

Walker 1591

[Chapter 1591 The Two Sword Nurturing Boxes Are Completed](#)

"There we go." Lin Mu nodded his head in approval as he gazed at his finished work.

The first Sword Nurturing Box was completed and shone in a low light. Its brass casing contrasted with the Immortal stone and Bleak frost crystal layer inside, making it look rather elegant.

Then there were the many runes on the box that circulated the energy within it gently. Not only did it modulate the flow of the Immortal Qi of the Peak Grade Immortal stone within it, the runes also insulated it while absorbing more Immortal Qi from the air.

This created a positive cycle that would prevent the net loss of Immortal Qi in the Sword Nurturing box.

~hoo~

Lin Mu let out a breath and felt pleased with his work.

"Time to see if it fits well." Lin Mu gestured to Ocean Raker and the sword floated over eagerly.

~Clink~

The sword lowered itself into the box, perfectly fitting the cavity that was made for it.

~HUMM~

Ocean Raker let out a joyous hum, while also asking for Lin Mu to close the box.

"Alright." Lin Mu pressed on the top of the lid, making it snap shut.

~CLACK~

With a crisp sound, the lid shut and the formations were linked up again.

~HUALA~

A Qi circuit was formed within the Sword Nurturing box upon the box's closure, allowing Ocean Raker to be bathed within it.

Lin Mu could see everything with his Immortal sense and confirmed that it was working perfectly as intended.

"This is good for your first time." Xukong praised upon seeing Lin Mu's work.

"I can improve a lot more." Lin Mu replied.

"Is that why you left the casing removable?" Xukong questioned.

"Yes. I can simply slide out the two halves of the Immortal Stone from it and put in a new casing later on." Lin Mu answered.

He has several ideas about how to improve the Sword nurturing box later, but he would have to wait till his skills were improved too.

~SHING~

Afternoon Pine let out a cry, as if a child urging their parent to hurry.

"Don't worry, you are next." Lin Mu assured the sword. "Your box needs a different process that needs more work, so I left it for last." He spoke.

~hum~

The sword calmed down after that and gently laid on a pillow nearby, fully intending to watch the process.

Lin Mu rested for a bit and let himself relax before starting the work again.

The starting step was the same, involving him cutting the cuboid and carving away the two sections to make the cavity.

But after that, Lin Mu needed to utilize several different materials.

For the Sword Nurturing Box intended for Afternoon Pine, Lin Mu decided to use materials of all elements that he had. Since the Qi skill of Afternoon Pine could accommodate basically all elements, Lin Mu decided to improve upon it.

He hoped that being nurtured with all these materials, Afternoon Pine would be able to improve its strength of the Qi skill.

Thus, Lin Mu took out five elemental materials that were quite common in Weapon Forging and Immortal Tool Refinement.

These were none other than various elemental crystals!

Fire Vein Immortal Crystal, Water Vein Immortal Crystal, Wood Vein Immortal Crystal, Earth Vein Immortal Crystal, and Metal Vein Immortal Crystal were what he used.

These crystals could be artificially manufactured, thus there wasn't a lack of them. Lin Mu had tens of these in the storage too, most of them being obtained from the spatial storage treasures of the people he had killed.

Even Huangyu Shiyi had these in his storage and provided Lin Mu with the bulk that was needed for the Sword Nurturing Box.

Being abundant didn't mean that they were cheap though. As each of these crystals was worth tens of Mid Grade immortal stones. Working with them was also not simple, with each crystal requiring a different process.

And this was just half of it, as there were not one but five types of them.

Lin Mu needed two to three hours to refine each of the crystal types before they were usable for the Sword Nurturing Box. And once they were refined, Lin Mu needed to carve a unique formation into each of them too.

These formations would complement each other and link up to form a new array.

It was called as the Five Harmony Array and was used in multiple places ranging from city wide arrays, immortal tools, as well as refinement arrays. The function of the array was to modulate the energy flow of the five elements and amplify their effects.

Each element could amplify the effect of another.

For example, wood nourished fire, fire nourished earth, earth nourished metal, metal nourished water and water nourished wood.

Such was the cycle of the five moral elementals and as long as it stayed in harmony, it would bring for the optimum effects.

Once Lin Mu had finished refining and imprinting the crystals with the right formations, it was time for him to add them to the Immortal stone sections. This time, he couldn't mold it in the same way he had done for the Bleak Frost Crystal.

Instead, he laid them in five sections that were mirrored on both sections of the box. Each of the five sections had five crystals of each element placed in it. This amplified the effects of the Five Harmony Array, since there were now multiple of them within the cavity.

Just this process alone took Lin Mu over thirty hours to complete, showing just how vast the difference could be depending on the process involved.

Once all the crystals were fitted, a wave of energy spread from the two sections.

"They're finally working properly..." Lin Mu was relieved.

He had actually made a couple of mistakes while fitting the crystals and had to fix them later. Thankfully, the end result was good, and there seemed to be no issues.

With the inner section of the Sword Nurturing box completed, all Lin Mu needed to do was to make the casing again before it was completed.

[Chapter 1592 Great Results For A Beginner](#)

Making the second Sword Nurturing box took Lin Mu a total of fifty hours as compared to the first that only took twenty hours.

But having finished the work, Lin Mu was certainly pleased.

"Go on, try it out." Lin Mu spoke to the double edged sword.

~HUMM~

Afternoon Pine eagerly flew up and laid in the Sword Nurturing Box.

~CLACK~

Lin Mu closed its lid and let the sword enjoy its effects. At the same time, he used his immortal sense to verify if all the circuits were working perfectly and that the energy flow was stable.

"Perfect!" Lin Mu was satisfied with his work.

In fact, it was actually very impressive.

If any Immortal Weapon forger were to see this and know that this was Lin Mu's fresh attempt at making a Sword Nurturing Box, they would be stunned.

Both of the Sword Nurturing Boxes were good enough to be classified at the Mid Grade.

For a beginner, this was already a big achievement.

After all, the normal result of a beginner was usually a failure. And yet, Lin Mu had shown success in both his attempts.

