

Walker 1571

[Chapter 1571 Reflection](#)

Lin Mu read through all the letters, getting a better understanding of the man he had killed earlier.

From what he had seen before, Huangyu Shiyi, the Eleventh Prince of the Holy Topaz Dynasty, seemed to be overbearing. He was oppressive and killed without mercy.

But now that Lin Mu had read the letters and seen what he had gone through, he could somewhat understand his change.

'Having bullied and oppressed all life, ridiculed and further suppressed because of his body, he was bound to turn out like this. The ring gave him the power to suddenly rise and that resulted in him taking on a different personality.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

And since Huangyu Shiyi was in a rather eye catching position due to being a prince, the pressure on his was even greater.

After all, he also needed to watch out for competition from his siblings. Elimination of heirs was normal in a royal family, and Huangyu Shiyi was the peak example of a weak heir. It would not be unusual for him to be killed or crippled by his siblings eventually.

It was a great weight on his back that had pushed him to his limits.

~huh~

"Having gone through all that, you obtained power but still died..." Lin Mu muttered.

Lin Mu was the one who had killed the prince and yet he was now the one to feel pity for him.

"But it felt nice, right?" Lin Mu heard.

"Huh? What senior?" Lin Mu turned to Xukong.

"What? I didn't say anything." Xukong replied.

"I thought I heard..." Lin Mu was about to say when he heard the voice again.

"Didn't it feel nice to kill the prince?"

"Who?" Lin Mu looked around, unable to tell where the voice was coming from.

"What's happening?" Xukong was concerned to now.

"I can hear someone..." Lin Mu replied before hearing the voice again.

"You killed the prince who had suffered and obtained his fortunate encounter. Isn't this great?" the voice asked.

"It's not like—" Before Lin Mu could reply though, the voice interrupted him.

"Oh, but it is! You felt a great desire... felt that the fortunate encounter was stolen from you... You killed the prince because you wanted his fortunate encounter." The voice stated.

"That was the ring! It gave me the desire." Lin Mu replied.

"Lin Mu, who are you talking to?" Xukong couldn't figure out.

But Lin Mu didn't respond to Xukong. He was far too agitated by the voice.

"Oh? The ring gave you the desire? Then couldn't you have not acted on it?" The voice replied. "You were suppressing the desire all this time, weren't you? But then you saw the prince... you saw his power... and you wanted it."

"NO! It was the ring's will." Lin Mu denied.

"Oh, please. You know how much of that is true." The voice ridiculed. "You wanted it. Didn't you enjoy seeing the loot you got from the prince? And now you even have two more Immortal Stone mines you can take. Isn't that great? Haha!" it mocked.

"NO! That is not true! You don't know me, so how can you say that!" Lin Mu shouted back.

"Ahahaha!" but in response, the voice simply laughed.

"That..." Xukong became alert this time. "I heard that too..." he spoke.

"You said, I don't know you?" The voice spoke out loud, audible to both Xukong and Lin Mu.

"Yeah! You don't know me. All that you've said is false!" Lin Mu answered.

Xukong who heard the two sentences, were now concerned.

'Who can be here?' Xukong was quite worried, as he knew getting into the ring was not possible for anyone else. 'That only means it's been here since the start.' He thought.

While Xukong thought about the voice though, it continued to speak.

"Oh, but Lin Mu... I am you." The voice stated.

"What..." Lin Mu was taken aback.

~shua~

A moment later, it was as if a mirror appeared in front of Lin Mu.

The mirror reflected Lin Mu, but his appearance seemed to be different.

A nefarious smile adorned his face, while his brows rose in contempt. His eyes gleamed with a black and purple light, while an uncomfortable aura wrapped around him.

Xukong who saw it as well, was stunned. "This..."

Lin Mu was too shocked to see himself too.

"Who are you...?" Lin Mu questioned in doubt.

"Like I said... I'm you." The reflection spoke. "Thus, I know exactly how you feel... how you REALLY feel." It said with a wide grin.

"That's not—" Lin Mu tried to deny again, but was stopped.

"Sshhh! It's fine if you want to deny it now, but the truth will not change." The reflection spoke.

"Besides, I am here to help you... show you the true path... Leave your hypocrisy and listen to me." It revealed.

"Lin Mu, get back." Xukong said sternly.

Xukong moved towards the Mirror facing it directly. But surprisingly, no reflection of his body appeared in it.

"It is useless, Senior Xukong. What is true cannot be changed..." The reflection spoke. "Not even you can defy this, AHAHAHA!" The reflection burst out into laughter.

~SHUA~

In the next second, a soul chilling aura filled the area.

Lin Mu looked towards the source of the aura and saw that it was coming from none other than the Ethereal Altar!

~HONG~

The Altar lit up as a beam of purple light shot out straight from it. The light reached high up into the ring's space and spread all around the area. And as the light spread, the aura spread too.

It only got denser and started to change.

At first it felt cold and uncomfortable, but it grew more malevolent as it spread. And in just a few seconds, it had reached a new level.

It now felt... Evil.

"Jiejiejiejiejiejie~"

"Jiejiejiejiejiejie~"

"Jiejiejiejiejiejie~"

A mix of laughter sounded and merged with the laughing reflection.

"What is this?!" Lin Mu questioned.

"This is... Devil Path... The Aura of the Devil Path!" Xukong exclaimed.

[Chapter 1572 The Murdering Heart Sutra](#)

The Devilish Aura spread inside the ring, covering everything that was within it.

The Ethereal Altar was the only thing that could be seen within it clearly. Lin Mu and Xukong were barely able to see each other too despite being close by, which showed just how dense the aura was.

"Aura of the Devil Path? What!?" Lin Mu was stunned.

~SHUA~

And while they were coming to terms with the situation, the Ethereal Altar continued to release more of the Devilish Aura.

"It shouldn't be... If the Devil Path appears..." Xukong muttered in disbelief.

~HONG~

At this moment, Lin Mu felt a wave of energy covering his body.

Streams of information started to pour into his head, as strange and esoteric chants filled his mind.

Lin Mu's vision turned black and he soon felt like he had arrived in an entirely new place.

