

Walker 1611

[Chapter 1611 Meeting The Alchemist](#)

Lin Mu held the communication jade slip and realized that the message was from none other than Alchemist Ruoxian.

The man sent a message that he was back at the Grand Sky Pavilion now.

"Right on time." Lin Mu immediately went to see the man.

A few minutes later he was brought to the private room by the clerk.

"Welcome, Daoist Mu Lin." Alchemist Ruoxian greeted right away. "I'm sorry you couldn't contact me. I was stuck in a difficult situation." He explained.

"Oh? What kind?" Lin Mu was curious.

'Is it linked to the Demon and the Tribulation too?' Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

~Sigh~

Alchemist Ruoxian shook his head.

"The higher ups of the Grand Sky Pavilion are really upset about the disappearance of the Violet Mystic Life Tree and have set a massive bounty on the Demon. Not just that, but since the investigations are not really working out either, they are on the edge.

The pressure from the Holy Topaz Dynasty's royal court has also increased, with the emperor having mobilized its own troops to man the Desolate Blood Battlefield." Alchemist Ruoxian explained.

'Sure enough... it was that.' Lin Mu's guess was accurate but he didn't show it on his face.

"Yeah, I saw the increased security when I left the Desolate Blood Battlefield." Lin Mu replied.

"That is just the start, Daoist Mu Lin. They are going to increase it even more... it'll be worse." Alchemist Ruoxian added.

"How so?" Lin Mu furrowed his brows. 'I need to know how they are going to act... just in case I get embroiled into this again.' He thought.

"This information is still confidential but will soon become public." Alchemist Ruoxian said in a low voice.

"I just came from their official meeting. The Holy Topaz Dynasty has decided to collaborate with all the big powers within its empire, including the Grand Sky Pavilion, the Blue Mountain Place, and several more to search for any traces of the Violet Mystic Life Tree." He explained.

"Hmm... I heard something else though." Lin Mu spoke after a bit. "Apparently the Demon who stole the Violet Mystic Life Tree has used it as a sacrifice to offset an Immortal Tribulation... A Transcendent Immortal Tribulation." He revealed.

"What!?" Alchemist Ruoxian was absolutely stunned.

Seeing the shock on the man's face, Lin Mu knew that the Grand Sky Pavilion wasn't giving them the whole set of information. Though it also made Lin Mu wonder, if the information told by General Niu Juo was even known by the others or not.

"Yes... The Demon was apparently at the peak of the Immortal realm and had obtained the tree so that it could become a Transcendent Immortal." Lin Mu confirmed, deciding to perpetuate the misunderstanding. "So the search for the Violet Mystic Life Tree is useless... it has already been erased."

"This... why would they ask us to continue the search for the tree then?" Alchemist Ruoxian couldn't help but question.

But then a few seconds later, he had a realization.

"It can't be... they want us to..." Alchemist Ruoxian finally understood.

"Seems like they intended to keep you all in the blind. That way the immortals will be less vary about the Demon. After all, a Transcendent Demon is something that even the top experts of the Rust Sky World will have a hard time dealing with.

Even an average peak immortal would be wiped away with ease." Lin Mu replied, making Alchemist Ruoxian's expression fell.

"Isn't this the same as sending us to our deaths? Who would dare investigate a Transcendent Immortal?" Alchemist Ruoxian muttered to himself.

"Of course. That's what they know too." Lin Mu nodded his head.

"I... can't let this happen. They wish death upon us this way." Alchemist Ruoxian said with indignation.

"But can you even tell others this?" Lin Mu asked. "Won't they simply imprison you otherwise?"

Hearing that, Alchemist Ruoxian calmed down. He knew getting agitated over this was not good and he could make a big mistake.

"You're right... I cannot reveal this openly." Alchemist Ruoxian said after taking a breath.

"Then there is the Tournament of the Four Guardian beasts too. I think they wish to keep the information contained so as to not cause any disturbance to the tournament." Lin Mu had already heard of how important it was and how much trouble it would bring to the empires of the tournament was affected.

After all, all the powers knew that the Temple of the Guardian beasts would do nothing even if the Demons returned.

They were originally the inhabitants of this world too and the temple would not interfere in local conflicts. Only if the Demons wished for the absolute annihilation of all humans would the temple intervene.

Otherwise their stance was similar to the pope of a religion.

They would not interfere in the conflict of countries even if both had the same faith.

"I'll have to wait for a bit before finding the right opportunity to reveal this. If not, there is a chance it might come out on its own too." Alchemist Ruoxian said after thinking for it.

"That's right." Lin Mu agreed.

~SIGH~

Alchemist Ruoxian let out a loud sigh, feeling more exhausted than before.

"I'm guessing you also want to know about the Hundred Vicissitudes Immortal Pill?" Alchemist Ruoxian asked.

"Indeed." Lin Mu nodded his head. "How's the progress?"

"I've certainly had some gains and have improved. I think I might be able to finish this in ten more months." Alchemist Ruoxian said with confidence.

"I see... I guess I'll have to return to get it then." Lin Mu replied.

"Return? You're going somewhere?" Alchemist Ruoxian questioned.

"The tournament of course." Lin Mu answered.

"Ah, makes sense. Someone like you should not miss an opportunity like that." Alchemist Ruoxian agreed. "How about this, I'll come give the pills to you myself if you are still in the Dao Wind Empire?" he offered.

Lin Mu was not one to reject such an offer and agreed right away.

"Sure, that'll save me time." Lin Mu replied.

[Chapter 1612 The Duration Of The Tournament](#)

With an agreement made, Lin Mu felt like it was now time to leave. The earlier he reached the Dao Wind Empire, the better it would be.

After all, he didn't know what else he would have to do there in order to meet the person that had the Tyrant Bull Marrow.

"I'll contact you again if I'm back here early, Alchemist Ruoxian." Lin Mu said.

"And I'll do the same if I'm in the Dao Wind Empire. Though I doubt I'll be there anytime soon." Alchemist Ruoxian before letting out a sigh. "It's a shame, I was looking forward to the tournament too this time." He added.

"Oh? You've been to the tournament before?" Lin Mu questioned.

He could tell that the man was not going there in order to make the pills and focus on it. But knowing more information about the tournament from the person who had been there before was still good.