While part of it could be attributed to great materials, it was also Lin Mu's skill. After all, Lin Mu had quite literally used the best possible material, The Peak Grade immortal stone for this.

This made the mid grade product look a bit bad, but one must not forget that it was something that could be improved later on.

It was not a fixed product and would be worked on again, once Lin Mu felt like he had the skills to do so.

"I now need to rest too..." Lin Mu felt tired after having worked on the two Sword Nurturing boxes.

It did need a lot of his focus after all, and had tired him out mentally.

Even if he was technically asleep, his mind was still awake and at work. He now needed to let his mind rest.

"Resting the mind is important too. You should leave the Sleepscape and just sleep normally now." Xukong advised.

"Yeah... I intended to do that." Lin Mu agreed.

Having decided that, Lin Mu simply let go of his consciousness and fell into a deep sleep.

And while he recuperated, his beasts and weapons were doing the same.

The two swords were being nurtured while Little Shrubby and the twin snakes were cultivating.

With the increase in the Wood elemental immortal Qi, Little Shrubby could actively absorb it now. His Fume Wood Panther Bloodline allowed him to use it and greatly boosted his healing ability as well as vitality.

As for the twins, they were simply assimilating the Yin and Yang Qi that they had consumed before. While they could absorb attribute-less Immortal Qi too, it wasn't as effective as the Yin and Yang Qi to them.

In fact, Yin and Yang Qi were components of attribute-less immortal Qi too. The only thing was that they were in a balance and only by breaking this would they be separated out. But this also resulted in the loss of a lot of energy.

Thus, cultivating using attribute-less Immortal Qi wasn't as efficient for the twins. For them, the more Imbalanced Qis were better.

All the other elemental Qis were imbalanced Qis. They had varying amounts of yin and yang component in them, making it easier to split them out.

For example, fire element had higher amounts of yang than yin and the opposite was true for water.

Of course, with the twins' appetite, it was easy for them to just consume other things in bulk. They could still break them down into yin and yang the same.

The beasts weren't the only ones improving in the Sleepscape either, as the plants were doing the same. While each of the plants had grown bigger, they weren't done improving yet. The Immortal Apple Tree continued to absorb immortal Qi and Wood elemental immortal Qi.

This led to the flowers on it to transform.

Their centers swelled up while the petals fell up. Slowly but steadily, they were growing into the form of small apples. Fine differences could be seen between the young apples too. Some of them would stay green while the others would turn red.

They would be turning into the two types of apples that Lin Mu had seen before.

Then was the Wood Spirit Tulip that had reached the Immortal realm a while back. It was now producing more Pure Wood Essence, having increased its flower heads. Its main flower head was the biggest of course, and produced the most Pure Wood Essence.

What should have taken it years to grow now merely took days.

The addition of the Violet Mystic Life tree, as well as the Immortal Essence Crystal mine, had given it this boost. Plus, the addition of the Immortal Stone Source vein had helped it improve its cultivation base too.

The better its cultivation base was, the more it would be able to produce the Pure Wood Essence.

It continued to sway gently in the air while absorbing both types of energies with its body.

The Purple Sickle Amaranth was in a similar state, though it was mostly absorbing the immortal Qi.

But in its normal metabolism, it would convert a part of the Immortal Qi into Wood Elemental Qi, thereby raising its concentration in the air.

Each of the plants formed a progressive cycle, promoting the growth of each other and providing Lin Mu with more resources.

The owner of it all was currently in a dreamless sleep.

All his worries were gone for now, and his mind was recovering.

Lin Mu slept like this for a week before he finally opened his eyes.

~YAWN~

Letting out a loud yawn, Lin Mu stretched his body.

He called out Little Shrubby and the twins before they all had a nice breakfast.

Though it was unknown if it was really the time for breakfast or not. It was hard to tell the time in the Desolate Blood Battlefield after all.

To the small family though, it was just being together that mattered.

[Chapter 1593 The Investigations Begin](#)

While Lin Mu and his beast companions were having their meal, another set of events was happening far away from them.

A large man with horns was standing upon a broken ridge. A frown was on his face, while an aura of confusion surrounded him. Behind him, several men wearing the armor of the Holy Topaz Dynasty were working.

They seemed to be doing several different tasks. Some were gathering soil, stones and other materials from the ground, while some were analyzing the change in the topography. There were scorch marks, ravines and slash marks left everywhere in the area, which these men seemed to be analyzing.

"General Niu, the initial reports were correct." One of the men wearing the armor of the Holy Topaz Dynasty approached the horned man.

"That was expected. But what more did you find? Any traces of a Demon?" General Niu Juo questioned the investigator.

"Unfortunately, it is not possible to do that. There are remnants of both Yang and Yin energies left in this area. Even if there were traces of a demon, they have either been mixed in with them or erased due to them." The investigator answered.

"Hmmm... I see." General Niu Juo looked around the devastated land, trying to imagine what must have happened here.

The day the Grand Tempest Transcendent Immortal Tribulation had happened, he had felt it too. Or rather, most people in the Desolate Blood Battlefield had felt it. There were many theories as to who might have been behind it, but no confirmation had been reached.

It didn't help that the Transcendent Immortal Tribulation had helped to erase the traces of the being undergoing it too.

There were now great doubts cast on the ruling powers of the world about the fact that Demons were still alive. And not just that, but the fact that a Demon had lasted long enough to possibly reach the Transcendent Immortal realm.

This was a thing of great concern. After all, the demons were one of the greatest threats that the humans of the Rust Sky world had ever faced. Their reappearance would basically mean that the existence of the humans was now at a stake.

Especially since it was possibly a Transcendent Immortal Demon that would be on the same level as the Rulers of this world.

Even now, the balance of powers was in delicate equilibrium. The Huiqing Empire and the Dao Wind Empire had an alliance of sorts on the surface, but their relations with the Holy Topaz Dynasty and the Eight Kingdoms alliance were more that of neutrality.

