it is!" Within Lin Mu's scope of Immortal sense appeared a new area.

And after walking a few more meters, he could see it with his eyes too.

Unlike the rest of the mine, this place was illuminated!

The source of the light was none other than the roots of the Violet Mystic Life Tree. The violet veins on them were glowing and cast a light that reflected off the millions of crystal surfaces in the mine.

All of this created a dazzling scene and perfectly illuminated the cave.

This section was wide and seemed to be the core place of the entire mine. The reason being none other than what Lin Mu had come looking for.

"There it is! The hundred year old Essence Spring Stalactite!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

In the center of his sights there was a pond. The pond was roughly five meters wide and was filled with a milky white liquid that shimmered under the light of the roots. Ripples would form on it as small white drops would fall in it from time to time.

And the place where these white drops fell from was none other than the Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite!

The Stalactite hung from the roof and seemed to have several segments. From it one could tell that it had taken a long time to condense and form. It was nearly a meter long and was about ten centimeters wide.

It wasn't the only stalactite though as there were several other stalactites around it too. Though they were shorter than it, with the majority being less than twenty or thirty centimeters long.

Lin Mu's immortal sense spread towards the stalactite and carefully examined it.

'I need to confirm if it really is a Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite...' Lin Mu checked the number of segments on the formation.

For it to qualify as a Hundred year old Essence Spring Stalactite, it needed to have at least a hundred segments on it.

"One hundred and four... it's actually more than that." Lin Mu was surprised.

He knew that these stalactites didn't form easily and were quite fragile. While a Hundred year Old Essence Spring Stalactite only took a hundred years to form, not all of them lasted that long.

Due to being fragile, most of them would end up crumbling way before that. Thus among several hundred such Essence Spring stalactites, only one or two might reach the age of a hundred years old.

"There might be more of them, you should take a look." Xukong suggested. "With the size of the area, there should be more essence springs."

"I'll take a look." Lin Mu let his Immortal sense spread further, while trying to avoid the stalactites.

Immortal sense was made from Immortal Qi and could actually cause the Stalactites to break due to their properties. Thus he needed to be careful not to touch them too forcefully. Just from this one could see how fragile they really were.

For one to last over a hundred years was already close to a miracle.

"There's more of them... two more!" Lin Mu was stunned.

Some distance from the Essence Spring he was at, several more ponds existed. And these ponds had two stalactites that had reached the length needed for them to be Hundred year old!

"This'll be good..." Lin Mu was very excited about the pills that he would be getting from these later.

[Chapter 1506 Harvesting The Stalactites And Immortal Cave Milk](#)

Having found not one, not two but three Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactites was a matter of great joy to Lin Mu.

Not only had he found what he had set out for, he had gotten it threefold.

'I shouldn't get ahead of myself though. I still need to take these back safely and get Alchemist Ruoxian to refine them.' Lin Mu told himself.

~HUU~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu calmed down and looked at the stalactite hanging on the roof.

"Taking this won't be simple..." Lin Mu knew the material was fragile and touching it would inevitably break them.

This was one of the reasons why they were so hard to obtain and use. Chances were, even if someone did find a Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite, they might just end up breaking them when trying to take them.

It would destroy the stalactite and would leave it with no use as all the energy contained within it would dissipate when it would break.

Lin Mu thought for a minute before deciding on a method.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a breath before extending his hand towards the Stalactite from a distance.

"Meld!" having done that, Lin Mu finally activated the fifth skill he had obtained from the ring.

Meld could allow Lin Mu to control the space on a fine level and would also freeze it at the same time. It was a skill that even he hadn't fully understood yet. But its characteristic were perfect for the current task.

The space around the Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite trembled before it was enveloped under the effects of Meld. The area of effect was a rectangular cuboid, but was invisible to anyone other than Lin Mu.

The one meter long stalactite was perfectly encased within this cuboid and Lin Mu slowly pulled it towards himself.