"Yes. I've seen the last two tournaments of the Four Guardian Beasts." Alchemist Ruoxian answered. "One was held right here in the Holy Topaz Dynasty and the other was held in the Huiqing Empire." He revealed.

"I see... how do these tournaments go usually?" Lin Mu asked.

"Well... Just like how all other tournaments go. Except... on a massive scale." Alchemist Ruoxian spoke. "You'll have matches running on thousands of rings at once. These rings will usually be occupied non-stop as a new match would start as soon as the previous ended.

The earlier rounds take the shortest amount of time usually, but also take the longest time in the entire tournament simply due to how many participants there are. Usually 50% of the tournament's time is taken up by the preliminary rounds that cut down on the participants.

Since there are no requirements for joining, pretty much any random immortal will try to join it. Heck, half the audience that watches it is also a participant. Even I was one in both the tournaments.

It is only after these preliminary rounds that the real part of the tournament starts.

The matches get tougher and longer, with the participants getting more refined." He explained in detail.

Hearing all this, Lin Mu confirmed that it all matched what the booklet had mentioned.

'Though the number of contestants was far less than what Alchemist Ruoxian is talking about. Guess the ones in the booklet are only the significant ones.' Lin Mu thought to himself before speaking again.

"How long does the Tournament usually last?" Lin Mu asked next.

"That is hard to tell. Since the later matches usually have no time limits, they can last for days. In the ones that I went to, the first one took about four months to be completed while the second one took nearly seven months." Alchemist Ruoxian answered.

"Four and Seven Months? And this is with the matches running non-stop?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"Yes. If they didn't run the matches non stop, the tournament would last several times more." Alchemist Ruoxian replied.

"Hmm... I'm guessing once you get your match number you only have to appear on that day?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes. That way most of the participants can watch the other matches. Which is actually one of the major attractions of the tournament. There aren't many places one can get to observe so many matches at once.

And if you wish for it, you can even get recordings of the matches to watch later. Of course, you'll have to pay for it all." Alchemist Ruoxian answered.

"I understand now. Thanks for answering it all." Lin Mu said with gratitude.

"It's no problem. This is something you would have found out eventually anyway." Alchemist Ruoxian didn't mind answering this much. "You should head out then. If I recall correctly the Teleportation array will be opening tomorrow." He suggested.

"It is?" Lin Mu recalled that the working of the Teleportation array had been increased due to the tournament, so as to allow people to go there.

This was the time when the Teleportation array owners made a lot too, thus it was a time of profit for them. There was no way they would be missing out on the opportunity. It just showed how many people and powers benefited whenever the Tournament of the Four Guardian gods was held.

"Very well then, I guess I should prepare for my departure." Lin Mu said before standing up.

"I'll look forward to our meeting again in the future. Goodbye Daoist Mu Lin." Alchemist Ruoxian said with cupped hands.

"Goodbye, Alchemist Ruoxian." Lin Mu said before leaving the Grand Sky Pavilion.

From here, he directly went to book a slot for the Teleportation Array. After all, there was no telling how many people would be booking and whether Lin Mu would get it. Thankfully though, when Lin Mu arrived there, there were still several slots left.

~pew~

"That's one thing done." Lin Mu let out a breath of relief.

He now had roughly twenty hours until the Teleportation Array would be activated.

"What should be done till then... Hmm, let's shop more I guess?" Lin Mu said.

"Yay! More food and ingredients!" Little Shrubby was certainly excited at the prospect.

"Haha, sure. Let's go buy some more." Lin Mu then roamed the markets of the Middle Fort City, buying all kinds of ingredients and food items he could get. Once again, rumors spread about a man with a kitten that was buying out cooking ingredients that would be enough to support a few restaurants for over a year.

If it was him buying an equivalent value of pills or herbs, no one would bat an eye but with food it was just a bit too strange. Still, no one denied him of course, and were rather pleased to serve him.

Lin Mu especially bought out all that he could since he wanted to deplete all the Immortal stones he had in his crystal card. It wouldn't be used in the Dao Wind Empire, and he didn't know if he would return here for sure.

Thus in order to not waste anything, he went and splurged.

[Chapter 1613 Going To The Dao Wind Empire](#)

Lin Mu stood in the Teleportation Array with several others.

He counted the number of people and found them to be over a hundred.

'They've certainly increased the number of people for this. The array is probably at its limit too.' Lin Mu thought to himself as he looked around.

He had spent most of his earlier time on shopping and had directly come to the Teleportation Array when it was an hour before its activation. This allowed Lin Mu to see all the people who were going to head to the Dao Wind Empire.

From their conversations, he could hear that all of them were going for the same reason: The Tournament of the Four Guardian Beasts.

"Everyone get ready! The array will activate in five more minutes!" The supervisor of the array announced.

"It's finally time." Lin Mu muttered.

Soon, the array was activated and Lin Mu felt his body turn weightless.

~SHUA~

He was thrown into the Teleportation channel and started to travel at a great speed. The flicking lights went by as the familiar feeling of void made itself known.

Lin Mu looked around curiously as he felt the voice pass by. It was around this time that he felt something within his Dantian.

"Huh?" Lin Mu felt his second Dao embryo, The Four Faceted Nebula resonating with something.

Lin Mu had been unable to learn much about his Dao Embryo after having formed it. Its secrets and skills were still hidden, and despite using his Spiral Flake Crystal to deepen his proficiency with Space, it was not enough.

Xukong had already warned Lin Mu that since it was a new Dao Embryo, there was no telling how much time it would take for him to understand it. But now it was finally reacting, but to what, Lin Mu didn't know yet.

'What's happening?' Lin Mu focused on his Dantian and saw the formless Dao Shell and Dao Embryo moving around.

They expanded and Lin Mu could see the nebula with its many stars shimmering within it. The stars seemed to be randomly moving at first, but the more Lin Mu watched, the more he felt like they had a certain pattern to them.

After thinking for a bit, Lin Mu guessed that the Four Faceted Nebula might be reacting to his current location.

'Is it like this due to the Void?' Lin Mu wondered.

He closely observed the Dao Embryo and the fine changes that were happening within it until finally he reached the end of the Teleportation Channel.

~SHUA~

The scene around Lin Mu changed once more, and he felt the solid ground underneath him. The changes happening to the Dao Embryo also stopped and it went back to its dormant state.