He was in a barren land that seemed to be charred black. There was death and desolation spread everywhere, while flames burned in the distance. Tall peaks that stabbed the sky could be seen, while a colossal skeleton of a beast hung in the sky.

The skeleton must have been over a thousand kilometer long, as sky could not be seen behind it.

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

Lin Mu heard the eerie laughter again, that was now mixed with the strange chants.

~SHUA~SHUA~SHUA~

A few seconds later, masses of dark energies gathered and hundreds of silhouettes appeared around Lin Mu. They were of different sizes, some being the size of a normal human, while some as tall as mountains!

They had sharp fangs in their mouth, while their bodies overflowed with evil aura.

Some of them had a single horn, some had two horns while some had multiple horns on their heads.

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

~Jiejiejiejiejie~

The figures continued to laugh, as their numbers increased.

Lin Mu looked around but could not speak. He found his body to be frozen, with the devilish aura overpowering it.

~WHOOSH~

But soon, the Devilish aura didn't just cover his body, but it started to enter it!

As soon as that happened, Lin Mu felt an incredible chill cover his body. His thoughts were in a disarray, but strangely he didn't feel panicked. Instead, his thoughts started to flow in a different route.

Nefarious, cruel and malevolent thoughts filled his mind while his expression turned colder.

It was now that Lin Mu heard the devilish figures speak. They no longer laughed, but actually spoke.

"Reap the souls of all creations, take their providence as yours and bring forth Hell upon the Myriad Heavens! — Behold The Murdering Heart Sutra!"

The chants imprinted themselves onto Lin Mu's mind, and the power of the new sutra flowed through his body.

"Ahahahah..." A low laughter escaped Lin Mu's lips before the scene faded away like an illusion.

He opened his eyes back in the ring's space, his demeanor having changed.

But along with it, the devilish aura filling the space was gone too and even the Ethereal Altar had calmed down.

It was as if nothing had happened and only Xukong was the witness to it all.

"What was..." Lin Mu's expression suddenly changed as he felt an ache in his head.

The cold demeanor returned to his normal one, and an expression of confusion appeared on his face.

"Wait... the next sutra..." Lin Mu felt the new information in his mind.

"Lin Mu, are you fine?" Xukong asked with great concern.

"Y-yes... at least it seems like it?" Lin Mu looked at his body, finding no damage to it.

He then looked around and saw that everything was back to normal.

"Where did that mirror and reflection go?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The Devilish aura and the mirror were both absorbed into your body." Xukong answered much to Lin Mu's surprised.

"They were?" Lin Mu couldn't believe it.

"Yes... shortly after the aura spread you entered a trance." Xukong replied.

"How long was I like that?" Lin Mu asked, unable to tell.

"Not long... just a couple minutes." Xukong replied. "But in that time the Devilish Aura was being absorbed into your body. The mirror was last to go." He explained.

Hearing this Lin Mu was at a loss.

He had obtained the next part of the Nine Divine Heart Sutras but didn't really feel good about it.

Xukong could see his conflicted expression and asked, "what did you obtain?"

"I got the fifth sutra from the Nine Divine Heart Sutras." Lin Mu answered.

Hearing this, Xukong could already guess some things.

'The Aura of the Devil path appeared this time... the sutra is really going to belong to it?' Xukong was conflicted too. "What is it?" he still questioned.

"It is... the Murdering Heart Sutra." Lin Mu revealed.

~Sigh~

Xukong let out a loud sigh upon hearing this. His worst guess had been confirmed.

"I had wished it would not be like this, but since it has been given there's no use..." Xukong muttered. "The fifth sutra belongs to the Devil Path." He spoke.

"The Devil Path..." Lin Mu muttered. "How's it different than the Demonic Path?" he asked.

"The Demonic Path belongs to the demons, who are merely violent, it isn't necessarily malevolent. But the Devil Path... that's inherently evil. The Devils are creatures born from evil. Their entire existence is meant to create havoc and erase life." Xukong explained.

~gulp~

Hearing this, Lin Mu couldn't help but swallow his saliva.

"But now I have a power belonging to it..." Lin Mu spoke. "Why would it give me this? And what was that reflection?" he had many questions.

"I don't know why there is a sutra like this, but the reflection you saw was a Heart Devil." Xukong answered. "They are also born from a cultivator, but unlike Heart Demons, they are a lot more terrifying. Heart demons are formed from regret and obsessions, but Heart Devils are born from negativity of the cultivators."

"This..." Hearing this, Lin Mu was astounded.

He now understood the reflection's words. It was speaking the truth... since it was born from himself!

[Chapter 1573 Resolving A Mental Conflict](#)

The revelation about the reflection was unnerving to Lin Mu.

He had never thought that something like that was hidden within him. Not just that, but the fact that it had been nurtured by his actions too.

"Is there... a way to get rid of a Heart Devil Senior?" Lin Mu questioned after a while.

"Unfortunately, no." Xukong shook his head. "Everyone cultivator who has lived long enough will go through many battles and would have killed thousands if not millions. All this would eventually lead them to give birth to a Heart Devil." He explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu furrowed his brows, as the birth of a Heart Devil seemed more like an inevitable fact.

"I had expected you to give birth to a Heart Devil too... just not this early." Xukong stated. "I'm afraid the ring and the altar might have been behind its early appearance. It has catalyzed its birth and given it a full form." He added.

"I see..." Lin Mu felt a bit relieved at that, but the fact that the altar was behind its birth still unnerved him.

This led him to think more about the ring and the Nine Divine Heart Sutras.

'Each sutra had a requirement that I needed to fulfill for it to be given to me. The Calming Heart Sutra had the lowest requirement, basically needing me to start cultivating. The Severing Heart Sutra needed me to take up the sword and improve my mentality.

The burning Heart Sutra needed me to experience intense rage, while the Nurturing Heart Sutra needed for me to care for beasts.

Then... the Murdering Heart Sutra's requirement was to kill people with selfish needs in mind thereby leading to the birth of a Heart Devil?' Lin Mu pondered on it deeply.

He stayed like this for a half an hour, during which Xukong did not disturb him. He could see that Lin Mu was trying to resolve the conflict in his mind, and it was important for him to come to terms on his own.

~huh~

Eventually Lin Mu let out a breath and his expression returned to being calm.

