

## Walker 201

### Chapter 201 - Banter

Unknown to both Lin Mu and Duan Ke, five minutes had already passed. The hall was littered with pieces of broken weapons and even a few cuts, and scratches could be seen on the floor. Although the floor was made to be resistant to damage, it had still been slightly damaged from their attack, which said a lot about the strength that they had used.

But soon enough, under the influence of the formations in the hall, the damage started to recover. A few seconds later the entire hall was back to its former appearance, save for the fragments of broken weapons everywhere.

Lin Mu saw this and was amazed by this. He had not expected that the hall even had a feature like this. While the formations had activated, Lin Mu had observed them with his spirit sense and had found them to be different than that of those he had seen before. Evidently, these formations had different functions and thus had different designs.

'This is rather amazing.' Lin Mu thought.

"Indeed, but not so much. There are far too many things that can be done with the use of formations. This is but the tip of the iceberg." Xukong spoke in Lin Mu's mind.

Lin Mu's eyes lit up even more after hearing about this, and a flame for learning was born in him. He had already seen the formations on the Myriad Armament Canopy Abode and had seen how versatile and complex those were.

"If only a pseudo immortal rank tool is this complex, then what are the higher ranks like?" Lin Mu wondered to himself.

"Well, you just need to explore them yourself. The time will eventually come." Xukong spoke with a chuckle.

Meanwhile, Jing Wei was gazing at Lin Mu and Duan Ke intently. He could see that Lin Mu's eyes were more lively than before and just attributed it to his win, unaware that it was for a completely different reason. He then looked at Duan Ke and saw the wronged expression on her face, which soon disappeared.

'Ahaha, she's still the same as before, my little Ke'er.' Jing Wei thought to himself as he briefly reminisced his memories.

Duan Ke herself was looking at Lin Mu with a complex gaze. She felt too many emotions, and the mixture of them only made her feel confused. She felt angry since she had lost and how she was unable to inflict even one wound on Lin Mu.

That was another shocking thing that bothered Duan Ke. During the entire fight, although she fought with all her might, she was still unable to hurt Lin Mu and the same was for Lin Mu. Although they were not going to gravely injure each other, Jing Wei had already told Lin Mu that all injuries could be taken care of by them so he could fight without restraints.

Still, Duan Ke knew that she would not be injured anyway since she had a defensive treasure on her that would block hits from even Nascent Soul cultivators, not to mention Lin Mu who was not even at the core condensation realm.

Duan Ke could not believe the force that was packed within each of his strikes, and not only that she realized that he was actually improving the more they fought. His flaws were slowly getting reduced and his accuracy was increasing.

Duan Ke did not know that Lin Mu had not even used the full potential of his skills and was only using the weapons with his spirit qi. Even Duan Ke had not used any martial techniques, but that was more because she was restricted by the area.

Most of the martial skills she knew were for long range and to be used in a bigger area. As for the others, they were either defensives skills or for other investigations. Duan Ke knew that she was not a genius, but even then her skills were easily comparable to that of the disciples of the top sects.

After all, she had trained in the skills of her clan under the tutelage of her grandfather. While her sword skills were not top notch, they were not to be scoffed at either. Besides, the biggest reason was that Lin Mu had defeated her at his lower cultivation realm. This was the biggest blow to her.

'What kind of master does he have? In the span of few months, he's reached the level of an inner sect disciple of a top sect.' Duan Ke thought to herself.

'Even his cultivation base... I can't tell if it's really as he said it is. He should have been exhausted much earlier if that was true, not to mention his vital energy, I can't even sense that anymore.' Duan Ke wondered.

Both of them finally snapped out of their thoughts when Jing Wei spoke up.

*~Ahem~*

"Good... very good, I am satisfied with your skills. While there are still many flaws, they are nothing time and practice can't fix." Jing Wei praised while looking at Lin Mu.

He then turned his gaze to his granddaughter before giving her a gentle smile.

"Don't be down Ke'er, you were disadvantaged from the start; you couldn't use any of your martial techniques. Your specialization is not in combat anyway, you still did well. And it wasn't a dishonor anyway. What you lost against was our clan's technique." Jing Wei consoled.

Duan Ke felt a little better after hearing Jing Wei's words, but then felt confused at his latter words.

"Our clan's technique? What do you mean?" Duan Ke questioned.

"Umm..." Jing Wei uttered with a mixture of realization and embarrassment.

It was then that Jing Wei realized. Back when he had given Lin Mu the manual for the Thousand armament blade scripture, Duan Ke and he had been in a bad condition. Duan Ke was even more severe and needed immediate care. Thus he had forgotten about that completely.

Even now he was only thinking of how Lin Mu had learned the technique but had forgotten to inform his granddaughter in these entire few months!

*~Sigh~*

"Ah~ It seems this man is getting truly old." Jing Wei spoke in a self-deprecating manner.