"That was a shame... it ended already." Lin Mu said, seeing that the Dao Embryo was no longer active. 'I'll have to look into this further...' it was the first time the Dao Embryo had acted like this, thus there was no way Lin Mu was going to let go of the chance to learn more.

"All the travelers shall register their identities here!" A person wearing the robes of the Dao Wind Empire announced.

Lin Mu looked around and saw an entirely different kind of building. Its architectural style was more simple, but still looked elegant with a mixture of dark and light wood being used to build the Array building.

But that was not all, as Lin Mu could also sense hundreds of formations inscribed everywhere, along with many more that were hidden underneath them.

'Dao Wind Empire is no step behind the Holy Topaz Dynasty, if we compare the arrays.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He followed the rest of the people and did the registration. The process was mostly the same as what he had gone through in the Holy Topaz Empire, but this time, they also asked if someone was participating in the tournament.

Those that said they did were asked to give some additional details. The details were directly added to a special jade slip, which sent them over to the Temple of the Four Guardian beasts.

When it was Lin Mu's turn, he did the same and was handed a four colored token with a number on it.

"Here you go. This is your registration token for the Tournament." The clerk said.

"Huh?" Hearing this, Lin Mu was surprised. "My registration is already finished like this?" he had thought that he'd need to go to a specific place to do this.

"Of course. With the number of applicants, we have to be efficient. The temple has asked us to finish the registration of all those that arrive right away, so as to prevent any delays." The clerk answered with practice, as if he had said the same thing many times.

"I see... that's rather convenient." Lin Mu couldn't really complain about it.

If anything, it had only saved him time and he could now freely look for the person who had the Tyrant Bull Marrow. He glanced at the token in his hand and looked closely at the rather large number.

The number was 3,129,467.

"That's a lot of participants." Lin Mu muttered.

He didn't know if the same numbers were updated everywhere, but it seemed highly unlikely over three million people had passed through the teleportation array during this time.

"It should be a collective number. The Temple of the guardian beasts has one of the most advanced formations in the world. It is simple for them to do something like this." Xukong spoke up.

"I see... this is rather good too." Lin Mu could tell that the token had a formation within it too that contained all his details.

With this done, Lin Mu finally left the building and finally arrived outside.

And once he did, a vast city greeted him.

He was currently three hundred meters high up in a large tower!

"Whoa!" Lin Mu couldn't help but marvel at the city.

It was easily the largest city he had seen so far.

[Chapter 1614 Cross World Travelers](#)

The city that Lin Mu had arrived in was none other than the Capital of the Dao Wind Empire.

It was the biggest city in the entire Rust Sky world and spanned a length of over five hundred kilometers!

Just the capital city alone was the size of several small kingdoms from Lin Mu's home world. And this was merely the main city, as there were several satellite cities located around the Capital city. And around those satellite cities, there were several more towns and villages.

Just from this, one could see how large the Capital region of the Dao Wind Empire was.

The place that Lin Mu was currently standing in was the Teleportation Tower of the Capital city. It was the place where all the travelers from other continents would arrive at. Though it wasn't the only one either, as there were more towers in different cities all over the Dao Wind Empire.

Since the Tournament of the Four Guardian beasts was going to be held within the capital region of the Dao Wind Empire, Lin Mu chose to teleport here rather than any other place.

Lin Mu walked forward and came to a stop on a large balcony that was made as an observation deck. The people of the Dao Wind Empire certainly knew the best way to catch the attention of the newly arriving travelers.

They had intentionally built the Teleportation Tower in such a way that one could get a 360 degree view of the entire city.

The first thing that caught Lin Mu's attention was none other than the Grand Imperial Palace of the Dao Wind Empire. It was the biggest and most luxurious building in the entire city and was nearly a kilometer tall at its highest point.

"That's more of a mountain at that point..." Lin Mu muttered.

The palace was constructed with a variety of materials all the way from wood, stone, to precious metals like refined gold and silver. And surrounding the palace there was the imperial garden on the front side and the imperial forest on the back.

Lin Mu's gaze lingered over the palace for a solid five minutes before he looked elsewhere.

'That really isn't a place I would go.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

After all, he had no reason to go to the imperial palace and going there would be quite dangerous too. It would bring a lot of attention to himself too after all. Lin Mu took a deep look at the entire city, as far as he gaze could take him.

While doing this though, Lin Mu suddenly felt something.

"Spatial Fluctuations?" Lin Mu's eyes narrowed as Spatial Perception activated right away.

His gaze was pulled towards a large lake that was easily over a hundred kilometers wide. This was also located within the capital and was actually a major part of it.

'Why are there such strong Spatial Fluctuations coming from there?' Lin Mu wondered as he kept on watching.

He would have understood if there were spatial fluctuations coming from the tower that was in right now, as there was a teleportation array located there. But even when it was used, the spatial fluctuations from it were not this strong.

"Considering the level of spatial fluctuations this is causing, it should be a Cross World Teleportation array." Xukong spoke up at this time.

"A cross world Teleportation array?" Lin Mu then recalled that the three empires of the Rust Sky World each had a Cross World Teleportation array within their capitals. "So that's where it is located..."

Lin Mu watched it for ten minutes, during which the spatial fluctuations only got stronger. At then finally, he saw the tearing of the Spatial Fabric.

"It actually opened up!" Lin Mu was surprised.

To others this was invisible, but to Lin Mu, it was as clear as the day.

A vast black expanse that had dense spatial energy contained within it. This was no lesser void... this was the Greater void!

It was in the Greater Void within which all the worlds within a single realm existed. And if Lin Mu was seeing it open up in front of him, it only meant someone had just arrived from another world within the same realm.

This was technically Lin Mu's first time seeing the Greater Void. Before this Lin Mu had seen the Grand Void, and the Great Void, but not the Greater Void.

After all, back when Lin Mu was still in the Xiaofan world, he didn't have the opportunity to go to another world in the same mortal realm. Otherwise he might have had the chance to see the greater void too.

Lin Mu continued to watch the Greater Void, wondering if his Dao Embryo would react again. But there was still no reaction. Eventually the spatial fabric closed up naturally and the spatial fluctuations stopped as well.

"Seems like some travelers from another world have arrived." Lin Mu heard the fomentation array's staff discuss nearby.