But he had not used the Calming Heart Sutra for it, he had done so on his own.

"Are you okay now?" Xukong questioned.

"Yes... I understand it now." Lin Mu replied. "What I've been given is merely a tool. It is up to me how I use it. Even if I have a heart Devil and the Sutra uses the power of devils, as I don't use it to commit outright atrocities, it should be fine, right?" he explained.

"Indeed." Xukong agreed. "That is also how many cultivators with Heart Devils resolve it. They will either do righteous acts that will neutralize the heart devil after a while, would enter seclusion for a long time and do nothing, letting the Heart Devil starve away, or even go to a Buddhist temple and repent for a few thousand years." He elaborated.

"Oh?" Lin Mu was a bit surprised. "Doesn't this mean that I can use the Calming Heart Sutra to suppress the effects of the Murdering heart Sutra?" he questioned.

Lin Mu had already had the workings of the Murdering heart sutra in his mind and knew that it was overbearing, like the Burning Heart Sutra.

In order to stop the effects of the Burning Heart Sutra, Lin Mu had to use the Calming Heart Sutra and dispel the rage in his heart. He wondered if the same would apply to the Murdering heart sutra.

"I don't think so." But much to Lin Mu's surprise, Xukong denied it. "You can of course, try it, but I don't think it will work."

"Why so senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"The Calming Heart Sutra is of the Buddhist path, which is a slow one. Its effect can work on something like anger, which can be soothed with gentleness. But the same would not apply for the Murdering Heart Sutra, which is of the Devil Path.

The Devil path is a lot more stubborn and fierce than the Demonic Path and it won't be suppressed by the Calming Heart sutra right away. The cultivators who repent in Buddhist temples do so for a long time and wear down the Heart Devil slowly.

You won't have the same luxury using the Murdering Heart Sutra. To resolve it, you need something fast and equally fierce." Xukong explained in detail, hoping that Lin Mu would get the answer.

"Of course! The Sword Path!" Lin Mu didn't disappoint Xukong and grasped it immediately. "The Severing Heart Sutra should be able to counteract the effects of the Murdering Heart Sutra." He stated.

"It should yes. The Sword Path does have a lot of righteous cultivators, and it traditionally belongs to the orthodox path. It pursues different routes, but they all lead to the ability to sever everything." Xukong spoke.

"Yes, the Severing Heart Sutra should cut off the effects of the Murdering Heart Sutra." Lin Mu nodded his head.

If the Calming Heart Sutra acting on the Burning Heart Sutra was like using water to put out a burning cloth, Severing Heart Sutra acting on the Murdering Heart Sutra was like cutting off a part of the cloth, stopping the rest from burning.

The actions taken were different, but led to the same effect ultimately.

Of course, all this was just a hypothesis and Lin Mu would still need to test it out himself.

"We should probably leave the Ring's space now. We've been here a while..." Lin Mu was actually surprised by how long he was allowed to stay here this time. "I actually feel no repulsion from the ring..." he muttered.

"You should be able to come into the ring a lot more freely now. Your cultivation base has risen high enough for that." Xukong replied.

"I see... that's good to know." Lin Mu said before taking a look around the ring. "I'll sort the remaining items back in the Sleepscape." He said before willing the ring to remove him.

[Chapter 1574 Returning To The Base](#)

Lin Mu reappeared in the large hole that had been made by him and his weight.

The flattened corpse of the Eleventh Prince Huangyu Shiyi, was still lying there with blood pooled around it now.

"I should get rid of it." Lin Mu muttered and waved his hand.

~SHUA~

A fire ball fell onto the corpse and started to burn it. The aspect of heaviness had already damaged the formations on the robes and thus they were useless. Besides, Lin Mu didn't want to take anything from the prince's corpse since there was a chance someone might recognize it.

Besides, he already had all that the prince had kept in his spatial storage. So it wasn't like he was really missing out on much. The biggest treasure of them all, the second part of the ring was obtained by him now, so nothing else mattered.

~huu~

Lin Mu watched the corpse burn quickly and made sure there were no tricks left.

"I didn't expect the Holy Topaz Dynasty to not put any tracking methods on the prince. Even if he was considered a failed heir in the past, his current rise should have made him eligible to have it right?" Lin Mu muttered in confusion.

"Would you accept the same if you were in his position?" Xukong questioned instead.

"Hmm... perhaps not. If someone treated me like that and changed their attitude later, I wouldn't accept something that could reveal my position, either." Lin Mu agreed.

"Might be the same for the prince. Besides, with the secrets he had, he probably didn't wish for anyone to see them either." Xukong stated.

"Hopefully it is like that. It'll be the best if no one finds out the Eleventh Prince died here for a long time." Lin Mu said before jumping out of the hole.

~THUD~

~CRUMBLE~

He stomped on the ground and made it collapse once more, letting the hole fill up naturally. This way, the area wouldn't stick out as much.

"Time to return..." Lin Mu took one last look at the place before flying away.

Lin Mu paused at the site of the site of the battle though where the corpses of the other immortals were still there. Most of them were incomplete though, some having been blasted apart by the Prince's skill, while other damaged in the crossfire.

Lin Mu gathered their spatial storage treasure as well before finally leaving the area entirely.

"Come out Little Shrubby." Lin Mu spoke through his link.

~SHUA~

In the next second, Little Shrubby appeared out of the Sleepscape. The first thing he did upon appearing though, was to look at Lin Mu deeply.

"You seem different." Little Shrubby said. "Did something happen?" he asked.

"Yes... I'll explain on the way." Lin Mu nodded his head. "For now, let's head back to the base."

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied before Lin Mu got onto his back.

~WHOOSH~

The master and beast traveled back to the base while Lin Mu narrated what happened before. Since Little Shrubby had been in the Sleepscape, he had no idea of all that had happened. It also gave Lin Mu more information about the Sleepscape.

'So even if something changes on me, it does not reflect in the Sleepscape and the beings inside it cannot sense it either.' Lin Mu noted.

It was an important fact, and would certainly help in making some decisions.

Lin Mu narrated his experience to Little Shrubby and told him about a possibly dangerous power he had obtained.

"It's not dangerous if you can control it, right?" Little Shrubby spoke after hearing everything.