Lin Mu felt a little strange at this, but still felt that the old man was funny. His earlier imposing demeanor was nowhere to be found.

## **Chapter 202 - The Pitiful Hei Corps?**

*~Ahem~*

Duan Ke coughed to get Jing Wei's attention.

"I asked you something grandfather, please clarify." Duan Ke spoke in a cold tone.

Jing Wei noticed the change in her tone and knew that he should drop the act now, lest he angers his precious granddaughter even more.

"I gave Lin Mu the thousand armament blade scripture." Jing Wei said in a straight tone.

Duan Ke's expression, which was cold before went still for a moment before shock appeared on her face.

"WHAT! You gave an outsider that? When?!" Duan Ke spoke in shock.

A few seconds later she herself realized when that must have happened.

"You mean... back then... when... when..." She stuttered.

"Yes, I did. I admit it was a decision made in haste, but now that I've seen the result I don't regret it." Jing Wei interrupted Duan Ke, not wanting her to embarrass herself in front of Lin Mu.

The person in question, Lin Mu himself was having a great time listening to the banter of the pair of grandfather and granddaughter. He had an amused expression on his face and kept on listening without uttering a word.

*~Sigh~*

Duan Ke sighed and thought to herself there was no use crying over spilled milk.

'No wonder, he kept on switching weapons and improved against my own weapon skills. The sword technique I use is a lesser derivation of the Thousand armament blade scripture. It's obvious that the technique is much more superior.' Duan Ke consoled herself.

"You should have told me beforehand grandfather, I would have used a different tactic then." Duan Ke uttered in defeat.

"I didn't know he would be able to do that either. I never expected anyone to learn it that quick, especially since the requirements of that technique are quite harsh." Jing Wei said and continued, "How

did you do this? I mean, the number of weapons required for this is astounding and some of them are even unorthodox."

Both Duan Ke and Jing Wei's eyes were now focused on Lin Mu, and they were waiting for his reply.

Lin Mu realized what Jing Wei was talking about and replied, "Yes, the requirements did indeed make it difficult for me at first. But then I got an opportunity and had the Hei corps procure them for me."

Lin Mu did not mind that he spoke about the Hei corpse as it was already known to him that the Hei corps and Jing Wei had previously met before. Though if he knew the context of that meeting, then perhaps he would have thought of avoiding mentioning them.

"The Hei corps?" Both Duan Ke and Jing Wei repeated with momentary confusion.

"You mean those bunch of weaklings in Dark blue robes and masks?" Duan Ke spoke in a depreciating tone.

"Ah, I remember. Weren't those the people who were snooping around the shop back then? I nearly forgot about them." Jing Wei said as he stoked his beard in realization.

Lin Mu looked at the two of them with a strange gaze.

'What kind of interaction did they Hei Corps have with them? And wasn't what I did a little while ago the same, technically.' Lin Mu inwardly spoke.

"I am confused too." Xukong chimed in.

"What happened between you and them?" Lin Mu asked curiously.

Duan Ke took this opportunity to show her supremacy and bashed the Hei Corps for their weakness, as she narrated the entire story.

After listening to the entire thing, Lin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

*~Chuckle~*

Xukong could not hold back anymore either and chuckled in response.

'The Hei corps they are truly... pitiable.' Lin Mu muttered in his mind.

"Indeed, they seem to have a penchant for misfortune. No wonder their image of you went up instantly when you spoke of these two. They had already been scared plenty." Xukong spoke in an amazed tone.

"Senior... you too... *~Sigh~*" Lin Mu replied while feeling a strange sense of second-hand embarrassment.

Lin Mu didn't know what to make of this and just decided to push this to the back of his mind for the time being.

"And how did you encounter the Hei corps?" Jing Wei questioned, feeling curious.

"It's a long story." Lin Mu spoke with a tired expression.

Jing Wei then remembered that Lin Mu had just gone through a battle and was likely to be tired due to qi depletion. This was indeed true, but Lin Mu's condition was not as bad as Jing Wei had thought. Lin Mu still had about two hundred wisps of spirit qi left in his dantian, along with about ten drops of liquefied spirit qi.

"Well then, we can head back to the meeting hall to rest. You can recuperate your qi in the meantime, I'll add your signature to the formation array." Jing Wei spoke.

He waved his hand and multiple formations appeared all over the hall and also surrounded Lin Mu. They glowed over his body for a moment before a pattern was emitted from the formation. This pattern went towards Lin Mu's chest as if to enter it.

But just as the patter proceeded slightly, it halted midair and then faded away. Even the formations that were surrounding Lin Mu faded away.

Jing Wei and Duan Ke stared at this with confused expressions. Duan Ke soon realized what must have happened and quickly whispered in his ear.

"Ah, I see. He can already absorb spirit qi without the approval of the formation, no wonder the formation cannot register him." Jing Wei muttered in realization.

But hidden in his words were a multitude of complex emotions that he did not show. While Lin Mu did not notice this, Duan Ke certainly did and knew that her grandfather had likely caught onto something.