"This is already the third batch this month right? How many more are going to arrive?"

"Hard to tell. But the Head Formation master, Suzi himself is manning the array this time."

"Really? Head Formation Master Suzi? Isn't that bit too low for him to do?"

"Apparently he was ordered by the emperor himself. Besides, with how often the Cross World Teleportation Array is activating, do you really think other formation masters will be able to handle it?"

"That's right... if we were posted there, we'd have passed out after the second one."

"Exactly. Only the high leveled formation masters are currently overseeing it, and Master Suzi is the one manning it directly. This is also to ensure that all the guests arriving are also taken care of properly."

"Oh? Is someone important coming?"

"Someone important? More like several important people are arriving."

"I heard that several people from the Immortal Court will be in attendance this time too."

"Of course this they will. The crown prince is here too, so he has certainly invited more people from the Immortal Court."

[Chapter 1615 A Position At The Immortal Court](#)

Lin Mu carefully listened to the conversation of the workers, memorizing it all. He was getting some important information if his guess was correct.

"Ah yeah... only the crown prince, a member of the Immortal Court would be able to invite so many people from there like this." The worker said.

"Did he already become one? I thought he was just there for training?" another worker asked in surprise.

"His position is all but confirmed. If the rumors are correct, he's already finished his training and will be conferred an official position soon."

"But can he take up a position in the Immortal Court? Isn't he the crown prince... his obligations lie with the Dao Wind Empire." Someone asked in doubt.

"That's true, but do you really think he needs to take up the mantle of the Emperor? Our Emperor Feng has a long life ahead of him." The first worker scoffed. "You should be careful with your words, someone might take it as you cursing the longevity of the emperor."

Hearing that, the other worker quickly turned silent.

"Regardless, if the crown prince does get a position in the immortal court, it'll only help him. The connections he'll make as well as the gains he'll have from it will eventually help out empire as well." They continued their conversation.

"HEY! What are you four doing! Get back to work, and get to checking the runes!" suddenly the voice of the supervisor could be heard, interrupting them.

Upon hearing that, the workers immediately stopped and meekly went back to working.

"That was interesting..." Lin Mu muttered.

It was surprising for him to learn that the Crown prince of the Dao Wind Empire had reached such a position.

"What exactly does it mean to be training at the Immortal Court Senior Xukong?" Lin Mu questioned.

While Lin Mu could tell it was important, he didn't know what one did if they were appointed. Even the Saintess had talked about it before.

"Mm? Training at the Immortal court is usually meant for the experts of the younger generation. They get to learn about the administrative matters of running entire worlds, as well as the judicial concerns that come along with it.

All this is just the non-cultivation part though. Along with this, they also get pointers from the experts of the immortal court as well as getting exposure to the best experts of the entire Immortal realm and visits to various inheritance grounds.

It is certainly a coveted position that only a few people get." Xukong explained.

Hearing it, Lin Mu was a bit surprised.

"And the Saintess was offering me that?" Lin Mu couldn't help but raise his brows.

"Yes, she did. You easily qualify for it." Xukong replied. "But it also comes with its restraints. If you do take it up, you will be bound to complete the training and once it is done, they will assign you to a position.

The position can be within any of the four Immortal Courts, or in a world. You will have to serve in this position for a few thousand years after which you can choose to resign." He explained.

"Hmm... but I'm guessing people don't mind that?" Lin Mu asked.

"Of course not. To them, that is the greatest fortune they can have. Rather than worrying about when they can leave, they are anxious about how to extend their serving time. The benefits and wealth obtained from it is massive after all.

And once one resigns or retires from it, they will be considered a person with great influence. So much so that you will get preferential treatment even when you reach the Celestial realm." Xukong answered.

"No wonder... And that crown prince will be doing that." Lin Mu muttered.

"Why? Do you wish to join it now too?" Xukong asked seeing Lin Mu's expression.

"No." Lin Mu shook his head. "It would be far too restrictive for me. Plus there is no telling if what would happen if they found out about the secrets I have." He added.

"That's true. Though it is still a good option if you feel like you want a place to 'settle' for a few thousand years." Xukong replied calmly.

"Hmm... I'll keep that in mind." Lin Mu didn't think that moment would come time soon with how much lifespan he had left.

He was barely twenty seven years old right now after all.

~huu~

"Let's get down from here first." Lin Mu said and tried to fly but couldn't. "Huh?"

"You can't fly in an Imperial Capital like this without permission." Xukong reminded.

"Of course." Lin Mu shook his head.

~SHUA~ SHUA~

But just as he said that, Lin Mu saw several travelers flying without an issue.

"How can they fly?" Lin Mu was now confused.

One of the guards nearby seemed to have heard him and spoke, "those who have permissive tokens can fly."

"How can one get that?" Lin Mu wished he could have one, as it would make things convenient.

"You can get one if you're a noble, have an official position, are gifted one, or gain fame for it to be bestowed." The guard said in a flat tone.

"Ah..." Lin Mu realized it was not as simple as just buying one. "Walking it is then."

He went down the stairs with the other travelers that didn't have the permissive tokens and soon reached the bottom. After all, they were all immortals and weren't exactly slow.

Upon getting down, Lin Mu first decided to get a place to settle down.

"Now then, let's see." Lin Mu took out the booklet for the tournament.

There were plenty of places mentioned on it that one could stay at. It was clear that these were advertisements put by the owners of these establishments. There were over a hundred such places listed in it, along with their address.

"Just the address won't help me, if I don't know what the location is. I also need a map." Lin Mu decided to get a map first.

[Chapter 1616 A Massive City For Navigation](#)

Asking around, it didn't take him long for Lin Mu to find a place that sold maps. With a city as massive as this, it was necessary for there to be maps for it.

Even for the citizens of this city, it wasn't unusual for them to get lost if they went to areas they had not been to. It was even said that there were people who had not seen the entire Capital city in their lifespan.

And thus, there was no lack of shops that sold such maps.

"Welcome Customer, what would you like?" The shopkeeper asked eagerly.

Lin Mu looked around and found the shop to be rather good looking. It was well maintained and there were all kinds of goods such as various bags, tents, powders of different uses as well as maps.

It was evident that this was a shop that sold travel supplies.