"It's working... the Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite is intact!" Lin Mu was pleased.

He carefully brought it towards himself using meld and when it was just a few inches from his hand, he stored it in the ring.

"Haaa! It's done... it's actually done." Lin Mu let out a breath of relief.

After all it was a nerve wracking task, as even a small mistake could cause the entire thing to break and his effort to go to waste.

Having store it though, Lin Mu's attention went to the pond filled with the shimmering milky liquid.

"You should take the Immortal Cave Milk too. It can be used to refine more Body cultivation pills." Xukong suggested.

"Yes senior. If I recall correctly, this can be used as one of the materials for the Tri-essence Immortal pill too." Lin Mu replied.

"Indeed. You don't have a large supply of Pure Wood Essence, so this will be good enough for its substitute." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu nodded his head and got ready to store the Immortal Cave Milk too. For that, he took out large glass bottles that were inscribed with preserving formations. It was one of the miscellaneous things he had bought during his shopping spree in the Skylark city as well as Middle fort city.

He had bought it exactly for situations like these and they weren't the only things either. Lin Mu had bought plenty of items that would come in handy for a multitude of situations.

These glass bottles were necessary to preserve the Immortal Cave Milk. While it wasn't as volatile as the Immortal Essence itself, it could still dissipate after some time passed. It was a type of Immortal liquid that would be naturally formed in Immortal Essence Crystal mines as well as Immortal Stone Mines.

The only difference was that the Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite would only form in the Immortal Essence Crystal mines but not in the Immortal Stone mines.

The Immortal Cave Milk was a valuable material and could be used for a lot of things. It was something that many sects and power would look after as it was technically a renewable resource.

As long as the cave where it was formed was taken care off, they could continue to harvest it over time. Lin Mu had even seen it for sale in the Grand Sky Pavilion before, thus knew that it wasn't too rare.

He spent a few minutes in gathering all the Immortal Cave Milk before moving to the next section.

"I should take the other Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactite too and the Immortal Cave milk there." Lin Mu wasn't going to leave them behind.

After reaching the next section, Lin Mu used Meld again, storing away the two Hundred Year old Essence Spring Stalactites in his ring safely. Once that was done, he also took away All Immortal Cave milk that was present below them.

In total, Lin Mu had gotten nearly six large bottles of the Immortal Cave Milk. If this was sold in the Grand Sky Pavilion, Lin Mu would be able to get at least a few thousand High Grade immortal stones for it.

Though he wasn't going to do that when he himself had a use for it.

Not to mention, the immortal Cave Milk could also be drank directly for a quick boost to one's vitality. It even worked as a medicine for healing wounds. This was one of the reasons why it was a valuable resources.

'This was a good harvest for sure, and it's not even the beginning...' Lin Mu thought to himself as his attention went to the millions of Immortal Essence Crystals growing everywhere.

~TREMBLE~

But just as Lin Mu was thinking about this, he felt the entire area shake.

"WHAT!?" Lin Mu was stunned by the sudden quaking.

~BOOM~

A few moments later, he could hear a muffled explosion too. Which was surprising since he was deep underground.

'If I can hear it even here, that means it was very strong...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

~SHUA~ SHUA~

But this was merely the start of the surprises.

"The roots... they're pulsating?" Lin Mu saw the violet veins on the roots of the Violet Mystic Life Tree throbbing.

[Chapter 1507 The Grand Sky Pavilion Arrives](#)

Seeing the reaction of the Violet Mystic Life Tree, Lin Mu was concerned. He didn't know what had happened but knew that it must be big enough to cause the entire tree to act up.

"Did the barrier break or something?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

~Crack~

~THUD~THUD~THUD~

A few seconds later, he saw the Stalactite that were hanging from the roof collapse.

'I'm lucky it didn't start before and I managed to take the Hundred Year Old Essence Spring Stalactites with me or it might have ended up as a bad situation. I would have lost them all...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He knew that waiting here would not be good and that he needed to act quick if he were to get any more benefits from the Violet Mystic Life Tree.