"No matter," Jing Wei spoke up, breaking the silence. "You can absorb the spirit qi in the courtyard as you please for now."

Lin Mu nodded his head in gratitude and quickly urged his body to start absorbing the spirit qi in the surroundings. Soon a faint whirlwind was formed and swirled around Lin Mu.

### **Chapter 203 - The Invader's Origin**

This was the first time Jing Wei was witnessing Lin Mu actually absorb spirit qi. He had heard from Duan Ke that he was absorbing it before but seeing it completely different. He was Rather surprised by his speed as he had created a physical phenomenon.

"He is rather fast, he barely even put any effort in it..." Jing Wei muttered to himself.

Lin Mu kept on walking and did not mind the whirlwind of spirit qi surrounding him, rather he was fascinated by it. Seeing that Lin Mu continued on Duan Ke and Jing Wei also walked ahead. Soon they reached the meeting hall where they had been sitting previously.

They all took their respective seats and Lin Mu too stopped absorbing spirit qi for now. Still, he was rather satisfied by his gains, in the five minutes they had taken to reach here, Lin Mu had absorbed nearly five hundred wisps of spirit qi.

'This is rather good, my speed will be much greater if I cultivate here.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"While that is true, I don't think it will be possible for you to cultivate here." Xukong spoke.

"Oh? Ah yes senior. It would be rude for me to impose on them." Lin Mu spoke in acknowledgment.

"No, that's, not all. You know how he tried to add you to the formation, right? And it didn't work, that's the problem. If you keep on absorbing spirit qi like this, you will eventually end up damaging the formation array. And that is certainly not something they would allow." Xukong explained.

"Ah... is that so Senior?" Lin Mu respond.

*~Ahem~*

"Well then, you can tell us now." Jing Wei spoke up.

Lin Mu nodded and then went on to narrate how there were disappearances and a night vigil was organized. How he found the dead bodies of the mercenaries and how he met Hei Wen. He then told him about the fight with the culprits and how they later met the captain of the Hei corps, Hei Bao.

The subsequent series of events were quickly explained, including the part about the invader. Lin Mu especially mentioned that in detail as he himself wanted to know more about it and was sure that Jing Wei must have some idea.

Still, there were a few things that Lin Mu avoided mentioning, such as the existence of the Great Slumber bear. Senior Xukong advised him that it would be best that he avoided telling everyone about that for now. It would only be a waste if they killed the beast and Lin Mu lost this opportunity of getting its bloodline.

Twenty minutes passed as Lin Mu finally finished telling them about everything that had happened in the past few months they were in hiding. The two, Duan Ke and Jing Wei, were shocked to say the least after hearing the entire story.

"Grandfather..." Duan Ke uttered.

"I know... it seems we missed many more traces of that 'thing'." Jing Wei interrupted her.

Lin Mu was confused upon hearing what Jing Wei meant by the 'thing' but quickly realized what he must have meant.

"That 'thing'? Oh, you mean the invader?" Lin Mu asked to clarify.

"You know about invaders?" Duan Ke questioned with surprise in her eyes.

During the entire narration that Lin Mu had done, he had not mentioned the word 'invader' directly, as he wanted to know if they knew about it beforehand. His guess turned out to be true from what they had just spoken.

"Yes, I do know about them. My umm... Master told me about them." Lin Mu revealed.

Senior Xukong had told him to use this as it was actually true. Although the existence of him could not be revealed easily or that would be dangerous.

'So he does have a Master and one that knows about the invaders. That means whoever they are, they are either from the top sects or have lived long enough to hear about them. Either of those possibilities makes it complex, the last one even more so...' Jing Wei thought to himself.

"You have seen these invaders before?" Lin Mu questioned.

Duan Ke turned to look at Jing Wei for a bit, as if asking for permission. Jing Wei gently nodded at her to proceed.

"Yes... this is not the first time we've seen their traces. The most recent time I saw them was actually when you brought in the mutant beast's corpse." Duan Ke answered.

"Mutant beast?... You mean!" Lin Mu spoke in a tone of realization.

Lin Mu thought back to the appearance of the coyote like beast that he had hunted before who had been able to withstand his boulder collapsing fist before. That beast had an appearance that was similar to that of the invader's traces. It too had bone spurs on it. In fact, now that he remembered, he had also eaten its meat.

"What? You ate its meat?" Xukong asked, feeling shocked.

But before Lin Mu could clarify this to Senior Xukong, Duan Ke interrupted.

"Yes, back when you brought it to sell to me. That mutant beast had the traces of the invader on it, the reason why its appearance was like that. I was able to sense its aura from the previous time I had seen the traces of the invader and immediately linked it to that.

You asked me to give you its meat, but what I did was give you the meat of another beast that was at an equivalent level. The knowledge about the invader cannot be revealed carelessly, thus I did not tell it to you back then." Duan Ke explained to Lin Mu.