There was always a chance that the other two powers might take this opportunity to flip the odds in their favor by using this new variable. Fishing in muddied waters was a tactic as old as war itself, after all.

If another Transcendent Immortal was added to the mix, it was quite likely that this balance would fall apart. Not to mention, it would be someone that would be opposed to the human race itself.

Thus, in order to verify the facts and prepare themselves, the powers had decided to investigate this matter with great prudence.

The disappearance of the Violet Mystic Life Tree was already a big pain to the Holy Topaz Dynasty, but now the same culprit was behind a Transcendent Tribulation too.

If this had happened a few years later or before, the powers might not have been this tense. But all this was occurring when the Tournament of the Guardian beasts was close by. Only a few months were left till then, and the number of people arriving would be massive.

It won't just be people from the Rust Sky world after all, there will be several visitors from other worlds too. It wasn't unusual for envoys from various worlds to come and observe these tournaments.

And if something bad happened during it due to the overlook of the local powers, they would lose face. The visiting powers would love for something like that to happen, as it would mean that the local powers would fall out of favor with the temples of the Four Guardian beasts.

The Temples were always an independent and neutral faction that all ruling powers had to respect.

They seldom interfered in the matters of the world directly, and it was mostly when there was something threatening the existence of the entire world. In fact, it was a well known fact that the temples of the Four Guardian beasts had actually done nothing when the Demons were attacking the humans.

To them, the Demon race was the same as the Human race and their conflict was fine.

After all, among the worshipers of the Four Guardian beasts, there were plenty of demons too.

They had their temples on several demon worlds too!

One could see from this just how far their influence spread. Falling out of the favor of the Temples of the Four Guardian beasts was not something any power wanted. Even if they might be the rulers of their worlds, their might did not even come close to a fraction of what was possible for the Temples.

Those who truly lost favor with the temple would find themselves being cut off from the temples archives and resources. Not just that, but other powers that were in favor of the temples would also not deal with them to keep face with the temple.

This would lead to the isolation of the powers who had fallen out of favor.

The tournament was a big event for the temple, thus anything happening around it that would threaten its work would not be seen as good.

The Holy Topaz Dynasty was thus nervous about it and wanted to deal with it as soon as possible. After all, the Demon had technically appeared on their territory. Thus, they decided to do all they could, even going as far as to give a general of another empire their troops to command!

Though Niu Juo was not liking it at all, as he was unable to find much.

~WHOOSH~

But just as he was letting out a sigh, he felt a new presence!

[Chapter 1594 Grandmaster Alchemist Lao Joins The Investigation](#)

Niu Juo had strong senses and felt the presence of a strong immortal approaching them.

He turned to the back and looked up at the sky.

The investigator who saw his actions was a bit surprised and followed his line of sight.

"What are you..." Just as the man was about to ask though, he saw a faint dot appearing in the distance.

It was approaching them at a great speed and was rapidly growing in size. In just a few seconds, it turned into a forty meter long wolf with wings!

"A beast?!" The investigator became alert.

But just as he was about to alarm the others, they saw a person sitting on the back of the wolf. Niu Juo narrowed his eyes and saw the old man. He was a bit surprised but did not act, letting them land.

"Who are you? State your identity!" The investigator and the other people of the Holy Topaz Dynasty became alert.

~step~step~step~

The old man got off the wolf's back and walked towards them without speaking.

"General Niu Juo, should we—" The investigator was about to ask the general to restrain the old man when Niu Juo spoke.

"Junior Niu Juo pays his respect to Grandmaster Alchemist Lao!" General Niu Juo cupped his fists in salute while bowing his head.

Hearing this, the investigator was stunned. He repeated the words of Niu Juo in his mind before looking back at the old man again. A moment later, some information appeared in his mind and his expression fell.

~THUD~

"Investigator Dui pays his respect to the Grandmaster!" The investigator directly kneeled on the ground and cupped his hands in salute.

~THUD~THUD~THUD~

The other soldiers that heard it did the same. Kneeling and greeting him in a similar way.

"Hoho... Seems like the juniors of the Holy Topaz Dynasty are well informed too." Old Man Lao laughed.

"Forgive me, Grandmaster. I couldn't recognize you at first—" The investigator hurriedly said.

"It's fine. Your generation is far too young to have seen me." Old Man Lao didn't mind. "So you are the Steel Horned General Niu Juo." He said while looking at the half Orc man.

"Yes, Grandmaster." Niu Juo said respectfully.

"You can be at ease with me. We're here for the same thing." Old Man Lao replied.

Hearing this, Niu Juo raised a brow before feeling relieved.

"Did they send..." Niu Juo asked in a low voice but was interrupted.

"Yes." Old Man Lao responded. "And not just them, the Emperor of the Holy Topaz Dynasty has asked me the same." He stated, before taking out a scroll.

The scroll floated up from his hand and automatically opened up.

~SHUA~

A yellow light shone from it, as the crest of the Holy Topaz Emperor became visible.

Upon seeing the decree, all the soldiers kneeled and kowtowed their heads, as if the emperor himself was present there.

"By the decree of his majesty, the Holy Topaz Emperor, Grandmaster Lao is hereby appointed as the Chief Investigator and is vested with the powers to command the army of the Holy Topaz Empire!" A voice could be heard coming from the decree.

General Niu Juo was pleased to see this.

'Looks like the Emperor managed to find a way to send help after all. Grandmaster Alchemist Lao is a neutral party and can operate in the Holy Topaz Empire too.' The general thought.

To him, the current task was quite difficult. Not only was he dealing with a being that was possibly one of the strongest existences in the world, but also with information that was wholly unknown to him.

Not to mention, he was also not fit for work like this.

He was a man of action rather than planning and observation.

Send him into a battle sure, he'd do it gladly, but careful search and investigation was not his forte. His skills weren't specialized in this either. If not for that fact that he was already here, The Huiqing Emperor would not have asked him to investigate.

The same was the case with the people of the Holy Topaz Empire.