"At the very least I need to get a fruit from the tree..." Lin Mu muttered to himself before flying up.

He cut open a gap in the roots that were encapsulating the mine and continued onwards. And just like before the roots all healed and closed up within seconds of Lin Mu cutting them.

In fact, Lin Mu even thought that the speed of healing was a bit faster than before. Though he didn't have the time to confirm it right now. He needed to focus more on the situation at hand and see what was happening.

A couple of minutes later, Lin Mu reached the surface and appeared some distance from the Violet Mystic Life Tree. The crown of the tree was quite wide but Lin Mu was still some distance from it.

~BOOM~BOOM~BOOM~

It was at this time that he heard the explosions again. He looked over to its source and saw the reason behind it.

"They're attacking the barrier!" Lin Mu saw tens of cultivators surrounding the barrier.

They were using various means to attack the barrier, with fire balls, swords lights, fist imprints and beast shadows flying. A myriad of attacks mixed together, making it hard to tell what the attacks were at one point.

But that was not all, as Lin Mu noticed that there were also formations masters working on unraveling the array. They were situated at the back and were using their skills and tools to analyze the barrier.

"Half of these people aren't from the cultivators who were waiting around... Did their reinforcement arrive already?" Lin Mu was taken aback.

He was hoping that they would take longer to arrive, especially with the Leafless Dead forest turning into a Natural Befuddling array.

'No... with the formation masters they have, it makes sense that they must have figured out a way to overcome it.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Lin Mu quickly hid himself, knowing that he couldn't be seen right now. Thankfully the illusory properties of the barrier were still functioning and the insides of the barrier couldn't be seen properly.

"Continue your attacks! We need to destabilize the array so the formation masters can find the flaws!" An elder shouted while attacking.

"It's working! We can sense the nodes!" The formation masters spoke after a few minutes.

But while the attacks were continuing, something else was happening at the ruined buildings where the cultivators had been camped.

A large Ship was now parked here, and several experts were guarding it. The ship was nearly five hundred meters long and could easily be considered a warship considering the dense amount of offensive formations that were placed on it.

"Tch~ The Grand Sky Pavilion is really too much. They brought their entire team to capture these ruins and the tree." A few cultivators were talking some distance away.

With how large the ship was, it could be seen by everyone since it towered over the collapsed buildings.

"What can we even do? They are one of the major powers of the middle Fort city. Even if we had called for help earlier, our elders need to travel a lot further." Another cultivator said in a frustrated tone.

~Sigh~

"We were simply told to wait and watch since the formation arrays were beyond us. But now it will all be for naught..."

"It's not like we can oppose the Grand Sky Pavilion's experts either. If we try that, we'll be dead before our support arrives. At least once our elders arrive, we might be able to argue for a share."

"Then there's that damned Leafless Dead forest too! How the hell did it turn into a Befuddling array?"

"Yeah, it sure as hell wasn't like that when we passed through it."

"Our elders are now delayed because of it too. Only the Grand Sky Pavilion managed to overcome it somehow..."

Similar conversations were going on in all the camps of the cultivators who had originally discovered the ruins. Most of them had instruction to wait for their elders or reinforcements to arrive. The only ones who didn't have this option were the itinerant cultivators who had stumbled upon this place.

They were in the worst situation and could only wait around helplessly, hoping for some random fortune to favor them.

But the appearance of the Grand Sky Pavilion had messed it all up. They had directly brought over their Grand Battleship, along with hundreds of experts and tens of elders, all ready to act for most situations.

They quickly suppressed the experts that were camping in the area, and warned them from acting out. They then swiftly acted and attacked the barrier that surrounded the Violet Mystic Life Tree.

Their attacks were strong, and made the entire barrier shake. But despite that, the barrier didn't collapse. The experts of the Grand Sky Pavilion didn't waver though and quickly adapted to it, relying on the work of their formation masters.