*~Phew~*

After hearing her words, Lin Mu took a breath of relief and so did Xukong in his mind.

"Wait, you mentioned a previous time, there were more of those kinds of traces?" Lin Mu further questioned.

"Yes, a year ago, back when the plague occurred in the region. The cause of that was none other than a beast that was infected by the traces of the invader. The source of plague was none other than that beast."

## **Chapter 204 - Ordained**

Lin Mu's eyes went wide as memories of the plague came rushing back to him. He remembered his parent's suffering and how the people of the town died. How the mayor did not act quickly and many people had to die before the cure was procured.

Duan Ke and Jing Wei were looking at Lin Mu and saw the very apparent change that happened in him. His aura seemed to have changed and his eyes turned red. Even his breathing became rough and the spirit qi in the surroundings started to become disturbed.

If Lin Mu felt the calling of the world to exterminate the invader before, now it was his own rage that was doing it. Unprecedented fury appeared in his heart as the scenes of his parents suffering and dying kept on replaying in his mind.

*~Snap~*

Lin Mu gripped the armrest of the chair hard breaking it in the process. The wood that was hard and would not break even from a full-strength attack of a body tempering realm expert crumbled like chalk in Lin Mu's hand.

Unknown to him the aura of the demonic path appeared in the mysterious ring once again. Xukong was quick to respond this time and immediately shouted out to Lin Mu, but still, the same thing as before happened. It was as if a barrier had stopped his communication.

'Dammit, this is not the right time for this to happen. The aura of the demonic path shouldn't be revealed this way, we don't know how those two would respond.' Xukong cursed to himself.

Duan Ke clearly witnessed Lin Mu breaking the handle of the chair and almost flinched from it. But that was not all, his aura had now changed to something else. She couldn't help but feel a hint of fear rising in her heart.

"Grandfather, what is happening to him?" Duan Ke questioned feeling uneasy.

"I don't know, but it's certain he's agitated for some reason." Jing Wei spoke as he stood up ready to act.

Lin Mu meanwhile was muttering something to himself and had his head lowered, his hair hiding his expression from that angle.

*'Kill'*

*'Slaughter'*

*'Eradicate'*

*'Extinguish'*

*'Massacre'*

Violent words were sounding in his mind and the ones that were speaking it were none other than the demonic figures that he had seen when he received the Burning heart sutra.

Lin Mu's mutterings got faster and faster which only made Jing Wei and Duan Ke even more worried.

"Ke'er get back... I don't like where this is going." Jing Wei ordered as he then gestured in the air.

Multiple runes appeared in the air and surrounded Lin Mu forming a translucent shell around him. Jing Wei was looking at him with a serious expression while Duan Ke was now standing in a defensive stance, ready to act.

The aura that Lin Mu was emitting was slowly flaring up, but just as it was about to reach its peak it suddenly faded away.

*~Ahahaha~*

Lin Mu laughed in a hoarse voice as he lifted his head.

It was now that Duan Ke and Jing Wei saw his expression. His eyes were bloodshot and it seemed as if flames were burning within them. There were trails of tears coming out of the corners of his eyes as a malevolent smile bloomed on his face.



"**I ACCEPT!**" Lin Mu shouted, but to whom that was unknown.

"What is he..." Just as Duan Ke uttered this a massive wave of energy rocked the mansion.

Hundreds of formation arrays appeared all around the Mansion and the courtyard. A multi-layered golden barrier also appeared, surrounding the entire courtyard.

Back in the town, at the location where the entrance of Jing Wei's emporium was hidden, the space started flickering.

Jing Wei's eyes went wide as he shouted, "SUPPRESS!" and slammed his fist onto the table making more formations appear.

The shaking of the courtyard did not stop then though, instead they only became more intense until eventually, a powerful presence descend and a beam of light pierced through the barrier of the courtyard with ease, passing through the roof of the mansion and struck Lin Mu.

"This... This!" Jing Wei stuttered, as he recognized the identity of the presence.

"Wha-what is that?" Duan Ke let out feeling afraid.

"The world's will... it... it..." Jing Wei struggled to speak feeling lost at the entire situation.

The beam of light that was surrounding Lin Mu faded away after a few seconds as he stood up. In the front of him floated a character. The character was written in Dao script and glowed with the same light that had surrounded Lin Mu before.

Jing Wei stared at the character and recognized what it meant.

"Ordained..." He muttered.

The character then went towards Lin Mu's forehead and imprinted on to it, fading away the next instant.

"Ordained?" Duan Ke questioned feeling confused.

Although Jing Wei had lightly spoken the word, she had still heard it clearly since she was standing close to him.

"He has been ordained by the world's will." Jing Wei answered with an astonished expression.

\*\*\*

A few seconds ago, when Lin Mu was hearing the mutterings of the demonic figures on his mind another voice called out to him. This voice did not have any identifying features and sounded as if it was the amalgamation of countless beings.