"I'd like a map." Lin Mu replied.

"What kind of map would you like customer? We have maps for the capital city, as well as detailed maps for each district of the city. Or if you wish for other maps, we also have maps for the different regions of the Dao Wind Empire." The shopkeeper replied.

"I'd like a detailed map of the city." Lin Mu answered.

"Ah, very well." The Shopkeeper said before taking out three items.

The first was a set of scrolls, the second was a jade slip and the third was a small circular mirror.

"I have the map in three versions, ranging from cheap to expensive. The first is the most basic scroll maps. Since the city is too big, you'll have to buy multiple scrolls. The cost for this is four low grade immortal stones.

The second is the jade slip, which has the entire map within it. You can use it just like any other jade slip used to store information. The cost for it is twenty low grade immortal stones.

Then we have the Map mirror which can not only function as a map, but will also show your position as you move along with a location search function. It will help you never get lost in the Capital City. The Map Mirror costs about two mid grade immortal stones." The Shopkeeper explained.

"I'll take the map mirror then." It didn't take long for Lin Mu to make a decision.

After all, the price was nothing to him and the convenience provided by the Map Mirror was going to be a big help.

"An excellent choice! This map mirror is our best seller too." The Shopkeeper said with a smile. "I must say, sir customer made a good decision. All those that buy the basic scroll maps and jade slip come back to buy the Map Mirror.

Even the people with good sense of direction get lost in our city. Not to mention with how many locations there are in our capital, it gets tough to find them all. The Map Mirror will help in all that." He explained.

"I see... I'll take it then." Lin Mu said before handing over the mid grade immortal stones to the man.

"Would you like anything else, customer?" The shopkeeper tried to get Lin Mu to buy more.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and thought over it for a bit before having an idea.

"This map mirror... is there a version of it that works for the entire Long Continent?" Lin Mu inquired.

"Ah! Unfortunately that is not possible. The Map Mirror is something that was especially developed for the Capital city. It relies on the arrays of the city to work and as such cannot work elsewhere." The shopkeeper replied.

"That's a shame." Lin Mu said, but could understand the reasoning behind it.

"But! I can still offer you a jade slip map for the entire Dao Wind Empire." The Shopkeeper offered.

"Hmm... I'll take that then." Lin Mu decided to get it, just in case. "How much is it?"

"Not much, just 10 mid Grade Immortal stones." The shopkeeper said with a wide smile.

Lin Mu raised a brow hearing that price as it was higher than the Map Mirror which was technically an Immortal tool. The shopkeeper seemed to have understood Lin Mu's thoughts and spoke again.

"I assure you, it is the best map you can get of the empire. The cost is reasonable for the area that it covers." The shopkeeper clarified.

"Alright, I'll take that too." Lin Mu responded much to the Shopkeepers joy.

"GREAT!" The man very eagerly took Lin Mu's immortal stones and handed over the Jade slip.

But the man was not done yet.

"May I ask if sir is taking part in the Tournament of the Four Guardian beasts?" the Shopkeeper inquired.

"I am." Lin Mu didn't see any reason to hide it since it was something that could be easily guessed.

"Then since sir has bought so much form me, I'll offer sir a bit of interesting information." The shopkeeper offered.

"Oh? What kind of information?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The shopkeeper edged closer and said in a low voice.

"I think sir will be interested in a few banquets that will be held in the coming days. These are being held by the nobles as well as the rich influential people of the capital city." The shopkeep answered.

"What do the banquets have to do with me though?" Lin Mu asked in doubt.

"The banquets are merely a front. In reality, these are intended to be an opportunity for the contestants to meet up as well as the nobles to scout out some black horses before hand. If one is lucky, they might even get sponsored by the banquet organizers." The shopkeeper replied.

Next he took out a little sheet of paper and slid it to Lin Mu slyly.

"Sir customer will certainly benefit from attending a couple." The Shopkeeper said. "Plus I've heard they'll have some great beauties there too." He whispered.

Lin Mu didn't reply to the man after that and simply took the sheet and left.

[Chapter 1617 Lingerin Bamboo Pavillion](#)

Having obtained the map, and a little extra information Lin Mu left the shop.

"The banquet might be good to visit. Perhaps I'll get to obtain some information about other interesting contestants." Lin Mu muttered. "And I may as well try out the food." He said with a bit more enthusiasm.

Lin Mu wasn't one to deny free food, and from what it seemed like these banquets seemed to be open to most contestants.

While the shopkeeper hadn't said how they would pick who would be allowed, Lin Mu reckoned it was mostly up to the judgment of the organizers. After all, it wasn't difficult for people in those positions to judge cultivators with a few looks.

But all that would come later, since Lin Mu needed to deal with the issue of the Tyrant Bull Marrow first.

"Let's get a place to stay first." Lin Mu took out the map mirror and controlled it to show him places for stay.

~SHUA~

An illusory map appeared out of the Map Mirror and a small red dot could be seen on it, showing Lin Mu's position. Next, Lin Mu saw several green dots appearing on the map, signifying inns, hotels, courtyards and other places that were available for one to rent.

"There's quite a lot of options..." Lin Mu could see over a hundred places to stay in the map if he scrolled around.

He looked through them and picked one that offered independent private courtyards for one to rent.

"That one it is then." Lin Mu said.

~SHUA~

In the next second, a line crawled out from the red dot and highlighted the path that Lin Mu needed to take to reach the destination.

"That's rather convenient." Lin Mu was impressed by this, wondering what kind of formations were being used for it.

He could at least tell that the Map mirror itself was rather light on the formations, which was also why its value could be kept low. The true reason for its working was the array that extended all over the city.

The Map mirror took information from that city wide array and located one's position on the map.

'It's also a good way to spy on others though.' Lin Mu thought and wondered if there were some tricks in the map mirror too.

He wouldn't put it behind an empire to hide such things in order to spy on the people within it.

It made sense from a security perspective but wasn't really good for privacy. Lin Mu himself wouldn't like for others to know his position every time, as it would make doing certain things difficult.

And while he was sure that no one was actively tracking them, there was still a chance they could look it up later on.

"I should check to make sure once I've rented a place." Lin Mu muttered and started walking on the charted route.

It took Lin Mu about thirty minutes to reach his destination considering that it was nearly fifty kilometers away from his original location. This part of the city had streets that were nearly a hundred meters wide and looked rather high quality.