Lin Mu observed through all and knew that the Grand Sky Pavilion was taking this very seriously.

"Looks like I'll need to be sneaky." Lin Mu looked up at the tree and searched for a fruit.

He flew up at a great speed, and got to see the tree closely for the first time.

Chapter 1508 Finding The Fruits

The Violet Mystic Life Tree was truly magical and Lin Mu could feel the dense energy that was contained within it.

Every leaf, every twig, every branch was filled with vitality and even the air around it was getting infused with it.

"No wonder they say merely staying within its periphery can heal mortals and improve one's health." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Just a few breaths alone were enough to invigorate Lin Mu, making him feel like his exhaustion was fading away.

"Let's search for the fruit then... there should be at least one." Lin Mu muttered.

"Considering the age of the tree, there should be at least four or five of them." Xukong informed.

"Oh? Where can I find them senior?" Lin Mu asked. "My immortal sense is not useful here, due to the energy of the tree." He was unable to use Immortal sense as it would get deflected by the energy that was being emitted by the tree.

"The fruits are usually quite spread around if there is more than one." Xukong answered. "If you find one fruit, the others should be distant from it."

"Alright senior." Lin Mu flew through the branches of the Violet Mystic Life Tree.

The dense branches and leaves made it hard to search for the fruit. Not to mention, from what Lin Mu had learned, the fruit was also of the same color. It would be very easy to miss one, especially since he couldn't use his Immortal Sense either.

And while Lin Mu continued his search for the fruit, the bombardment on the barrier was ongoing. The people of the Grand Sky Pavilion were relentless and didn't seem like they would give up easily.

The formation masters were also working on it diligently and were getting results too. It wouldn't be long before they would be able to either gain a passage into the barrier, or directly disable it.

Lin Mu frantically searched for five minutes before he finally sensed something.

"Hang on..." Lin Mu could feel his body responding to something. "Such intense response... it should only be due to dense vitality." He muttered.

Lin Mu followed his body's response and quickly reached a small bunch of branches. They were located at the base of the tree's crown and were filled with leaves, almost making it look like a violet clouds.

The feeling that Lin Mu was getting was from these leaves.

"Is it here..." Lin Mu parted the branches and leaves, allowing him to see its insides.

And in there, he finally saw the fruit. It was about the size of an orange and was violet in color just like the leaves. Its skin was smooth and fine patterns could be seen on it. Upon examining closely one would realize that these patterns were actually runes!

"This... isn't this Dao Script!?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"It is indeed." Xukong confirmed.

"So it really is like that... Dao Script comes from the very Dao itself. Natural treasures can form these runes automatically..." This was the first time that Lin Mu was encountering something that had Dao Script on it.

While he had read about it and also heard from Senior Xukong about it, seeing it with his own two eyes was a unique experience.

'What are these runes though?' Lin Mu tried to read the runes on the fruit.

But after a few seconds, he realized he was unable to recognize them at all.

"You won't be able to read it right now. You haven't comprehended it after all." Xukong reminded.

"Keep it with you for later. You can study it." He suggested.

"Yes, that'll be good." Lin Mu wouldn't give up an opportunity to learn more about Dao Script.

While he had learned a lot from Xukong, there were still runes that could not be taught by others, only understood on their own. The runes on the Fruit of the Violet Mystic Life Tree were an example of that.

'I need to ensure the Fruit is not damaged...' Lin Mu first took out a special storage box that was used for Immortal Fruits and herbs.

It was made out of Lacquered Wood that was then protected with preserving formations. Even its insides were cushioned and padded to ensure that the delicate fruits and herbs would not be damaged by the hard surface.

Lin Mu held the open box with one hand, and then used his other hand to gently pinch the twig that was attached to the fruit.

~Snap~

The twig broke off smoothly and Lin Mu immediately put the fruit in the box before closing it.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a breath of relief seeing the Fruit safely stored away.