This voice had drowned out the mutterings of the demonic figures and had silenced them. At first, Lin Mu was confused as to what it was, but soon he realized. Although the voice was different than that of the demonic figures, what it was saying was the same.

The Voice spoke, "Kill the Invader. Obtain my grace. Avenge my people. Avenge 'your' parents."

Lin Mu recognized the voice was the world's will. Before it had only put a thought in his mind when he first saw the avatar of the invader, but this time it spoke in person.

Upon hearing its word's Lin Mu did not hesitate and immediately declared.

"I accept."

### **Chapter 205 - Lin Mu's Resolve**

Even though Duan Ke heard her grandfather's words, she still could not understand what they meant. She tried to search her memory and could vaguely remember a record that she had read in their clan's library. The record was old and was said to have been from thousands of years before her clan even existed.

It was in that record that the character 'Ordained' was written. Still, the record was heavily damaged and not much could be read from it. Duan Ke only found that record one day while randomly looking through them. She wasn't searching for them.

But from what Jing Wei had said and the overwhelming display of power that had just happened, she could understand that it was not something to be taken lightly. From the changes that happened, to the massive wave of energy that rocked the mansion, it was all too much for her to bear.

\*\*\*

As soon as the character that meant 'Ordained' in Dao script disappeared into Lin Mu's forehead, he looked at the two people that were standing in front of him. He knew that he had definitely scared the pair of Grandfather and granddaughter.

Even he himself would have been scared if he was in their position and had witnessed something like this. A moment later, Lin Mu could finally hear Senior Xukong's voice in his mind.

"Lin Mu, are you fine? What happened?" Xukong asked with great worry.

"I'm fine... As for what happened, I now know what to do..." Lin Mu spoke in a calm tone which did not alleviate Xukong's state at all.

'He does not seem well. What happened back then was completely unexpected. We need to figure out a new course of plan or this won't be good for us.' Xukong thought to himself.

When the light had descended on Lin Mu, the barrier that was surrounding his mind had disappeared, which allowed Xukong to witness the later events. He could recognize the character that had appeared in the air and had merged into Lin Mu's forehead.

Xukong was also able to see the memories from a few seconds ago and saw Lin Mu's parents dying and suffering. He understood that this was a huge burden on Lin Mu's heart and would not go away easily. If it was not dispelled soon, it would become a shackle on his cultivation.

'He already had a heart demon develop before, thankfully it was taken care of by the ring. I do not want another one to be born so soon. His parents are a big part of him and he will definitely need to take care of his filial debt.' Xukong thought to himself after seeing the memories.

'I would have never expected the world to choose him and even bestow its ordainment. Still, this is beneficial to him and is according to his goals, anyway. He can avenge his parents and gain power in the same path. The world's grace would only add to the advantages.' Xukong judged.

Xukong then looked at the ethereal altar in the ring and saw that it had calmed down. No changes could be observed, and no longer was it releasing the aura of the demonic path.

"Was the World's Ordainment your doing as well?" Xukong questioned without expecting an answer.

*~Sigh~*

\*\*\*

Jing Wei knew what being ordained by the world's will meant. He had known of other people that were ordained before in the past and knew that it was both a good thing and a bad thing. But one thing was for sure: a great upheaval was upon them.

Jing Wei looked at Lin Mu and walked forward. Duan Ke saw this and felt fearful for a moment as she called out, "Grandfather!".

Jing Wei looked back at her as he gently nodded at her and spoke, "It is fine. Now that he has been Ordained by the World's will, we have nothing to worry about. Instead, we now have hope for our future."

Turning back to face Lin Mu, he came to stand in front and gazed deeply into his eyes.

"Seems like the world's will has seen your resolve, Lin Mu. I guess it wants you to eliminate the invader?" Jing Wei spoke in a calm tone.

All the fear and uneasiness that there was on his face had disappeared, and what replaced it now was understanding.

*~Huu~*

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he went over everything that had happened in these few minutes. Thinking over them for a moment, he ensured that he was clear about everything.

"Yes, it does indeed. And I shall do it, even if it would have not asked me. I shall do it to avenge my parents." Lin Mu said with utter determination in his voice.

Jing Wei was looking into Lin Mu's eyes as he said this, and could see the flames of resolve burning in them. He could even feel the change in his aura and knew that he had grown strong. It was not a physical growth, but rather a mental one.

"Excellent. We shall help you too." Jing Wei replied as he nodded at him.

Lin Mu felt a little confused at his words, but then realized that it was probably because of the invader. He had heard from Senior Xukong that it was an innate duty of every being of a world to eliminate the invaders that dared to trespass on it.

He reckoned that this was the reason why Jing Wei had said this. Duan Ke had mentioned about the invader a few minutes ago, and now he wanted to know the rest of the story. He now wanted to know about it more than ever.

Lin Mu shifted his eyes from Jing Wei and looked at Duan Ke. His gaze sent an ever so subtle shiver through her body and made her tense up.