Originally, they had been assigned to him under the guise of 'guiding' him. In reality, it was just to monitor and spy on him, but after the disappearance of the Violet Mystic Life Tree, the appearance of

the Demon and then the Grand Tempest Transcendent Immortal Tribulation, they had to employ the man to investigate.

They didn't have a choice either, as he was the only strong immortal who might be able to handle all this.

But now that Old Man Lao was here, it was all simplified.

Not only was the man an immortal with a high cultivation base, he was also highly knowledgeable and respected across several worlds. He was an ancestor level figure for the people of the Rust Sky world too, being the senior of all current emperors!

While his cultivation base might be less than the emperor, his skills as an alchemist gave him a special status. The pills made by him were prized and could greatly help one in a pinch.

Even the emperors would have to greatly request him to make any pills.

This was the reason why the Holy Topaz Emperor directly gave him such a high authority. The man had both the skills and status to demand it. Plus, his neutrality made the emperor feel safe too.

"It's great that you are here, Grandmaster. I was at my wits end. This is all beyond me." General Niu Juo stated.

"That's fine. Not everyone can be good at everything." Old Man Lao was happy with the honesty of the general. "Now then, can I get the reports and everything else you all have learned so far?" he asked.

"At once, Grandmaster!" The investigator said before the others hurried to bring all the information they had gathered so far.

A camp was quickly set up, allowing Old Man Lao to work properly.

"This is certainly interesting..." Old Man Lao said after having looked through it all.

[Chapter 1595 Cannot Be Coincidences](#)

Old Man Lao could see several bits of information in the documents that seemed unusual to him.

'Emperor Feng said that the Grand Tempest Transcendent Immortal Tribulation is the most dangerous one out of them all. Thus if the Demon were to know that he was about to go through one, he was probably preparing.

And considering the properties of the Violet Mystic Life tree, perhaps the demon relied on the tree's vitality to endure this. After all the Tree was already comparable to a Peak Immortal existence.' Old Man Lao thought after reading it all.

This seemed to be the only possible explanation to him all.

He did think that it might be someone else that might have undergone the Transcendent Immortal Tribulation. But it would be far too much of a coincidence for there to be multiple peak grade immortals in the Desolate Blood Battlefield.

Perhaps if the Violet Mystic Life Tree had never appeared, he might have thought it was possible. But with the tree being there too, it was now highly unlikely.

'They even chose to have it in the Desolate Blood Battlefield knowing that it might catch the attention of the emperors and other peak immortals right away if they did this in the Rust Sky world.' Old Man Lao concluded.

Having learned this, he knew that there wasn't much they would be able to find here now.

"Looks like we need to expand the scope of search." Old Man Lao said to others that were waiting for him to be done.

"We already have some areas checked, Grandmaster. There's nothing within the five hundred kilometer radius at least." The investigator spoke.

"That's not enough. We don't just need to look in the Desolate Blood Battlefield, but also in the Rust Sky World." Old Man Lao said much to their surprise.

"Outside too?" General Niu Juo furrowed his brows. "Why?" he asked.

"All this... the disappearance of the Violet Mystic Life Tree and the Transcendent Immortal Tribulation were not coincidences. All of this was well planned and possibly have been read for a long time." Old Man Lao answered.

"This..." The investigator was rather surprised hearing this. "How can one predict all this?" he asked.

"Peak immortals will know when they are going to have their Transcendent Immortal Tribulation. It is likely that the demon had raised the Violet Mystic Tree for a few thousand years for this very use." Old Man Lao replied.

"The demon used the tree for the tribulation?" General Niu Juo didn't expect this.

"Yes... The Violet Mystic Life Tree is known for its vitality and ability to extend Lifespans. But at the same time, it can also endure a lot. My best guess is that the demon used the Tree to offset the damage from the Transcendent Immortal Tribulation... if it were a normal one it would have been fine, but the one that occurred here was anything but simple." Old Man Lao explained before telling them more about the Grand Tempest Transcendent Immortal Tribulation.

Learning that there was a tribulation like this, they were stunned.

"No wonder... I felt afraid." General Niu Juo said, remembering the event.

"Even I would feel afraid. So it's normal." Old Man Lao replied. "No immortal would be safe from the Grand Tempest Transcendent Immortal Tribulation. It is the most dangerous one out of them all."

"I see... Looks like we got to see an event that we may never see again in our lives." Genial Niu Juo muttered.

"Exactly." Old Man Lao agreed. "Even I who has seen many worlds, had never heard of this until very recently." He revealed.

"Then what should we do next, Grandmaster?" The investigator asked. "How much farther do you think we should expand our scope of search? The entire Desolate Blood Battlefield?" he asked.

"I don't think the Demon would stay here." Old Man Lao replied. "It would not make sense for it to do so. It will probably leave the Desolate Blood Battlefield once it has recuperated enough." He added.

"Then should we block the exit?" The investigator asked.

"That won't do much other than trouble the others." Old Man Lao shook his head. "Do you really think the Demon would not have other ways of leaving this place? Especially one that is a Transcendent Immortal now?" he questioned.

"That... does make sense." The investigator nodded his head.

"For now, inform the Royal court about this. Even if the Demon does take another route to leave the Desolate Blood Battlefield, he will still arrive within the Holy Topaz Continent. Thus we might have a chance to catch him then." Old Man Lao stated. "And if he tried to leave the continent, the Emperor would know when he passes over the border." He added.

Hearing this, the investigator's eyes shone.

"Yes, I'll inform them right away." The man said before taking his leave.

General Niu Juo was still thinking about it all and wondered how long it would take them to find anything.

"What should I do till then, Grandmaster?" The general asked.

His skills didn't really help here much, thus he would basically be sitting without doing anything.

"We still need to look through the Desolate Blood Battlefield. There might still be other clues left behind here. Or maybe we might even get some witnesses." Old Man Lao replied.

"Hmm, should I go around directly then?" The man asked calmly.

"Yes, that might just be better for you." Old Man Lao said before handing the man a Jade Slip. "Keep this with you. It'll allow me to track you as well as contact you."

Seeing the jade slip, Niu Juo was surprised as he knew just how valuable it was.