"That's one fruit down," Lin Mu said before looking around for others.

~rustle~

But what he didn't notice was that the tree had started to move faintly. This had happened just as he had plucked the fruit and was barely noticeable over the explosions that were happening in the distance.

The explosions had gotten stronger and were now affecting the area within the barrier too. It was a sign that the barrier wouldn't last long.

Lin Mu saw this too and knew that he needed to be faster.

'I'll try using the same method as before. My body seems to be able to sense the energy of the fruits.'

Lin Mu closed his eyes and relied on his instincts to find the fruit.

After a couple of minutes of wandering, he finally felt a slight response. He changed his direction to go there and felt the response getting stronger. And a minute later, the response got strong enough for Lin Mu to confirm that there was a fruit there.

"Here it is!" Lin Mu finally found the second fruit.

Just like before, the fruit was nestled between hundreds of leaves and could be barely seen.

"Carefully..." Lin Mu opened the fruit storage box that already contained a fruit and quickly plucked the second fruit.

~CLACK~

The box was closed and the fruits were stored away safely.

~RUSTLE~ RUSTLE~

"Huh? What's that?"

[Chapter 1509 The Tree Awakens](#)

Upon plucking the second fruit, Lin Mu noticed that the branches and leaves in front of him were moving.

'They certainly aren't moving from the wind... and neither from the vibrations...' Lin Mu narrowed his eyes.

But after watching it for a few seconds, the leaves stopped moving, making him think that he was just mistaken.

"I need to search for other fruits, I can't waste any more time..." Lin Mu wandered around searching for more.

He was getting better at sensing the fruits, as his body was also responding to the energy of the fruits better. Lin Mu could only attribute it to him being a body cultivator, for his body to respond to vitality like this.

'Even if I don't necessarily need the added vitality from the fruits of the Violet Mystic Life Tree, my body still hungers for it... Guess there's no such thing as too much lifespan.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Being a dual body and Qi cultivator, Lin Mu's current longevity was more than ten thousand years. It was actually hard to estimate for even Xukong, since it could actually vary depending on the quality of Lin Mu's body.

The longevity could also change later on, thus confirming it was difficult. Only the Ten thousand years could be said with a guarantee. At a maximum, there was a chance Lin Mu could easily have over fifteen thousand years of longevity at his current cultivation base.

This was a massive number that most cultivators wouldn't have. But then again, this was a benefit that only dual body and Qi cultivators had. While it came with its own difficulties, as long as one could overcome them, it was all worth it.

The long lifespan Lin Mu had was also making him wonder if he should just enter seclusion and hone his occupational skills for a while.

Five more minutes passed like this before Lin Mu stumbled upon the third fruit!

"Good!" Lin Mu carefully plucked the fruit and stored it in the wooden box safely.

~RUSTLE~RUSTLE~

~THUD~

But as soon as he did that, the branch in front of him moved and slapped his hand!

"What the!?" Lin Mu was surprised by this.

~BOOM~

~CRACK~

At the same time, a large explosion happened at the barrier, making it crack.

"Shit! They've already cracked it!" Lin Mu wondered if he needed to escape now.

~WOONG~

But before he could follow on that thought, winds started to stir around the Violet Mystic Life Tree. Then in the next moment, strong energy fluctuations rose from the tree, stunning Lin Mu.

"What's happening?" Lin Mu became alert.

~KACHA~ KACHA~

"HAHA! The barrier is broken!" The members of the Grand Sky Pavilion explained.

"Everyone charge in!" The elders ordered.

~SHUA~ ~SHUA~

"Dammit! They've broken in..." Lin Mu knew his time here had come to an end.

~rustle~ rustle~

~CREAK~

But at this point, he felt a massive wave of energy spreading from the Violet Mystic Life Tree.

"Ugh!" it was strong enough to send Lin Mu flying back.

~WOONG~

The entire Violet Mystic Life Tree started to shake, as its branches moved. The veins on the leaves grew brightly while its trunk swayed.