*~Gulp~*

Duan Ke gulped hard as she felt her mouth go dry.

"Continue and tell me the rest of what you were saying." Lin Mu spoke in a calm tone.

Duan Ke looked at her grandfather for a moment and saw that he was giving her a look of approval.

*~Huu~*

She took a deep breath before speaking.

### **Chapter 206 - Blight Dust Beast**

"The beast that was infected by the invader was a nascent soul stage beast, called as the Blight dust beast. It has the body of a butterfly, the tail of a bull, and the horns of an antelope. It has four wings that look like large leaves and has countless fine hairs on it.

It was found in the eastern part of the forest called as the gray muck swamp. It is located far beyond the eastern town, more than six hundred kilometers away. The swamp itself is quite small but the danger level there is quite high and seldom do people go there.

The plague occurred due to the ability of the Blight dust beast. Its ability allows it to release large amounts of invisible dust from its wings that is toxic. This dust can affect both plants and beasts. The creatures that die from this are then eaten by the beast.

The beast itself is omnivorous and thus has no preference in food, eating whatever it gets. Though, overall in the hierarchy of Nascent soul beasts, it is in the lowest level as except for its ability it does not do that good in other aspects. Its speed is slow and so is its defense. Still, this is in terms of a nascent soul beast, overall it is still many times stronger than any Core condensation realm beast.

Upon being infected by the invader, the beast mutated and its ability changed. Its ability actually got weakened and was no longer as deadly as before. While it did kill most creatures, the process was much slower than before. Another change that happened to the ability was that its range increased by a lot. It was this dust that caused the plague to spread in the region and because it was so far away, its effects were diluted even more.

In reality, it was no plague but rather a massive case of poisoning." Duan Ke explained.

Lin Mu intently listened to Duan Ke's explaining and did not miss even a single word. He stayed silent after she completed speaking and thought over it. He analyzed all that he could from it to plan what he would be doing next.

"What happened next?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Because the dust was invisible, and the effects were slower, the authorities could not identify what it really was. They thus tried the usual cures and remedies, but none of them worked as you must have seen. At most, they were able to extend the life of the patients by suppressing the symptoms, but still, that was no cure.

Even the mayor had thought the same, and it took him a while before he sent people to investigate. Even the people that he had sent to investigate died never to return, making him alarmed. Knowing that it must be something beyond his capabilities, he decided to contact the Tri Cauldron peony sect.

The Tri cauldron peony sect is a cultivation sect that specializes in alchemical pills and herbs. The sect sent its elders and disciples to investigate the cause of this plague, which eventually led them to gray muck swam where they found the Bligh dust beast.

With their combined efforts they were able to defeat it, but little did they know that the beast had been infected by an invader. I had already been asked by grandfather to investigate this and was thus closely following their every move.

I even had to assist them a few times during their fight while staying hidden or they would have all died, as all they had sent were core condensation realm elders and qi refining realm disciples. I had the support of the spirit tools, thus I was safe and was able to fight against the beast.

The strange thing was, the beast was actually weakened. Its strength seemed to be even more less than usual for a nascent soul realm beast. I realized that this must have been the effect of the invader, a side effect of the mutation. Thankfully, because of this the beast was eventually defeated.

Still, the Tri cauldron peony sect had great losses. Nearly all of their disciples died, and a quarter of their elders that were sent on the mission died as well. They were able to formulate an antidote and sent it to the towns to be distributed.

The mayor had to give a huge payment to the Tri cauldron peony sect, which drained a majority of his fortune. Ever since then he had been sensitive about all things related to money." Duan Ke answered.

Lin Mu finally linked the string of events and could now understand the strange anxiety everyone felt in the town. Even the supervisor was rather nervous and scared about the harvest and was being urged on by the mayor.

He could even understand the perspective of Li Peng when he damaged all the apples. Perhaps he was even saved from a more harsh punishment because Li Peng handled it that way.

*~Sigh~*

'It is all in the past, right now I need to look towards the future.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

'Hmm, seems like he has grown a lot. His naivety is slowly fading away.' Xukong inwardly spoke after seeing Lin Mu's thoughts.

"What happened to the invader then? From what I've seen, it will show itself once its host is killed. Did the Tri cauldron peony sect now find out about it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Fortunately, no. The Tri cauldron peony sect has not been existing for long enough to know about invaders. Or perhaps only their higher-ups know about it. Like I said, all information about the invaders is kept restricted.

Still, what you said did not happen. The invader did not show itself right away after the beast was killed. The people from the sect also retreated quickly after the battle, as they need to tend to the wounded and did not want to risk it further. Once they were gone, I went in to check.

I had to use a special technique to eliminate the beast's corpse, which led to the invader's avatar being released. It was in the form of a black mass that had bone spurs and skulls on it. Only after seeing that did I realize what it was as I felt it in my mind, the repulsive feeling.