Lin Mu looked at the buildings around him and found most of them to be mansions and larger courtyards belonging to various nobles, aristocrats as well as rich individuals.

Even the people passing through here seemed to be affluent, and were riding various vehicles. Some were in large luxurious carriages while some were riding on top of beast mounts. There were even some that were using special immortal vehicles for travel.

Thankfully for Lin Mu, he had no trouble blending in with these people. Even while walking, his appearance was handsome enough for others to consider him on the same level as them.

Not to mention, Lin Mu's demeanor which had been tempered over several experiences that made him seem significant.

Lin Mu had no issues in reaching his destination which was named, Lingering Bamboo Pavilion.

He gazed at the name board and was noticed by the guards standing outside. Before they could speak to him though, Lin Mu walked in.

~Creak~

The door automatically opened up for him and presented the elegant interior.

"Welcome to the Lingering bamboo Pavilion." A beautiful woman greeted Lin Mu.

It was clear that she was there to make it easier for people to be attracted as well as to make them talk. Though these ploys weren't ones that could work on Lin Mu, as moving his mind was rather difficult now.

"I heard you have courtyards for rent?" Lin Mu asked.

"Of course! Our Lingering Bamboo Pavilion is well known for its luxurious courtyards." The woman said with a gentle smile. "What kind of courtyard is Senior looking for?" She inquired.

"Some place that is private." Lin Mu's requirements were simple.

"All our courtyards are private, Senior. Though we have them in several designs and with different features." The woman started to show off an entire catalog of courtyards.

From that, Lin Mu learned that there were nearly two hundred courtyards in the Lingering Bamboo Pavilion. All of them were independent and even the smallest one was the same as a noble's house.

It actually took Lin Mu half an hour to make his choice, as he ended up selecting one based on the features. Lin Mu picked a courtyard that had a garden with several immortal fruit trees as well as facilities for formation and pill refinement.

"Excellent choice, Senior." The woman was pleased since Lin Mu had picked one of the more expensive courtyards. "How long do you wish to rent it for?" she inquired.

Now this was a difficult question for Lin Mu, as he didn't know how long he'd actually stay here. But after thinking for a bit, he decided to get it for the duration of the tournament.

"I'll rent it till the end of the Tournament of the Four Guardian beasts." Lin Mu stated.

He reckoned at least the Saintess would have a place to stay properly if he was out.

[Chapter 1618 Hundred Fruits Pavilion](#)

The Woman at the counter was not done though, and realized that Lin Mu was also a participant for the tournament.

"I see... if sir is a participant too then I can give you a monthly payment offer. Since the tournament has an unexpected length, you can pay a month in advance. Once the ending date is announced, you can withdraw any excess funds." The woman explained.

"Very well, I'll take it." Lin Mu found the option to be good as that way he wouldn't waste any extra funds.

"Great! How would you like to pay sir? You can pay in Immortal Stones, or other materials too." The woman replied.

"I'll pay with Immortal stones." Lin Mu said and handed over a bag of them to the woman.

She quickly placed them on the desk and got an automatic count.

"Please come with me, I'll show you to the courtyard." The woman said while walking out from the side of the counter.

Lin Mu followed after her and went through a long corridor that ended in a pair of doors. When these doors opened up, Lin Mu was greeted by a vast rock garden that had paths laid out.

"This is our surrounding garden for the courtyards inside." The woman introduced while bringing Lin Mu through a long and winding path.

It was clear that the courtyard that Lin Mu had picked was rather distant. Though at the same time it was also one of the best ones in the entire set of courtyards. After walking for about five minutes, they finally reached the chosen courtyard.

"Here it is sir, the Hundred Fruit Courtyard." The woman gestured towards the large courtyard that was fit for a noble.

The doors opened automatically for them as they walked inside and allowed them to see the beautiful interior. There were six interconnected buildings in the courtyard with each having different functions.

There was the main hall at the center with two bedrooms attached to it. Then there was a Formation Pavilion as well as a pill refinement hall set in two of the buildings. And finally, there was the building that was used as a kitchen as well as a servant quarters.

But the best part of the courtyard was none other than the many fruit trees that were planted in its garden. This was the reason why it was called the Hundred Fruit Courtyard after all.

Lin Mu could see that most of the trees were Spirit Fruit trees, but there were still a handful of Immortal Fruit trees among them too.

'Makes sense, planting all immortal fruit trees would make the value rise a little too much.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Still this was good enough for him, as it just meant Little Shrubby will have more things to experiment with.

"I can use all of these fruits right?" Lin Mu asked just in case.

"Of course. As long as you do not cut down the trees, you can take as many fruits as you wish sir." The woman replied.

"Alright." Lin Mu nodded his head.

"You can also get the servants to prepare whatever food you wish for. They are well trained in all kinds of dishes. Or if you wish to procure some other services, they can also be called for at once using the servants." The Woman explained further.

"I don't need the servants." Lin Mu said much to her surprised. "I'd like for all servants to be gone from the courtyard while I'm here. I'll call for them if I need them." He stated.

The woman seemed a bit confused, but did not question Lin Mu's choice.

After all, Lin Mu was a paying customer that had rented one of the most expensive courtyards in the Lingering Bamboo Pavilion. His request was basically nothing compared to the other wild requests that several noble quests gave.

"Very well, that shall be done." The woman responded. "If you wish to call for the servants, you can use this master token." She handed Lin Mu what looked like a formation plate.

Upon holding the master token, Lin Mu could already sense all of its functions. It controlled all aspects of the Hundred Fruit Courtyard and also functioned as a communication tool for the servants.

"You can also call upon me if you need something greater." The woman offered with a smile. "I'll shall not take anymore of your time and leave you to it." She bid her farewell and left Lin Mu to his devices.

~HUU~

With her gone, Lin Mu took a deep breath, enjoying the fragrance of the fruit flowers.

"Come out, Little Shrubby, Xiao Yin, Xiao Yang." Lin Mu called out his beasts.

~MEOW~

~HISS~ HISS~

The three beasts seemed to be visibly excited as they looked around the large courtyard. It was large enough for even Little Shrubby to walk around a bit in his full size.

"So many fruits!" it didn't take long for Little Shrubby to sense the fruit trees.