"I guess. But there's no saying if I'll lose control." Lin Mu replied.

"You don't have to worry about that. I'll be there if that happens." Little Shrubby said in a calming tone.

Hearing this, Lin Mu couldn't help but feel a bit soft. His heart felt lighter, and he remembered that he had companions who could back him up if he lost his way.

The rest of the journey passed in silence, and Lin Mu rested his eyes. Unknowingly he fell asleep, and by the time he woke up, they were already at the base.

"We're here, master." Little Shrubby informed.

"Huh?" Lin Mu shook awake and saw that they were at the hillside. "So we are..." he said before getting down.

~THUD~

He moved the large boulder hiding the entrance and walked in. The arrays were made to recognize Little Shrubby as well. Thus he had walked past the barrier directly. For anyone else, they would not even see the hill there and if they walked in that direction, they would find themselves in another location.

This helped them avoid anyone from intruding on the base.

Lin Mu closed up the entrance after entering and went down to the large cave area.

"Can you heat some water? I want to take a bath." Lin Mu requested Little Shrubby.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said before extending his claws.

~SHING~

The claws directly pierced two rock pillars that were dipped into the underground pond.

~HISS~

Little Shrubby's claws lit up in a red light, as immense heat traveled into the water through the pillars.

~bubble~bubble~bubble~

A few seconds later, the pond started to heat up before reaching the boiling point. Steam rose from it, filling the area and warming it up.

~RIP~

Lin Mu tore off his already damaged robes and jumped into the boiling pond.

"Haaa~ that's good." Lin Mu let the boiling hot water soothe his body.

He stayed in the pond for an hour while pondering on his next set of actions.

'I need to get to the Immortal Stone mines, but I also need to test the Murdering Heart Sutra. It's important that I know its effects as soon as possible to avoid any issues later on.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

At the very least, he knew that the Immortal Stone mines weren't gonna run away, so there was no reason to rush to them.

Making haste might just make things spoil.

[Chapter 1575 Chanting The Murdering Heart Sutra](#)

Lin Mu felt a lot better after the bath and got out of the pond.

Changing into a new set of black robes, Lin Mu decided to head out. He needed to test out the new Sutra after all.

~THUD~

Removing the boulder from the entrance, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby walked out.

"Well then, let's get started." Lin Mu said while letting Little Shrubby stay back.

He didn't know how exactly the Murdering Heart Sutra might affect others, thus it was better for Little Shrubby to be a bit far from him. Once he ensured that everything was fine, he took a deep breath and started chanting the new sutra.

Strange and eerie words belonging to an unknown tongue left Lin Mu's lips as an unsettling feeling filled the area. The words were incomprehensible and yet all those that heard it would find a chill going through their body.

The same was for Little Shrubby, whose fur stood on its ends.

His vertical pupils narrowed into needles as he got alert. The beast could certainly sense the danger emanating from Lin Mu, though he didn't exactly know what it was. Little Shrubby had never felt something like this from Lin Mu, not even when he had used the Burning Heart Sutra.

Rather, when Lin Mu used Burning Heart Sutra and transformed, Little Shrubby found him closer to a beast rather than some demon. But now that he was chanting the Murdering Heart Sutra, it was simply unnerving.

It was as if a Blade was hanging above one's head, ready to fall at any time. It would make one unable to calm down and stretch their nerves taut. Those with a weaker will might even find themselves shivering simply from hearing it.

And the longer Lin Mu chanted it, the worse the feeling got.

But that was not all, as a new aura rose from his body.

It was a mix of dark purple and black, looking like a thick vapor. The aura enveloped the back of Lin Mu and rose up like a wall.

At first, it seemed like there was no change to Lin Mu's body itself, but when he opened his eyes they were different. Instead of his usual black eyes, there was now a purple outline to them while a translucent gleam spread from the corner of the eyes.

All those that looked into his eyes would shudder, as they contained a power that was simply terrifying. It felt like one was staring into the eyes of a monster from hell itself!

"So this is the Murdering Heart Sutra?" Lin Mu muttered to himself, stopping the chant.

Just like Xukong had said before, the effect of the sutra would not be gone, even if he stopped the chant. They would have to be culled using another sutra. But before doing that, Lin Mu checked the status of his body.

While it didn't seem like there were many changes on the surface, there were more of them on the inside.

'My Immortal Qi is certainly being consumed at a rapid rate...' Lin Mu noted the first effect.

The thing was that Lin Mu couldn't tell for what the Immortal Qi was being used for. It didn't feel like his strength was being enhanced either, as he felt the same.

~SHUA~ SHUA~

Lin Mu threw out a few punches to test too, but didn't find any difference.

"Hmm... didn't work." Lin Mu said before taking out Afternoon Pine and slashing out with it.

This time he didn't forget to infuse some immortal Qi into it too.

~SHING~ SHING~

But even after doing this, there was no change. The sword lights were normal and the slashes left marks on the ground that were a few meters long.

'If it's not this then, what is it?' Lin Mu wondered.

He looked around and extended his senses, wanting to know more. And when he did this, Lin Mu finally sensed something new.

"Huh? Someone's here?" Lin Mu found a presence near him that wasn't Little Shrubby.

But just as he was about to look for it, he sensed another presence.

"One more? And another one... a third one, a fourth, and a fifth!" One by one, Lin Mu started to feel multiple presences appearing around the area.

Some were as near as a hundred meters from him, while the farthest one he had sensed was three kilometers away from him.

"I need to see them myself!" Lin Mu rushed towards the nearest presence and reached it in just a few seconds.

In front of Lin Mu floated a strange silhouette. It looked to be translucent, almost bordering on invisible, and if not for Lin Mu focusing on it, he might have missed it.

"What is this..." Lin Mu was confused upon seeing it. "Wait... it's not a soul, is it?" he recognized.

"More accurately, it's the remnant of a soul." Xukong corrected.

"A remnant of a soul?" Lin Mu narrowed his eyes.

Looking at the form of the soul, it was hard to tell what it originally belonged to. It had become quite deformed and mostly looked like a irregularly shaped blob that was floating around.

It was normal since it was just the remnant of a soul and not a complete soul. Most of the remnant souls were unable to maintain their forms and would turn into blobs like these.