I returned to talk with grandfather and he confirmed my suspicion. He then told me to investigate it further to see what else I could find. And I did, a lot. There were far too many traces of the invader in the forest spread around.

It took me over a month before I could find them and eliminate them. Even still, a few escaped as we can see. Or rather, that was not the main source of the invader and was just one of the hosts." Duan Ke answered, feeling a little tired.

Lin Mu could see that the entire thing was linked to far too many things and that he needed to proceed carefully. He now wondered if even the avatar of the invader that was infecting the Great slumber beast was the main one or not.

"Now that we've listened to this, I'm afraid it is as you think. The great slumber bear was probably the first host, but not the source itself. From what we've seen the invader can manipulate space up to a certain extent, it's likely that it is hiding in one of the spatial dimensions in this world." Xukong spoke up.

### **Chapter 207 - Clues About The Invader**

Lin Mu's expression was serious upon hearing Senior Xukong's reply. He did not know how they would face this or how they would even find the invader. For all he could imagine, the invader could be hiding anywhere in this world.

Senior Xukong had explained to him before that as long as one has the access to a spatial dimension in this world they would be able to enter it as long as it was not anchored to a specific location. There were also certain restrictions such as that it could be entered from any place but could only be exited from a certain location.

There were far too many possibilities, and Lin Mu did not know which one it could be.

*~Sigh~*

'All I can do right now is to obtain more information, investigate and explore. I should eventually be able to find some kind of clue.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Lin Mu's mind then returned to the current situation, and he started to think of the next question.

"What did you do after that?" Lin Mu questioned.

"After I eliminated the invader's traces, I returned to the town and stayed here for the rest of the time. At least until you arrived and brought the Mutant beast. I refined the mutant beast's corpse into a bloodline tracking bead and used it to trace the location of the Invader.

This eventually led me to the northern forest, where I found more beasts that had been infected by the invader. Most of them were fierce beasts, while some were spirit beasts. I refined them into bloodline tracking beads as well and was able to find the source of the mutation.

The source of the mutation was a pond underneath which a bigger avatar of the invader was hiding. But unlike the one that escaped from the corpses, this one was unresponsive and looked like a mass of black sludge, not having any of its characteristics like before.

I brought it to show to grandfather before destroying it as well. At that moment, I thought these were the only traces that I had missed. I wanted to search for more, but the bloodline tracking beads were all fully consumed. Still, I didn't get any more reactions from the last remaining bloodline tracking bead, thus I thought that those were the last of them.

This is the third time I'm hearing about these invaders." Duan Ke answered.

Lin Mu thought over her words for a moment before withdrawing two items from his Ring. These items were the vial containing the beast inciting powder, and the wooden plate with a unique triangular pattern which was the beast storage treasure.

The last time Lin Mu had met the Hei Corps, he had taken the beast storage treasure with him. They were fine with it and since it was damaged already, they didn't mind it either. Hei Wan and Hei Bao were also quite trustful of him now.

Lin Mu first handed the vial to Duan Ke, who took it from his hands and looked at it with a questioning look.

"Can you tell me what this is?" Lin Mu questioned, to which Duan Ke nodded.

She then waved her hand and a small transparent sphere appeared in front of her. The sphere was big enough for Duan Ke to keep her hands inside it with no problem. She put both of her hands inside the sphere and then opened the small vial inside it.

She then closed her eyes for a minute after which they twitched and it seemed as if she was shocked. Another minute passed before she opened them. Upon opening them, the sphere glowed for a moment and she quickly closed the vial. The sphere disappeared and then she looked at Lin Mu with a slightly unsure expression.

"My analysis tells me that this is a vial of beast inciting powder, but I'm not fully sure. There is something wrong with it, but I can't tell what." Duan Ke answered.

Lin Mu nodded at her answer and was a little amazed at her display of techniques. He wondered what she had done with that transparent sphere.

"That's an analytical technique. It is one of the auxiliary qi techniques that are useful for situations such as this. The sphere isolates the contents of the vial and ensures that they don't spread. This makes it easier for the person to check them." Xukong explained to Lin Mu, who simply nodded in understanding.

Meanwhile, Jing Wei had raised his brows upon hearing Duan Ke's answer. He did not think that his granddaughter would fail at something that she specialized in, investigation. While she was no expert at alchemical pills and compounds, he knew that she was more than knowledgeable about them.

Wanting to know what it was that made her granddaughter confused, Jing Wei extend his hand to her. Duan Ke understood this gesture and gave him the vial. Unlike Duan Ke though, Jing Wei did not do what she did. In fact, he did not even open the cap of the vial. He simply sensed its contents with his spirit sense and then opened his eyes.

"This is indeed beast inciting powder, but a certain change has been made in its formula. I can estimate that its effects must have changed as well and are probably stronger than before." Jing Wei surmised.

Lin Mu nodded his head as he spoke, "You are right, this is indeed beast inciting powder. Now can you also tell me what this is?" He said and passed the wooden plate to Jing Wei directly.