'A cross-world communication Jade slip?' Niu Juo recognized.

It was a special type of Jade Slip that could not only communicate between minor planes and the main worlds but also between multiple different planets!

This was something that couldn't be bought even if one had the cash for it.

"Isn't this too much, Grandmaster?" General Niu Juo asked.

[Chapter 1596 Extra Mission For Niu Juo](#)

General Niu Juo's questions was valid since there were other communication jade slips that worked within the Desolate Blood Battlefield too. He had one with him too. After all, that's how he had managed to contact the people outside.

The one that Old Man Lao had given him was several levels above it.

"I'm giving that to you just in case... you end up in another plane. There's no saying with a Transcendent Immortal." Old Man Lao replied.

"You think there'll be a spatial opening?" General Niu Juo asked.

"It is possible. Or maybe it could be a teleportation array, who knows? That Jade Slip will be crucial then. And if you don't end up needing it, just return it to me later." Old Man Lao replied in the end.

Niu Juo was no stranger to spatial travel and other accidents associated with it. He had also been to a few excursions in the past, and knew just how dangerous it could be. In fact, that was his main work.

The Rust Sky World was in a time of peace thus the work of an army and general was limited.

What would they do if they didn't have work on their own worlds?

Go to other worlds of course!

Thus Niu Juo would routinely go to various worlds as per the orders of the emperor and had done so for a few thousand years. But even then, he wasn't as experienced as Old Man Lao.

Each of the empires usually had two generals. One general would always stay within the empire and be ready if a battle breaks while the other would go out on missions and tasks assigned by the emperor.

Even now, there was a general waiting in the Huiqing Empire. Niu Juo himself was actually on a 'leave'.

Unfortunately for him, what was supposed to be his 'private time' was now occupied by the current set of events. It wasn't like he could say no to it either. The matter was too serious after all. At the very least, he knew that he would be well compensated for this later on.

And not just by the Huiqing Empire, but also the Holy Topaz Empire since he was helping them out as of now too.

"I'll take my leave then, Grandmaster. I'll keep you informed on everything." General Niu Juo stated.

"Mhmm..." Old Man Lao nodded his head, but then recalled something. "There's something else I want you to look into, while you're out there." He added.

"What Grandmaster?" The General asked in doubt.

"The Holy Topaz Emperor didn't say it outright to me, but I think he very well intended for me to look for his Son... The Eleventh Prince Huangyu Shiyi." Old Man Lao said in a straight tone.

Hearing that name, the steel horned general frowned.

"That prince... I've seen him before." General Niu Juo replied.

"You have?" Old man Lao raised his brows.

"Yes... it was back in the Grey Slate Ravines. Just before the disappearance of the Violet Mystic Life tree. I was there looking for some things for myself." General Niu Juo spoke. "I didn't interact with the child, but he did not seem stable."

"Oh? What exactly was he doing?" Old Man Lao had heard a bit about the so called Trash Prince too, but didn't know the true reality of it all.

"He was slaughtering some cultivators he came across. It didn't seem like they were able to fight back either." Niu Juo answered.

"Hmm... so the rumors are true. He's turned ruthless after gaining power." Old Man Lao muttered.

"That might be an understatement." General Niu Juo shook his head. "At the very least, I can say with confidence that he is not suited to be in any administrative position in the future." He stated.

"I see... no wonder the emperor is concerned. While the child was weak and is now strong, he has lost his mentality on the way. One can be ruthless to one's enemies, but not to everyone." Old Man Lao said with a bit of disappointment.

"I'll do as you say, Grandmaster. But will he listen to me?" Niu Juo questioned.

"I'm sure the Emperor will be fine if the prince suffers a bit." Old Man Lao answered. "Break his legs if you have to, but bring him back." He said coldly.

"Very well, grandmaster." The steel horned general cupped his hands in salute before taking his leave.

~WHOOSH~

The man flew away in the distance, while Old Man Lao was left to his thoughts.

After a minute or so, he took out a small bracelet. It had a flat hexagonal plate on which a translucent pearl was embedded.

"Did Huangyu Shiyi really obtain a way to hide his traces? Even the Imperial Tracker is not working." Old Man Lao muttered seeing there was still no change in the bracelet. 'The kid's really rebellious huh... hiding and running away from his house.' He thought.

Old Man Lao would have given the Imperial Tracking Bracelet to Niu Juo, if it weren't for the fact that it really wasn't working.

Every prince and other heir had their bodies being tracked by their family for safety purposes. Though some were more overlooked than the others. The eleventh prince being one of them.

Even if he was tracked, there weren't really many that would care where he went.

It was only after his sudden rise did they became proactive. Though by then, the prince was hiding his tracks too. Of course his family was not pleased, but they couldn't do much other than scold him a few times.

And now that he was out roaming in the Desolate Blood Battlefield, things only became more difficult.

'While the emperor does not show it in the surface, he certainly wants the prince back. He should also know about the character of the prince, so is he expecting assign him to a combat role instead?' Old Man Lao couldn't help but wonder.

What he would have never thought was that the reason why they couldn't find him was due to the fact that the prince had been dead all along.

[Chapter 1597 The Saintess Brings A Booklet](#)

While Niu Juo went on the search for nonexistent targets, the true person behind it had just finished a massive meal.

Lin Mu was unaware that there were now people looking for the Eleventh Prince, though it was going to be impossible. After all, the prince had long since turned to ashes and his traces were sent into the void.

With that done, perhaps only divination might tell what had happened here.

Though it also helped that the prince himself had been hiding his traces from others too. One could even say, the prince had made it easier for Lin Mu to avoid being found out.

"That was a good meal." Lin Mu said as he patted his belly.

The twins finally got to try some of Little Shrubby's food properly and it was safe to say they were pleased.

They were now all coiled up, digesting all that they had eaten. Though it wasn't going to take them more than a few hours to digest it all. Lin Mu was the same after all.

Having finished his meal though, Lin Mu was reminded of the Saintess.

'She hasn't come for a while...' Lin Mu thought before recalling that she had said she'd be observing. 'Did she see me obtain the ring too?' he wondered.