Of course, one question still stood.

"Why can I see them, though? This certainly isn't a Nascent soul, so they should not be visible." Lin Mu wondered.

He knew very well, that there were two different souls that a cultivator would have. The first was the Nascent soul that would be artificially formed, and the second was the True Soul that every creature was naturally born with.

True Soul was something that even immortals could not sense normally. They would need special tools to do so, and even then, it was a very difficult matter. And even if they did manage to sense them, they actually couldn't do anything to a True Soul.

It was simply beyond their powers as True souls were protected by the laws of life itself!

[Chapter 1576 Swallowing Souls](#)

Seeing the Remnant soul in front of him, Lin Mu had several questions appearing in his mind.

The remnant was basically what was left off from a True soul that had already passed off into the afterlife. A Remnant soul wasn't a complete existence and didn't really have anything significant within it either.

At most, it might have a few random thoughts that were left behind after the death of the creature that it belonged to.

It didn't have any energy either, as it wasn't a remnant soul that was formed from a Nascent soul.

Even among Remnant souls, there were two types. Those that were formed from a Nascent soul and those that were formed from a True Soul.

Usually those formed from a Nascent soul were more substantial and had some Qi left in it. The more 'fresh' they were, the more information and energy they would contain. Of course, even if they were fresh, they were merely the leftover parts of a Nascent soul that had deteriorated over time or had been destroyed.

Even if someone came in contact with a Remnant soul that was formed from a Nascent soul, they wouldn't feel much. Only in rare cases would a remnant soul be able to taint a cultivator and become a parasite on their body.

But even the remnant souls made from Nascent souls would weaken over time and their Qi would be lost. At that point, they would only have the remnants of a True soul left behind in them and their form would become even more distorted.

At this point, they wouldn't even be able to affect anything.

They would exist unknown to most before eventually dissipating with the passage of time.

Lin Mu felt curious as to how, or even why, was he able to see the remnant souls now?

"Can it also allow me to touch it?" Lin Mu wondered and extended his hand.

His finger lightly touched the remnant soul, passing through it just like it was air.

~SHUA~

But then a moment later, the dark purple aura behind him moved and swooped on the remnant soul.

"What?" Lin Mu barely blinked and the Remnant soul had been swallowed up by the aura.

Narrowing his eyes, Lin Mu gazed at the aura surrounding him, finding no change in it.

Confused about this, he moved onto the next presence he had felt. A minute later, Lin Mu reached the location and found it to be a remnant soul as well. It was in a similar condition to the one before and was close to dissipating.

Lin Mu touched it took and saw his aura swallowing it up.

Once again, he observed his aura, but found no change in it.

"There's definitely something happening." Lin Mu said to himself.

Lin Mu went to each presence that he had detected and found all of them to be remnant souls. He touched all of them, letting his aura swallow them. In less than five minutes, he had ended up finding over fifteen remnant souls, and all of them had been swallowed by his aura.

"There's finally a change..." Lin Mu muttered, sensing a little growth.

The size of his aura had grown by a tiny fraction.

'So the new sutra allows me to see remnant souls and absorb them into my aura? That does not seem enough though,' Lin Mu reckoned.

His guess was that it wasn't just remnant souls that he could see. He should be able to see fresh souls too.

"I need to test it myself." Lin Mu spread his senses and tried to search for a beast nearby.

He had to roam around for a couple minutes before he finally found a beast that looked like a red gerbil.

~SQUEAK~

Lin Mu pulled out the rodent that was over a meter in size from the ground. The rodent struggled in his hand and tried to scratch him, but Lin Mu's body was too tough for it.

The beast might be helplessly struggling in Lin Mu's hand, but it wasn't weak at all. It was actually at the Dao Treading realm!

"Only one way to test this..." Lin Mu stabbed the gerbil's head with Afternoon Pine, ending its life.

He made sure to not damage the Nascent soul though, and let it come out of the body normally.

~SHUA~

A few seconds later, a glowing wisp of light rose out of the beast's corpse. It hovered over the corpse for a few seconds as it condensed its form that looked like its original body.

"Nascent souls can be seen by other cultivators too, though. What I need is the True Soul..." Lin Mu said and pointed at the Nascent soul, letting a wisp of Metal Immortal Qi shoot out.

~RING~

The Metal Immortal Qi shot forward like a needle and poked into the Nascent soul, causing it to break apart. Lin Mu had ensured that not too much power was exerted as he didn't want to totally destroy the Nascent soul either.

He merely wanted to destroy the 'shell' that the Nascent soul actually was.

And once this shell was broken, the True Soul was hidden inside it appeared.

"I can really see it..." Lin Mu muttered in surprise.

The True Soul of the Gerbil was lacking energy, but he could still sense a 'consciousness' within it.

Wanting to test further, Lin Mu extended his hand, touching the True Soul of the Gerbil.

~SHUA~

In the very next second, his dark purple Aura swallowed the True Soul, showing a rapid change. It actually grew visibly this time!

If before it was about two meters tall, it had now added another centimeter of height to it!

"It's actually growing like this..." Lin Mu said in understanding.

A few more thoughts appeared in his mind, and he flew away in search of more beasts.

Fifteen minutes later, Lin Mu had killed six more beasts and absorbed their souls using the aura. This time he learned a few more things, such as the fact that if he absorbed a Nascent soul to, he would gain a part of Qi back!

[Chapter 1577 Human Targets](#)

Lin Mu pondered over the gain of Qi from the Nascent souls, not finding them to be much.

"Even if I do gain some from it, it isn't that useful. I can gain a lot more Qi simply by manually cultivating." Lin Mu muttered to himself, thinking that there was certainly a lot more to the technique.

And as he thought about this, the mnemonic of the Murdering Heart Sutra rang within his ears again.

'Taking providence...' Lin Mu finally understood what he had missed. "So I need something lot more than just a beast soul..." he muttered.

With the idea in his mind, Lin Mu felt impatient. But before acting on it, he still decided to check the deactivation of the Murdering Heart Sutra.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, he started to chant the Severing Heart Sutra.

~SHUA~

And as he chanted, the dark purple aura around him started to shrink. A few seconds later it had shrunk back into his body and a minute later, it was entirely gone.