"You can use them. We just can't damage the trees." Lin Mu instructed. "There's also a kitchen there, so you can look around."

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied before going to take a look.

The twins also followed behind him, deciding to take his lead.

Lin Mu looked at this with interest, finding it to be new.

'Did they decide this in the Sleepscape?' Lin Mu wondered.

While he knew that Little Shrubby had been teaching the twins' things, it seemed like they had come to some sort of arrangement now.

Once the three were gone though, Lin Mu thought about another important person.

"Saintess..." Lin Mu called for her.

~SHUA~

This time it didn't take that long for her to appear. In fact, it felt like she had been waiting for him to call her.

"I got a bigger courtyard this time and it also has a private bedroom. You can take that if you wish." Lin Mu offered.

"Mmm... very well." The Saintess agreed before looking in the distance. "This city seems a bit different though."

[Chapter 1619 An Idea For Wine](#)

Lin Mu heard the Saintess's words and was a bit confused.

"Different? Have you been here before?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes... this is the place where I arrived first in the Rust Sky World." The Saintess answered.

"Oh, I didn't know that." Lin Mu realized he had never asked, how the Saintess had arrived. "Do others know that you are here? I mean if you used the teleportation array they should have a record right?" he inquired.

"Other than the people of my sect, no one should know. They wouldn't have sensed me here either, even if the array was used." The Saintess answered.

Lin Mu was once again impressed by the Saintess's skills wondering when he'll reach the same level.

"Why does it seem different to you though, Saintess?" Lin Mu questioned recalling her earlier words.

"Hmm... it is hard to tell. There is a strange aura cast over the entire region." The Saintess answered.

"Strange aura?" Lin Mu thought over it and replied, "is it due to the tournament perhaps?"

"It might be so." The Saintess replied.

"Is the aura dangerous or threatening?" Lin Mu asked, just in case.

"No. It is mostly neutral. Though it also tends to flare up from time to time." The Saintess replied.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows, wondering if the Tournament was really behind this.

"Can you sense it too Senior Xukong?" Lin Mu questioned, hoping to get more.

"I can't sense it, but I have an idea of what it might be." Xukong answered. "It should be the presence of the Four Guardian beasts. They should be awakening for the Tournament." He revealed.

"Their awakening?!" Lin Mu was surprised, "just their awakening can cause this kind of aura to spread?" he asked.

"This should just be the start. As time passes, it will increase until finally they will awaken. The presences of the Four Guardians will be watching the tournament too after all." Xukong explained.

"Hmm... I guess it's not that bad." Lin Mu nodded his head. "But why is the Saintess unable to tell this?" he asked in doubt.

"It is exceptional that she can sense it right now in the first place. One shouldn't be able to tell this even when they have fully awakened. After all, the temple has such strong arrays that they can easily hide their presence.

The aura that is spread around should be due to the Rust Sky World itself reacting to the awakening of the Guardians." Xukong explained.

Lin Mu finally understood and felt a bit relieved that it wasn't anything bad. He also conveyed this information to the Saintess making her content too.

"So they have already started to awaken by now." The Saintess seemed a bit surprised. "Usually they awaken just a short time before a tournament." She added.

"Have you been to such tournaments of the Four Guardian beasts before Saintess?" Lin Mu asked curiously.

"I have in the past, yes." The Saintess replied.

"Did you participate in them too?" Lin Mu asked further.

"No... I've only been there to watch them." The Saintess shook her head.

Though after thinking for a bit, Lin Mu reckoned it was probably due to the unique status of the Saintess that she did not participate in them.

With that done, Lin Mu reckoned he should take a look at the formation arrays of the courtyard. He found them to be good, but still added a few of his on top of them, just to be extra sure.

And once that was done, he checked the rest of the features of the courtyard including the Formation Pavilion and the Pill Refinement hall.

"The pill refinement hall is good, but the Formation Pavilion is a bit inferior to the one I built in the Sleepscape." Lin Mu assessed. "If I make the Diamond Mountain Talismans here, the Formation Pavilion might not be able to bear the same level of damage." He muttered.

Though it made sense, since this formation pavilion was built according to the general use purpose and was not meant to be a specialized one. But for making normal talismans and formations that did not have any strong backlashes, it would be perfectly fine.

Having checked all the rooms, Lin Mu decided to wait till Little Shrubby was done cooking.

The beast had already picked the fruits, and was making something in the kitchen. Lin Mu could smell the scents coming from the distance and just decided to wait for it.

The Saintess on the other hand, had set up her solid Immortal Stone table and chairs in the garden and was seemingly sitting still.

Due to her veil, Lin Mu didn't know if she was gazing at something or was just sitting with her eyes closed. But Lin Mu knew someone of her level didn't really need to 'look' at something to know what was happening.

He reckoned she was probably getting a sense of the capital city. After all, it was massive and there were far too many things happening in it.

Shortly after, the meal was ready and Little Shrubby brought it out.

~SHUA~SHUA~SHUA~

Several prosthetic hands flew out carrying the trays and platters, before placing them on the table.

"Looks good!" Lin Mu said seeing the dishes that were utilizing the various fruits of the garden.

They didn't spend wait any longer and quickly got to eating.

Even the Saintess tried some of the dishes, finding them to be good. Little Shrubby had also prepared some fruit juices as accompaniments for their meal.

While drinking this though, the Saintess spoke lightly. "Some fruit wine might be good too."

"Wine huh?" Lin Mu took note of it and thought over it a bit.

He knew that there were many kinds of Immortal wines that were the same as elixirs in strength.

'I wonder if I can use the Immortal Apples for making some wine? I do have a lot of them.' Lin Mu pondered.

He had other cultivation resources so he didn't necessarily need to rely on the apples to cultivate, allowing them to hoard in his ring.

[Chapter 1620 Making Contact With The Seller And Making Wine Gourds](#)

Making wine wasn't necessarily complicated for Lin Mu, but when it came to Immortal wine, things became a bit complex.

When there was Immortal Qi involved, one couldn't just crush an immortal fruit and squeeze out its juice to be fermented. Doing that directly would only lead to the Immortal Qi leaking out and the wine turning into normal wine.