While Lin Mu knew the rings were invisible, he didn't know if it was the same when it was not on his hand. That was the first time it had left his hand after all, thus he didn't know if the invisibility still applied.

On top of it all, Lin Mu felt a little nervous about meeting the Saintess again.

After all, since their last conversation, a lot of things had changed and he had done some concerning things too. Lin Mu deliberated over it for a while before deciding to deal with it directly.

'Best to just talk to her, rather than think about it too much...' Lin Mu concluded.

~hoo~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu called out. "Saintess, are you there?"

He then waited with bated breath, wondering how long it'll take for the Saintess to respond.

Minute after minute passed by, but there was still no response.

Ten minutes later, Lin Mu spoke again.

"Saintess?" But even then there was no response. "Did she leave the plane?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

An hour had passed by, but the Saintess had still not appeared, making Lin Mu a bit worried.

"Can you sense her Senior?" Lin Mu finally decided to ask Xukong.

"Rather than me, I think the Twins might have a better chance at finding her." Xukong suggested. "I can't do much from here after all."

"That's true." Lin Mu nodded his head before talking to the twins. "Can you call the Saintess?" he asked.

~HISS~

The twins looked at him with tilted heads before finally nodding in understanding.

~HISS~ HISS~

They then closed their eyes and seemed to be doing something. Lin Mu couldn't tell what, but knew that it must be something the Saintess had put on them.

~SHUA~

Finally, a faint trace of energy rose from their body and disappeared into the air. Lin Mu saw the Taiji Symbol appear on the heads of the twins too. It was the same mark that the Saintess had put on them.

Lin Mu couldn't tell where the energy went as it was too fast for his perception too. But after a few seconds, he sensed the space tremble a bit.

~HUALA~

Then finally, the air near them flickered and the figure of the Saintess appeared. Though looking at her, Lin Mu found something different. This time she wasn't barehanded. She actually brought something back with her.

"Did you leave the plane, Saintess?" Lin Mu asked, feeling confused.

The Saintess though, didn't answer him right away. First, she confirmed that the twins were fine and then responded.

"Yes... I was outside." The Saintess said, feeling relieved that the twins were fine.

"I was calling for an hour, but you didn't respond. So I was worried. I'm glad that you're fine." Lin Mu replied.

"You concerned for me?" The Saintess was surprised. "What's going to happen to me? In this world?" she found it a bit strange too.

After all, she was a celestial, and there wasn't really anything that could threaten her in this world. Sure, her cultivation base might be restricted due to the limits of the world, but if there was really something that would threaten her, it was not an issue to release all her restrains.

Upon hearing the Saintess, Lin Mu thought over his words and realized that he was being silly.

"Ah, of course..." Lin Mu smiled wryly. "It's just that you always responded quick enough. That's why..."

"It's fine." The Saintess waved her free hand. "I was going to return soon anyways." She said before extending her other hand that held an object.

"A book?" Lin Mu looked at her hand. "What is it?" he asked.

"Take it. I think you'll want to know." She said before handing him the book.

Lin Mu read through the book and discovered that it was actually an information manual. And not just any information manual, but one about the upcoming Tournament of the Guardian beast temple!

It had information about who was going to participate as well as which powers were going to arrive in the Rust Sky world to observe it. There were even sections that showed the current ongoing bets.

People had wasted no time to start betting, even if the tournament was still a few months away.

"They already have something like this ready? Isn't the registration of the participants open until the very end?" Lin Mu said after reading it.

"These booklets are selling everywhere now. People are getting ready for the tournament, it seems." The Saintess replied. "As for the participants in the booklet, they seem to be the ones that have already registered or are well known." She added.

"I see..." Lin Mu said, feeling a bit surprised.

"Are you thinking of participating in it?" The Saintess asked, feeling curious.

"I did intend to, but I have another task to do before that." Lin Mu answered.

[Chapter 1598 The Saintess' Intrigue](#)

The Saintess felt intrigued as to what it was that Lin Mu wanted to do.

'Now that I think of it... he feels changed.' The Saintess suddenly thought.

She gazed deeply at Lin Mu, finding several differences.

'He doesn't have the same burning desire?' The Saintess quickly discovered.

It was a change that others wouldn't be able to tell normally, but for the Saintess it was only a matter of glance.

"What do you want to do?" The Saintess asked. "Also what else have you done in this time? You seem changed." She added.

It was the question that Lin Mu knew was going to be asked, and was prepared for it.

"I found the object of my desire and cleared it." Lin Mu said simply.

"I see... that makes sense." The Saintess nodded her head.

"Is it that obvious?" Lin Mu asked in doubt.

"To others? Perhaps not. To me? As clear as the day." The Saintess replied. "I've seen tens of billions of people over millennial. You get perceptive to them after a certain point." She revealed.

"Is that so... I guess I have another thing to look forward to." Lin Mu replied. "Though for now, I should just focus on the tasks at hand."

"So what is it that you want to do instead of the tournament?" The Saintess asked again.

"I have the location of an Immortal Stone mine." Lin Mu answered.

"And immortal stone mine? A new one?" She asked in doubt.

"Yes... it was only recently discovered." Lin Mu nodded his head.

"And you wish to mine there? Won't there be others, if it has been discovered?" The Saintess asked next.

"There won't be others. Those that knew about it are all dead." Lin Mu said, and the Saintess quickly picked up on the hint.

"I see. It is indeed rare to find an untouched Immortal Stone mine." The Saintess couldn't find fault with Lin Mu for it.

After all, most cultivators would do the same if they were given the chance.

"But yeah, if you wish to mine there it does make sense that it'll take you a few months." The Saintess said after thinking for a bit.

"Umm, depending on its size. It shouldn't take me more than a month." Lin Mu responded. "The one I cleaned out earlier didn't even take two weeks." He added.

Hearing this, the Saintess raised her brows.

"What do you mean, cleaned one out earlier?" The Saintess had an idea, but doubted if that was possible.