~HUALA~

Lin Mu watched as tens of thousands of runes spread out from the leaves of the Violet Mystic Life Tree. The runes were all in Dao Script and were so intricate, Lin Mu could barely read a fraction of them.

"It can't be... this tree..." Lin Mu started to realize something.

~CRACK~CRACK~CRACK~

But this seemed to merely be the start of something huge as the trunk of the Violet Mystic Life Tree suddenly cracked and split!

Lin Mu watched in shock, wondering if the tree was damaged somehow. But then he saw a red glow filling the cracked trunk. A familiar bloody aura permeated the cracks in the trunk and soon turned into a thick viscous fluid.

"This can't be... it's similar to that strange rock creature..." Lin Mu recalled the creature that had attacked him and Little Shrubby when they had arrived in the Desolate Blood Battlefield.

The aura that the Violet Mystic Life Tree was now emitting was very similar to that.

'No... it's actually stronger!' Lin Mu grasped.

~HONG~

By this time, the runes that had spread out from the Violet Mystic Life Tree were now assembled into a large array. Lin Mu couldn't understand what the array was from looking at it, but soon understood its effect by merely experiencing it.

"I can't—" Lin Mu suddenly became unable to fly and plummeted to the ground.

~THUD~

His body crashed into the ground, leaving an imprint in it.

"Ugh... why can't I fly?" Lin Mu was confused.

~THUD~THUD~THUD~

"AHH!"

"WHAT THE HELL!?"

"What's happening!?"

But it wasn't just him that was unable to fly. The members of the Grand Sky Pavilion that had entered the area of the Violet Mystic Life Tree also experienced the same thing and fell to the ground.

"What's this elder?" the junior members of the Grand Sky Pavilion asked.

"How's this possible?" the elder though seemed to be stunned.

He was looking at his hands, having noticed something more than the others.

But being experienced, he didn't stay in his dazed state for long.

"EVERYONE! MOVE BACK!" The elder shouted.

"Why elder?" they asked.

"Move back or you won't be able to—" Before the elder could finish his words though, the others had understood.

"I can't sense Immortal Qi!?"

"I can't mobilize my own immortal Qi either!"

"How's this possible?"

~SHUA~SHUA~SHUA~

More runes started to rise from the Violet Mystic Life Tree, and soon turned into formations.

These formations though were something the formation masters could identify.

"Heavens! Fire Fall offensive formations!"

"Retreat! Retreat!"

~BOOM~BOOM~BOOM~BOOM~

Just a few seconds later, all the formations in the air lit up and hundreds of fire balls were shot out of them. The fireballs landed on the cultivators who had entered the area, injuring them and sending them flying.

Lin Mu who watched all this was stunned.

"The Violet Mystic Life Tree has awakened?"

[Chapter 1510 Mystery Of The Tree](#)

Lin Mu was shocked seeing the Tree change like this.

But having seen it all, the ability to use runes, it able to respond as well as attack the people of the Grand Sky Pavilion, Lin Mu was now sure of one thing.

"The Violet Mystic Life Tree... It's Sentient!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

At the same time, a few new thoughts appeared in his mind that soon turned into desires.

'If I can take this tree... with the resources it can provide as well as the vitality it generates... the Sleepscape will be even better!' Lin Mu knew if he went ahead with this, it was going to be very risky.

Especially with the Grand Sky Pavilion being there, it was even more so. While it seemed like they were defeated, Lin Mu knew it was just a temporary setback for them. Lin Mu had seen the Elders that had arrived, they were at the Fifth Tribulation Stage of the Immortal Realm!

And there were several of them too. Just this alone showed that the Grand Sky Pavilion was taking this very seriously. If they didn't get the Tree now, they'll just keep on trying until even stronger members of their group arrive.

Lin Mu had heard from Alchemist Ruoxian how strong they really were and the backing they had. It was even said that there were elders who were at the Seventh Tribulation Stage of the Immortal Realm in seclusion back at their main palace.