"Just like we guessed." Lin Mu said before checking his body.

There were no changes in his body other than the decrease in the immortal Qi. The Qi he had gained from absorbing the souls of the beasts was not enough to compensate for the Qi that was consumed upon using the Murdering Heart Sutra.

"Let's look for someone that is not so righteous..." Lin Mu muttered to himself. "Little Shrubby, search for humans." He asked.

"Alright." Little Shrubby said before Lin Mu climbed onto his back.

~sniff~

The beast tried to look for scents while running around and soon found a few after ten minutes.

"I found some." Little Shrubby replied.

"How many?" Lin Mu asked.

"At least three... though there are a few more scents mixed in. Blood too." Little Shrubby answered.

"Blood huh... go to them." Lin Mu ordered.

Guessing that they might just be the kind of humans he wanted, Lin Mu decided to try his luck.

~WHOOSH~

The beast turned into a red blur and started to run towards the location of the humans. Following the scent, it only took them another ten minutes to get close to the humans.

"Alright, that's enough. I'll go on my own from here." Lin Mu replied.

"Will that be fine?" Little Shrubby asked in concern.

"I'll be fine, if they see you too they might run away." Lin Mu replied.

"Okay..." Little Shrubby nodded his head and agreed to wait.

Although it was unlikely that Lin Mu might need Little Shrubby's help, having someone watch for any anomalies was still good. Especially when he was testing out a technique that he was not wholly sure about.

Leaving Little Shrubby behind, Lin Mu started to walk in the direction of the humans. His immortal sense was extended, and he soon found the potential targets.

'They're covered with blood... but it's not theirs.' Lin Mu noticed.

It looked like they had just come out from a fight recently, but weren't actually injured.

"Little Shrubby did say that it was all human blood." Lin Mu muttered and got closer.

About a kilometer from him, three men were currently walking.

All of them wore a similar kind of armor that looked to be made from beast hide. It looked rather crude on the surface, but in reality it was actually made from Immortal beast hide!

Even if it looked cheap, it was actually quite tough.

Each of the men also had rugged faces with scars showing that they were men of action and were not unfamiliar with combat. Their bodies had blood splattered on them and a scowl was on their faces.

"Bah! I can't wait to get out of here. Can't believe we've run out of water to wash up." The first man complained. "And none of us knows any Water Qi skills either."

"You really should have brought more water. This is the third time it's happened." The second man said and shook his head. "Last time too we ended up getting drenched in blood with no water to wash up. We had to spend a month caked in dried blood for heaven's sake." He voiced out his frustration.

"Brothers! Brothers! This is just a temporary discomfort. With the courtesy of a few dead immortals, we will now be able to relax for at least six months at the Snow Jade Pavilion. Just think of the beauties we can enjoy." The third man tried to placate them. "If you wish for a bath that much, we can just get the beauties of the Snow Jade Pavilion to give us one. I've heard they have some nice scrubbing techniques too, haha!"

"That... does sound nice." The first man nodded with a smile.

"Haha, we definitely got lucky with the last group of immortals. Who would have thought that they would be carrying so many Immortal Stones?" The second man laughed.

"Do you think they were merchants or something?" the first man asked.

"Nah, they won't come to the Desolate Blood Battlefield. Probably just some young clan masters that thought too much about their strength and decided to come to the Desolate Blood Battlefield." The third man replied. "Though they certainly struggled a lot... and now we got all this blood to deal with." He added.

"You don't think this'll attract beasts, will it?" The First man asked with some concern.

"Hah! Even if it does, we'll be able to take care of it." The second man said out loud.

The three men had no idea that there was someone watching them. What they needed to worry about wasn't beasts, but another person.

"And here I thought I would have to look farther..." A voice was heard by the three men.

"WHO!?" The three men became alert and drew out their weapons.

~SHUA~

In the next second, the three men heard strange chants that chilled their souls. Shivers went down their spine and a sense of overwhelming danger covered them.

Finding themselves unable to speak, the three men could only watch as a dark purple aura rose around them.

~SHING~

The glint of a sword was the last thing they saw before their heads rolled.

[Chapter 1578 The True Effects Of The Sutra](#)

With the three men killed in a single strike, Lin Mu felt strange.

It was a new feeling that he had not felt before. It was like a mixture of joy, excitement and anger fused with anxiety.

"No use waiting then," Lin Mu let the Dark purple aura cover the three dead men.

~SHUA~

The corpses were entirely covered with the Dark purple aura, making it look like they were doused in a pool of ink.

The dark purple aura flickered for a bit as waves spread over it. Then as if gasoline was poured onto a small fire, the aura flared up!

It directly grew to three times its original size and spread in an area of two meters around Lin Mu. But that was not all as power seethed within Lin Mu's body too.

"This..." Lin Mu felt the aura directly multiplying his power.

It was similar in how Immortal Qi could amplify his strength as the dark purple aura was doing the same. As long as it continued to flow in his body, it would strengthen it.

As for where this strength was coming from?

It was none other than the souls of the three immortals that had been consumed!

But along with this, Lin Mu also felt something else.

"Wait... what are these memories..." Lin Mu suddenly saw hundreds of fragmented scenes appearing in his mind.

They were of the three men he had killed, as well as their actions. In some of the scenes, it was as if he was watching things happen from their point of view. It didn't take long for Lin Mu to figure out these were the memories of the three men he had killed.

The only thing was that they weren't complete.

'So this is what was meant by taking their providence...' Lin Mu realized.

After all, providence wasn't just in the form of cultivation, but also knowledge!

In fact, knowledge could be a lot more valuable than a cultivation base, depending on what kind of knowledge it really was. And now Lin Mu could peek into the secrets that someone held, as long as he had killed them and consumed their souls using the Murdering Heart Sutra.

"But this sutra... It will most certainly bring the worst kind of attention if others find out. This is something that everyone will detest." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

A few doubts rose in his heart, but then a placating feeling from the aura dispelled them.

"Let's see how strong this actually is..." Lin Mu withdrew Afternoon Pine, and held it straight.

~SHUA~

The dark purple aura flickered and a part of it flowed into the sword through Lin Mu's arm.

~Humm~

In the next second, the Immortal sword gleamed in a similar dark purple light.