To this, Lin Mu didn't answer directly. But instead showed it, as it was better than giving a long explanation.

~THUD~

In the next second, a ten meter tall chunk of High Grade immortal Stone appeared in front of Lin Mu.

Seeing it, the Saintess confirmed her guess. She was truly stunned though, as it was highly unlikely that Lin Mu had found not one but two Immortal Stone mines in this brief time.

"Looks like you've had a good time in my absence." The Saintess said with a hint of teasing.

"It was certainly fortunate." Lin Mu replied. "But I can get more now."

"If it is a mine then it is indeed preferable to the tournament for now." The Saintess nodded.

While the tournament was important, the Saintess reckoned Lin Mu didn't really need their help since he had Xukong backing him. Most people went there looking for the inheritance of the four guardian beasts after all.

"Yes. Though I don't know if we'll be able to head to the Huiqing Empire in that time. Clearing out the mine, returning to Middle Fort city and then getting a teleportation array booking to the Dao Wind Empire." Lin Mu estimated.

"I don't think you'll have to worry about the Teleportation array. Due to the Tournament, they are going to increase the frequency. They will now activate the array every week." The Saintess informed.

"That'll definitely make things easier." Lin Mu was happy with this.

While the tournament wasn't his top priority, it would still do him well to get some more information, and perhaps even a reward. If not that, getting to battle other experts of the Rust Sky World would still be a good experience.

For some people, the battles were more important than the rewards too.

After all, there were quite literally thousands of people who had been preparing for the tournament for hundreds of years in seclusion.

Thus whenever a tournament happened, several hidden experts would come out to test their mettle.

"We should hurry then." Lin Mu said and woke up Little Shrubby.

The beast had fallen asleep after the meal and hadn't even stirred when the Saintess appeared.

"We going somewhere?" Little Shrubby asked while yawning.

"Time to go to the second mine." Lin Mu replied.

"Ah, okay~" Little Shrubby said while scratching his ears.

He did a long stretch before growing to a slightly bigger form.

"Will you accompany us, Saintess?" Lin Mu asked. "Or will you do your own work?"

"I'll stay this time." The Saintess replied.

She wished to see just how Lin Mu was going to clear out an entire mine in that time. But more than this, the Saintess was interested in the changes in Lin Mu. She couldn't put her finger on it, but she felt like he had become stronger somehow.

'Even if his cultivation base hasn't grown, his 'presence' surely has.' The Saintess thought to herself.

Lin Mu got ready for the departure and gathered his things from the temporary base. He was going to leave this place for good now after all. After he obtained the Source vein of the second mine, Lin Mu would have no need to stay in the Desolate Blood Battlefield.

His goal of obtaining body cultivation resources was also satisfied, as he had not only obtained the Violet Mystic Life tree, but also several other herbs. Killing the prince had contributed to that too, as the man had tons of the herbs and pills in his storage.

[Chapter 1599 The Grey Slate Ravines](#)

A red blur traveled across the Blood Strewn plans, almost melding in with the rest of the topography.

This was none other than Little Shrubby and Lin Mu.

They had left their temporary base several days ago and had been traveling nonstop since then. Unlike the first Immortal Stone mine, the second one that Huangyu Shiyi had already been to was very far.

According to the map that Lin Mu had obtained, the mine was located in the Grey Slate Ravines and the prince had been killing people there before. He had done that to prevent anyone from coming there, and also be afraid to meet him.

It was safe to say, his intentions had really worked and there was barely anyone that dared to enter that location now.

Even if the prince had already left it, the others didn't know that. To them, as long as the prince wasn't officially seen leaving the Desolate Blood Battlefield, it would be the same as him being there and waiting for them.

No one wanted to take the chances and would rather just avoid the place instead.

The prince's attempt at intimidation was now working in Lin Mu's favor as he would now be free to go there and not worry about others noticing it.

'Unlike the first mine, this one is also a lot more accessible.' Lin Mu noted.

The first mine was located over two kilometers deep in the ground. And this was on top of being masked by the baleful energies that were condensed on top of it. Even for a strong immortal, it would have been very difficult to sense the mine.

And even if they did, they would still have a hard time reaching it.

But in the case of the second mine it was a bit different.

While it was also hidden underground, the way to access it was different. Its entrance was located at the side of a ravine that were plenty in the Grey Slate ravines. These ravines were of varying depths, with some that went over a kilometer deep into the ground too.

Thus if someone flew over these ravines, they wouldn't be able to sense anything. But if they directly descended into them and then searched, they might have a chance at finding something.

But with how large and expansive the Grey Slate Ravines were, on top of being dangerous, the chances of finding the Immortal Stone mine were further reduced. If it were not for the man, Lin Mu would have been unable to find it too.

After days of travel, they finally entered the border of the Grey Slate Ravines.

From where on, the color of the landscape changed once more.

From its earlier bloody red color, it had switched to a lifeless grey color with splotches and fragments of red mixed in it.

The Grey Slate ravines were mostly composed of slate stones, as its name implied. Though this was no normal slate, but Deep Bowel Slate. It was said that a slate of this kind was highly compressed in the bowels of the earth before rising up to the surface.

There were rumors that the Grey Slate Ravines used to be covered with rolling plains once upon a time on which abundant rivers flowed. But over time, the plains were eroded away and the Slate under it was revealed.

Of course, this discovery led to the utilization of the material, and further excavation was done. As the years passed, this process continued, and it eventually turned into a Slate land. But then, when the Desolate Blood Battlefield was formed, this land was left alone.

After many topographical changes, the land shifted and cracked before turning into the ravines of today.

"This is certainly quite vast. I can see why the Immortal Stone mine had been left undiscovered for so long." Lin Mu said while gazing at the hundreds of ravines that spread beyond the horizon.

~SHUA~

The figure of the Saintess also appeared next to him, having followed him directly this time.

"It is indeed a peculiar land. I haven't seen many like it... at least not those that are made from this kind of stone." The Saintess spoke before turning to Lin Mu. "So where exactly is this Immortal Stone mine?" she asked.