If an expert like that decided to interfere, Lin Mu knew things could go bad very quickly.

'This is going to be a gamble... But it'll be worth it if I can succeed in it!' Lin Mu's eyes glowed with determination.

But before taking action, Lin Mu needed to assess the situation. After all, there was a big problem on his head right now.

"The immortal Qi has been suppressed..." Lin Mu muttered.

Even he was unable to utilize the Immortal Qi within his body, similar to the people of the Grand Sky Pavilion.

'It feels similar to the technique that the Northern Tribes used but of much high level...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Since he had his body cultivation, Lin Mu wasn't that worried, but he also knew it had restrained his strength by a margin.

"That's not all," Xukong spoke up at this point. "The tree isn't just restraining Immortal Qi, it will also restrain all Qi skills." He reminded Lin Mu.

"Of course!" Lin Mu realized.

He tried to use his ring's skills and was unable to do so. Flicker, Blink, Phase, Fade and Meld didn't work at all.

"This makes it a lot more difficult..." Without the ring's skills, Lin Mu would not be having an easy time with the tree.

Not just that, but even escaping would be difficult since his skills were quite important for that.

And while Lin Mu was coming to terms with the inability to use any Qi skills, the people of the Grand Sky Pavilion had retreated outside the limits of where the barrier used to be.

"The Immortal Qi! I can feel it again!" someone exclaimed.

"I can feel my cultivation base again!" The others soon felt their power return.

The elder who was leading the people of the Grand Sky Pavilion furrowed his brows as he started at the Violet Mystic Life Tree that had transformed.

"This is not in any records... Seems like we are facing a mutant." The Elder spoke.

"A Mutant?" The people of the Grand Sky Pavilion repeated in confusion.

"Just know that we'll have to analyze the abilities of the tree first. We cannot rush in directly, we'll need to suppress the formations it is using first." The Elder ordered.

"Yes! elder!" They all responded.

The formation masters quickly got to work, while other members assisted them.

Lin Mu who watched all this, was impressed by how quickly the Grand Sky Pavilion had composed themselves.

"Having a competent leader surely makes a huge difference..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He watched as the Violet Mystic Life Tree continues its assault against the people of the Grand Sky Pavilion.

They had seemingly split their people into two groups. The first group was the Formation masters who were in charge of analyzing the arrays that the Violet Mystic Life Tree was using and the second group was in charge of protecting them.

The offensive formations used by the Violet Mystic Life Tree weren't just limited to the Fire Fall Offensive Formation either. Several more of them appeared and their attacks easily reached the place where the Grand Sky Pavilion members were working at.

Watching this, Lin Mu understood that the range where the Violet Mystic Life Tree could restrain Immortal Qi was only within the scope of the barrier.

'As long as it's within the barrier, only the Violet Mystic Life Tree can use formations and as such, Immortal Qi. Others will be restrained and will quickly get targeted by its offensive formations.' Lin Mu observed.

After observing for a couple of minutes, though, Lin Mu realized something.

"The Violet Mystic Life Tree does not attack directly... it only does so using the formations...." Lin Mu muttered as a plan started to form within his mind.

He avoided the line of sight of the Grand Sky Pavilion's members as he tried to approach the Violet Mystic Life Tree. He wanted to see if the tree would react if he directly touched it.

~BOOM~BOOM~BOOM~

Of course, the tree attacked him using the offensive formations, but Lin Mu simply dodged them or bore the impact. With his body, it wasn't that difficult for him to do both. The attacks that could kill Fourth Tribulation Stage Immortals were something that weren't even able to injure him.

Though with every impact, Lin Mu could feel the Immortal Essence within his body depleting.

'I can't just defend endlessly. Once my Immortal Essence runs out, my defenses will collapse...' Lin Mu understood.

Even if he had massive stores of Immortal Essence due to the Apertures, he knew better than to use them blindly.