~SLASH~

Finding it to be ready, Lin Mu slashed out with the sword, using its entire strength!

~TREMBLE~

The very air shook as the sword slash flew through the sky. Unlike the usual translucent color or the yellow color of the Metal Qi, the slash was dark purple. It left a lingering trail in the air before it transformed into the pine trees.

The pine trees looked rather ghastly with the dark purple aura overflowing from them.

Looking at the Qi skill that had transformed, Lin Mu was rather surprised.

"This is... certainly powerful." Lin Mu could tell that even without using sword intent, the power of his attack was already comparable to it.

'And this is only after absorbing three souls... how much more can this increase?' Lin Mu now desired to get more souls.

A smile appeared on his face, while the purple gleam shone in his eyes. This combined with the dark purple aura, gave Lin Mu a sinister appearance. All those that saw him at this time would feel fear unknowingly.

~WHOOSH~

But just as Lin Mu decided to act on it, he saw a red blur appearing in front of him.

"Are you okay?!" Little Shrubby asked with great concern.

He had sensed the change in Lin Mu and felt danger too. Because of that, he had rushed here quickly.

"Me..." Lin Mu heard Little Shrubby's words and snapped out of his state. "Ha... ha... HA..." taking long drawn breaths, Lin Mu gained control of his mind.

"Dispel the effects of the sutra." Xukong spoke.

"Yes." Lin Mu quickly chanted the Severing Heart Sutra, letting the Dark purple aura shrink back into his body.

A minute later it was gone, and no traces could be felt, other than those that were left in the air.

Once Lin Mu was back to normal, he felt rather shaken.

"Seems like the Murdering Heart Sutra comes at a cost to one's mind." Lin Mu spoke in realization.

"Indeed. It is of the Devil Path, so this much was expected." Xukong agreed.

"No wonder it didn't show any difference when I used the beast souls. It wants human souls for growth." Lin Mu stated. "Though the increase is rather fast... almost as if I gained the entire cultivation base of those three men." But now that he felt his current state, the power was gone.

"Looks like you can only maintain that power when you have the Murdering Heart Sutra active." Xukong analyzed.

"I see..." Lin Mu now understood better about the workings of the Murdering Heart Sutra.

While it brought a lot of power, it was also with several conditions.

"You also need to be wary about the memories." Xukong warned. "Soul searching is a skill that is frowned upon and can also damage its user, but the effect of the murdering Heart Sutra is a lot stronger.

We can probably expect it to affect you even more. Especially since it allows you to gain memories from multiple souls." He explained.

Lin Mu nodded his head in acknowledgment. Now that he had dispelled the sutra, he did feel like his mind was a bit heavy.

The memories he had gained from the three men were still stirring in his mind.

[Chapter 1579 Getting More Fortune](#)

Lin Mu could see the things the three men had done.

There were plenty of people they had killed and it was a regular job for them. That was entirely the reason why they had come to the Desolate Blood Battlefield. They were here to kill unsuspecting and inexperienced before taking their fortune.

It wasn't anything uncommon, but these men were professional in this. They had been doing this for nearly a hundred years now and would even pick their targets beforehand. They would start by finding suitable people in the Middle Fort city and then tail them into the Desolate Blood battlefield.

As for whatever happened on the battlefield itself, it was not of concern to others. After all, death was common here and thousands of people died or went missing every month. Many times, it wasn't even known if someone died or if they were just lost.

The plane was quite large after all, and contact with others was often limited. It wasn't unusual for people to not see others for a year or two if they went far enough.

"They were relatively strong too and experienced..." Lin Mu only got another reminder of how important it was to have strong senses.

The three men could have at least dodged the first attack if they had managed to sense it coming in time. But now that they were dead, Lin Mu reckoned he may as well take all that they had.

He quickly gathered their weapons, armor, and the spatial storage treasures.

The three men had killed over fifty cultivators in their current visit to the Desolate Blood Battlefield and had thus obtained quite a lot of things. All of them now added to Lin Mu's continually growing fortune.

'More fortune taken from their providence... The Murdering Heart Sutra truly makes one want to take everything from others. Not just their material possession but also their souls.' Lin Mu pondered to himself.

It was a cycle that wouldn't end, thus Lin Mu simply decided to cut them short. Putting these thoughts to the back of his mind, Lin Mu decided to return for now.

"At least now we know how the Murdering Heart Sutra works... I'll need to use it judiciously." Lin Mu muttered to himself. "Let's return to the base, Little Shrubby. I wanna eat something." He spoke.

"Alright! I'll make something." Little Shrubby was happy to oblige.

Lin Mu got onto Little Shrubby's back, and the two quickly returned to the temporary base. Once there, Little Shrubby got to making a meal while Lin Mu sorted through the items he had gotten from the three men.

The resources were the easiest to sort and were put away quickly, but when it came to the documents and such, Lin Mu took his time.

The three men actually had tens of cultivation techniques in their storage.

"Wait... doesn't this sell for like ten thousand High Grade Immortal stones?" Lin Mu found an immortal cultivation technique that could be considered rather high quality.

He remembered having seen it in the Grand Sky Pavilion before.

But that wasn't all, as he saw several lower quality cultivation techniques too. Then there were the Qi skills that Lin Mu found to be useful.

"I can learn these, too. Most of them are direct attack skills." Lin Mu noted a few good ones that could be adapted into his fighting styles.

He put them in his list of tasks to do for later and read through the rest of the things.

And by the time Little Shrubby was done cooking, Lin Mu was done too.

"The food is ready!" little Shrubby called out, which he didn't really need to.

After all, the aroma of the food was filling the entire cave and Lin Mu had smelled it a long time ago.

"Smells good!" Lin Mu gorged on the large meal while Little Shrubby ate as well.

Once the meal was done, Lin Mu cultivated and restored his expended immortal Qi.

Only when he felt that his body was in the optimum condition did he stop.

~huu~

Stretching his body, Lin Mu stood up.

Three days had passed since he had obtained the Murdering Heart Sutra and now he felt like it was time to get to the next task, the Immortal Stone Mines!

"The first mine isn't that far, so I should head there." Lin Mu picked out the route and called for Little Shrubby.