"Let me check the map again." Lin Mu took out the map and looked for the reference points that were given on the map. "Looks like we need to fly high up to see the structures first." He said.

"I'll take us up." Little Shrubby leaped directly to a kilometer's height and continued to rise higher.

By the time they reached a sufficient height, they found the Saintess already waiting for them. Her speed wasn't something that even Little Shrubby could match as of now. Not to mention she could use Dao insights directly and had profound skills that Lin Mu didn't know about much.

"We now need to see the patterns that the ravines form below." Lin Mu said and looked below.

The vast ravines formed an interconnected network that took various shapes. Most of these were simply random, but they were still unique enough for one to figure out what was where.

After a couple of minutes of observation, Lin Mu finally figured out the location that was on the map.

"There it is... that part." Lin Mu pointed in a certain direction. "We just need to follow according to these patterns." He spoke.

The Saintess gave a nod and disappeared once more, intending to reach the first.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby too flew in the direction and reached it after a few minutes. They continued to pause and check the map from time to time, and about six hours later, they had finally reached their destination.

"It's certainly hard to find this without a map." If it weren't for the diagrams drawn in the map matching the shape of the ravines, one might get lost easily.

"But at least we are here now." Lin Mu got Little Shrubby to descend into a particular ravine that was in the shape of a gourd.

[Chapter 1600 Reaching The Second Immortal Stone Mine](#)

The gourd shaped ravine was over five kilometers in size and had several smaller ravines spread within it.

If one could not fly they could technically get lost in it and not find the way for a day or two. Thankfully for Lin Mu, he knew exactly where he was supposed to go.

"That third ravine from the edge!" Lin Mu pointed to mid sized ravine.

"Alright~" Little Shrubby moved towards the ravine and the two finally entered it.

The inside of the ravine was actually wider than its entrance. If one did not know this, they would mistake the location too perhaps.

"Makes one wonder how the original person found this place." Lin Mu muttered.

"Someone with strong enough senses might have passed by through here and noticed it. The mine might not have interested them, but they still marked it for others." The Saintess spoke much to Lin Mu's surprise.

"Huh? Why would someone do that?" Lin Mu questioned finding it strange.

"If its someone that can sense the mine with such ease, their cultivation base should be high enough to disregard it too. To them the mine might not be much, but they could still pass it on to other juniors.

People of sects and various powers often do things like this. They mark fortuitous encounters for juniors, to find themselves later on. It is far better than handing them everything on a silver platter." The Saintess explained the mentality of some experts.

"I see..." Lin Mu muttered. "Looks like the generosity of a senior is now benefiting me. I'd thank them if I knew who they were." He added.

Unfortunately, Lin Mu knew there was no way to do that, as the maps were very old. Even Huangyu Shiyi didn't know who had made them, other than the fact that they were from the time when the great battle had happened.

As for the maps themselves, the prince had stolen them from others in the first place. Thus, it was impossible to know where the original owners had found the map from. There was even a chance that they might have been in the hands of some clan for a long time, before being exposed.

Whatever it might be, it didn't matter anymore since Lin Mu had already found it.

The three continued to descend deeper into the ravine and stopped when they were around five hundred meters deep.

"It should be somewhere around here..." Lin Mu said before spreading out his Immortal Sense.

The Saintess looked in a particular direction, having sensed something.

'Let's see how long it takes for him to discover it.' The Saintess thought, having already found the exact location of the mine.

The entrance of the mine was hidden with an array, thus would not be visible directly. Even if someone tried to search for it using their Immortal sense, it would not be visible. One would need to be exceptionally good and also be a formation master to find it.

There were almost no energy fluctuations coming from it either, and the natural bloody aura of the Desolate Blood battlefield also shrouded it further. Though in the Grey Slate Ravines, the Bloody aura was less than other places.

It was one of the few locations in the Desolate Blood battlefield that weren't as contaminated with the bloody aura. Though Lin Mu could tell that there were still baleful energies hidden here.

The only change was between their concentration.

It was exactly this difference in concentration that Lin Mu used to find the location of the mine entrance.

"Found it!" Lin Mu opened his eyes after just a minute.

'That was fast...' The Saintess was a bit surprised.

She followed after Lin Mu and soon came to stand in front of a plain looking rock wall.

"They hid it pretty well." Lin Mu commented. "But the same method they used to hide it was what gave it away." He added.

"How so?" the Saintess asked, wanting to know Lin Mu's reasoning.

"They used an illusory array to hide the entrance. It's a good one and masks its energy signature almost perfectly. You can't feel any Qi fluctuations from it. But at the same time, since it does so well in restraining energy fluctuation, it tends to push away the Baleful energies too." Lin Mu explained.

The Saintess was impressed by Lin Mu's methodology. It was a roundabout way to finding an illusory array, but commendable the same.

"Now can you unravel it?" The Saintess asked.

"Of course." Lin Mu nodded his head.

He moved up to the rocky wall and placed his hand on it. A few seconds later, a ripple spread from his hand, as if the rock was water.

~SHUA~

The surface of the rock wall started to flicker and a minute later, it faded away. What was left behind was a gaping cave that was pitch dark.

"Here we go." Lin Mu feeling satisfied.

The Saintess, who had seen everything from start to end was even more pleased.

'His formation skills are certainly great. They're already good enough to grant him a direct entry to the Immortal Court.' She thought.

The Saintess now looked forward to what else Lin Mu might show her in the future. While she was originally there to look out for the twins, she was getting interested in Lin Mu too. Though him being a disciple of Xukong might have added to it even more.

Lin Mu entered the cave along with Little Shrubby, while the beast created a few fire balls that illuminated their path.

They continued through the cave and eventually reached its depths, where another array awaited them.

"Oh? This time it's a barrier array with offensive capabilities." Lin Mu said, furrowing his brows. "Looks like it's taking power from the mine too... this'll be a bit difficult." He added.

"Do you need me to assist you?" The Saintess asked, just in case.

"No... I'd like to do it on my own. It serves as more practice for me, anyway." Lin Mu rejected with confidence.