If one wanted to make Immortal wine, they needed special equipment for it. This came in the form of various jars, barrels as well as gourds. Similar to the preservation formations on the pill boxes and bottles, wine making equipment also had them.

But in addition to that, they also had temperature regulation as well as several more formations that promoted the formation of wine.

But all this was just for the most basic immortal wine. If one wanted to make different flavors and variants, they would have to adjust the different pentameters on their own as well. There was a reason why a master immortal wine brewer took thousands of years to learn.

Making a single batch of Immortal wine might take years if not decades, only after which one would know the results of their work. And the longer a wine was left, the better it would age and its taste would change too.

This affected the properties of the wine too, making it more potent.

To immortals, mortal and spirit wine couldn't get them drunk. To them it may as well be water at that point. Thus in order to get the same effect they would need immortal wine that would have to be aged for at least a few years.

There were other immortal wines that were aged for a hundred or even a thousand years that had great effects. At that point, they may as well be on the same level as that of pills.

One might think if high grade wine was the same as high grade pills, why didn't more people make it even if it was simpler?

The reason was the need for time.

An alchemist might be able to make hundreds of high grade pills in a span of a decade and yet a wine brewer might not even be able to finish one batch of wine.

Because of this the two occupations had their own benefits and could compare on certain levels. Wine was good for occasional use and employment while pills were better for regular use

Having thought all this, Lin Mu decided to make some immortal wine too.

'I might not be able to make good quality wine right away, but making some light fruit wine shouldn't be a problem. I do have plenty of Immortal apples anyway.' Lin Mu reckoned.

The Saintess had no idea, that a few of her words had made Lin Mu start on his journey as a Wine maker.

They continued their meal and once it was done, Little Shrubby cleaned everything up. Lin Mu went to his room to cultivate for a bit and also look over the map to find out more about the city.

After all, it was massive and with the Mirror map, he could see what kind of establishments and organizations there were in the entire capital region. Then there was also the banquets that had been mentioned by the map shop's owner.

'Considering I'm near several of the noble's mansions, they might be organizing them too.' Lin Mu decided to look out for them.

After spending a while looking through the map, Lin Mu finally decided to contact the person who supposedly had the Tyrant Bull Marrow.

~HUU~

"Here goes nothing..." Lin Mu held the Jade Slip and contacted the person.

He waited for a few minutes as the response didn't come right away.

"Hmm... let's try again." Lin Mu contacted the person again but still didn't get a response. "Perhaps they are occupied. I'll wait a bit more." He muttered.

Lin Mu continued to cultivate while waiting for a response to come on the jade slip. Time continued to pass and night time arrived after which Lin Mu had nearly given up on it.

"Are they not intending to give it now or something?" Lin Mu wondered.

There was no saying if the person had changed their mind.

"Or they already have someone they gave it to." Xukong chimed in.

"Ah yeah... I didn't consider that." Lin Mu furrowed his brows. "But that'll make things difficult for me."

~HUMM~

Shortly after he said that though, Lin Mu felt the Jade Slip hum. He immediately picked it up and discovered that the one contacting him was none other than who he was waiting for.

"You are looking for the Tyrant Bull Marrow?" The person asked.

"Yes, I am. I heard you are willing to give it in exchange for a task?" Lin Mu replied.

"Yes. If you wish to attempt it, you can meet me in two days time." The person stated directly.

"Very well." Lin Mu agreed and was given an address to go to in two days time.

With that done, the connection was stopped and Lin Mu didn't receive any more messages from the person.

"Hmm... let's see what this address is." Lin Mu opened up the Map Mirror and searched for the address that he had been given.

He reckoned knowing where to go in advance would be good.

"Huh? This..." But when Lin Mu looked up the address he was surprised. "Is this correct?" he was doubtful.

Lin Mu checked it again and realized that it really was correct.

"Within the Grounds of the Imperial Palace... just who is this person?" Lin Mu was shocked by this.

The address that the person had given Lin Mu was one of the man buildings within the Imperial palace grounds. The area was huge and multiple people levied in it along with the Imperial Family.

"At least it isn't the Grand Palace itself... that would be unnerving." Lin Mu muttered.

From what Lin Mu could see on the map, the building seemed to be located on the outer periphery of the Imperial Palace Grounds. It was definitely not someone that was a direct member of the Imperial Family at least.

"It should be an official or something." Lin Mu reckoned.

If it was someone like that he was still fine with meeting them.

'I guess I just have to wait for two days.' Lin Mu thought to himself and decided to do some other tasks in this time.

He laid down and entered the Sleepscape.

"I may as well get started on the wine." Lin Mu said to himself and went to the Formation Pavilion.

There, Lin Mu took out a couple of Gourds that were originally used for storing pills.

"I should be able to re purpose these for wine." Lin Mu reckoned.

Next, he checked the formations on them and tried to see if they could work for wine too, but realized that they weren't all useful. He would also need to add several more formations to them to make them properly work.

But if he's doing all that, Lin Mu would have to remove the older formations anyway as they would not mesh well with the new ones.

"Let's start from clearing it out. The gourd is of a good base material so I should just make new formations on it." Lin Mu decided.

He first unraveled all the formations that were on the gourd and then did the same with the second one too. Once that was done, Lin Mu started to add new runes to it, starting from the most basic preserving formation.

Then he added an Immortal Qi containment formation and then a Qi isolating formation on top of that to make it extra strong.

Lin Mu also consulted with Xukong on what formations would be the best for the gourd. After all, while there were many types of formations there were also several variants of the same formation with each having slight difference.

Thus knowing which one to choose was also an important task.

And it just so happened that Xukong seemed to be a little too knowledgeable about making wine.

Lin Mu found it a bit strange, as Xukong had never shown interest in wine before this. He didn't mind it though and just went with the flow, following the advice of the spider.

Thankfully all these formations were rather simple to Lin Mu, and he finished making all of them in just a day's time.

"There we go. Barely any mistakes." Lin Mu said while feeling pleased at his work.

With the two gourds ready, all that was left for Lin Mu to put fruit juice in it.

"Time to get started on that." Lin Mu took out the Immortal apples and began separating them.

There were two types after all, one was the normal Immortal apples and the other was the Wood Elemental Immortal apples. Lin Mu didn't want to mix them together as he didn't know what the outcome would be.

Plus the number of Wood Elemental Immortal Apples was also less.