"We're heading out?" Little Shrubby asked, feeling that they might not be returning to the base for a while.

"Yes. We're gonna go to the Immortal Stone mines. Gather them up and then decide what to do next." Lin Mu replied.

The Beast nodded his head in response, not having any opposition to his master's words.

The two of them started their journey towards the first Immortal Stone mine, which was beyond where Lin Mu had fought Huangyu Shiyi.

The eleventh prince and the other cultivators had ended up in conflict due to the Immortal Stone mine too. Both parties had conspired to kill the other, but the prince was simply too strong for them to do so.

"It should be somewhere here..." Lin Mu now stood above the area where he had fought the prince.

His immortal sense spread around, looking for the Immortal Stone mine. There was a reason why it had not been found by others so far. It was deep in the ground and was well hidden.

And due to the characteristics of the Desolate Blood Battlefield, its energy fluctuations were further masked by the bloody aura.

"Oh?" but in all this, what Lin Mu found first was actually a cluster of Baleful Energies.

~PING~

He took out the Blood Vein Compass and saw it pointing to the ground diagonally.

"Let's take a look then." Having confirmed that there was probably a Blood Essence crystal here, he struck out with the Afternoon Pine.

~RUMBLE~

The ground shook and was unearthed as a ten meter wide hole was carved into it.

~WHOOSH~

And just as he had expected, a spout of Baleful Energies gushed out.

[Chapter 1580 The First Immortal Stone Mine](#)

Lin Mu was unfazed by the geyser of Baleful energies and stood still.

"Xiao Yin, Xiao Yang, time to eat." Lin Mu called them out.

~HISS~

The twin snakes appeared from the Sleepscape and rushed towards the baleful energies. They looked very excited as the gushing Baleful energies were no different than a great meal to them.

~SHUA~

The twins opened their mouths and sucked in the baleful energies.

The spout changed its direction and bent towards the twins. It split in two, before being swallowed by the twins greedily. To them this was no different from a great tonic, and after their breakthrough to the Second Tribulation Stage of the Immortal realm their appetite had only increased more.

In just a minute, they had sucked away all the baleful energies.

~HISS~

Once that was done, the two snakes spat out clouds of energies that they couldn't use. This was the opposite to their element and was absorbed by their sibling.

This way, there was no waste of energy, and everything was used.

~SASASA~

The twins wrapped around Lin Mu's shoulders, wanting more.

"We'll get more later. Don't worry," Lin Mu rubbed their heads that had grown a bit.

~HISS~

The twins nodded their heads and watched what Lin Mu was doing. He let them stay there, while he got to work. Lin Mu jumped into the hole and saw the shimmering red crystal at the bottom.

"Oh? It's the biggest one we've seen so far." Lin Mu said in surprise.

~thud~

He landed at the bottom and saw the watermelon sized Blood Essence Crystal.

"Guess that's why there was such a high amount of Baleful Energy trapped here." Lin Mu muttered before pulling out the Blood Essence Crystal.

He stored it in the ring, before getting to the main part.

~SHUA~

His Immortal Sense spread once more and penetrated the ground. It went deeper and deeper until it was over two thousand meters deep. It was at this point that he finally detected what he had come for.

"There it is... The Baleful Energies had masked its presence really well." Lin Mu took note of the effect, wondering if it could be applied elsewhere.

If there was anyone else that passed by here and sensed the Baleful Energies, they wouldn't even try to dig for the fear of getting corroded by the energies. Thus there was no chance of someone finding the Immortal Stone Mine that was hidden below.

But even then, it was quite deep being at over two thousand meters.

Excavating it would be a difficult task even for immortals, and would take a long time. But for Lin Mu, it was as easy as walking through the air. Lin Mu sent the twin snakes back to the Sleepscape before using a skill.

Phase!

Lin Mu sank using his spatial skill and only stopped when he couldn't pass through a layer.

"It's Immortal Stones alright... It's got dense enough Immortal Qi to prevent Phase from working." Lin Mu used this method to confirm his guess.

Phase didn't work when there was any kind of dense energy blocking it. It didn't matter if it was pure energy, in the form of an object, or if it was arrays. Still, it was something that could be bypassed using a method as crude as punching through.

But Lin Mu had a far more refined method of getting in.

~CHING~

He simply used Meld and cleanly cut away a straight path into the inner area of the mine. At the same time, he stored away the large chunks of Low Grade Immortal Stones he had just cut off with meld.

"This should be the outermost area... and seeing how it's almost encapsulating the mine, it should be a high grade mine at the very least." Lin Mu assessed from what he had learned before.

While there were many ways an Immortal Stone mine could form, there were still a few generalizations. One of them being that High Grade immortal Stone mines would grow to the point where the low grade immortal stones would start to rise up and wrap around it.

Forming an outer layer that looked like a capsule.

This was one of the typical ways an Immortal Stone mine would grow.

Seeing this, Lin Mu felt rather pleased as it meant that the Source Vein at the center of the mine would be very productive.

~THUD~

Lin Mu jumped in through the top of the mine and landed on top of a ledge. The entire ledge was made of Immortal Stones and was encrusted along a rocky layer.

~WHISTLE~

"That's a large mine..." Lin Mu saw a beautiful sight in front of him.

The Immortal Stones spanned for as far as he could see. The stones formed large crystal structures that reflected light from a few large crystals at the central area. These large crystals were none other than the High grade immortal stones as they could actually emit natural light.

The shimmering crystals looked mesmerizing, and it was as if one was glancing at the insides of a finely cut diamond.

"Well then... Let's get started." Lin Mu smiled widely.

He called out Little Shrubby first and asked him to search for any rare materials in the mine. After all, there weren't just Immortal Stones in an immortal stone mine. Other materials such as ores and gems are also born within them that can turn into rare materials.

"Collect all those that you find while I'll go to the core." Lin Mu ordered.

"Okay! I'll do that." Little Shrubby was excited too as simply by being here, he could feel his cultivation base improving.

And since he knew that all this would be added to the Sleepscape, the beast was even more excited.

~WHOOSH~

Little Shrubby turned into a red blur and started searching for the materials, while Lin Mu flew to the central area of the mine.

A few minutes later he arrived at the middle part, which was completely surrounded by glowing Immortal stones.