Jing Wei looked at the pattern on it and raised his eyes in surprise.

"A beast storage treasure? That too with the marking of the ancients?" Jing Wei spoke.

Lin Mu was not surprised that Jing Wei was able to recognize it, as he had expected him to know this because of his background. But what made him interested was the term that Jing Wei had just said.

"Yes, it is a beast storage treasure. But what is this marking of the ancients you are talking about?" Lin Mu questioned.

## **Chapter 208 - History Of The Continent-I**

Jing Wei flipped the wooden plate and pointed at the metallic wing pattern that was present on it.

"This thing, it is the mark of the ancient spirit tool refiners. Their techniques have been lost to time and not many know about this anymore, as we now have our own techniques of refinement. But, I don't know what the other two markings mean. All I've heard about before is the wing pattern.

Our clan specializes in the spirit weapon and spirit tool refinement, thus we have knowledge that a lot of sects do not have. Perhaps the top sects may know about it, but still not as much as us. Our clan once had a beast storage treasure that had the ancient mark of the wing before." Jing Wei answered.

"Just as I expected. While they've seen such kinds of beast treasures before, they do not know that the markings are a universal designation of their grades. It seems like they have only seen the lowest grade beast storage treasures before.

From this, I can speculate that this world definitely had contact with other worlds. Perhaps even higher level worlds." Xukong chimed in.

Lin Mu silently heard their words and internalized them. Duan Ke too heard her grandfather's words and was now wondering what was Lin Mu's aim.

"Why are you showing us these?" Duan Ke asked, feeling curious.

Jing Wei too turned his attention back to Li Mu after hearing Duan Ke's words as he too wanted to know the reason.



"That is because both of these items are linked to the appearance of the invader and are clues..." Before Lin Mu could speak more, he was interrupted by Jing Wei.

It turned out that this was all that Jing Wei needed before he linked all the information together in his mind and came to a conclusion.

"You mean to say these items were brought by someone from a different world and the invader was contained within this beast storage treasure?" Jing Wei spoke with a shocked tone.

*~Phew~*

'This saves me the explanation, and I don't need to lie about the great slumber bear at all. He just made it up by himself, still it's not a complete lie either.' Lin Mu spoke to himself.

"Yes, it is as you said." Lin Mu confirmed while nodding his head.

A grim expression appeared on Jing Wei's face upon hearing Lin Mu's confirmation. Duan Ke too was worried, looking at her grandfather's expression. She could sense that something bad was stirring within his mind, and she wanted to know what it was that could bother him so much.

"Grandfather, what's the problem, what are you worried about?" Duan Ke questioned in a concerned tone.

*~Sigh~*

"I'm afraid I know who could be potentially behind this." Jing Wei spoke in a tired tone.

Lin Mu and Duan Ke's eyes went wide as they heard this revelation.

"Who is it? Why are they doing this?!" Lin Mu asked in an impatient tone.

"Before I tell you this, let me ask you: do you know or rather, has your master told you about the history of our Continent before?" Jing Wei questioned to which Lin Mu shook his head in denial.

*~Sigh~*

Another sigh escaped Jing Wei's mouth as his complexion became a shade darker.

"More than ten thousand years ago this Continent which we now call the Great Zhou Continent did not exist. Instead, there existed five different continents. These continents existed in the different directions of this world.

The biggest of these continents was called as the central continent, which was ruled by the Zhou kingdom who ruled the mortals along with a few cultivation sects that ruled over the cultivators respectively. The second and third continents were known as the eastern continent, which was to the east of the central continent, and the western continent which was to the west.

Below the Central continent was the Southern wild continent which was covered with endless jungles and deserts. And the final and the smallest continent was the northern continent.

All of these continents had their countless kingdoms and cultivation sects within them except for the wild continent which was populated by beasts. Though there were some small and isolated groups of people living there. These continents were separated by the grand ocean, which was filled with danger.

Still, this did not stop the kingdoms and sects from fighting against each other for resources and land. Countless battles and wars occurred during this period in which innumerable people died. It was also during this time that peerless experts were born and many cultivators ascended.

In these endless conflicts, many alliances were formed and similarly were dissolved. Kingdoms rose and fell, and so did the cultivation sects as well. Eventually, more years passed, and the situation stabilized. Though battles over resources still continued from time to time.

Of these battles, the most common topic of conflict was the wild continent. It was the land that was untouched and had the most resources. But because of its location, only the central, western, and eastern continents could access it. Leaving the northern continent with little benefits. If they wanted resources they could get them from the southern continent, but they had to pay a great tax to the other three continents, which barely left them with any resources for themselves.

The other three continents too took advantage of them and employed their people in obtaining resources. Tired of this exploitation, the kingdoms and sects of the northern Continent were united under one clan, the Yao clan. They formed the grand northern alliance and launched a war against the rest.

The ruling powers of the three continents took them lightly since they considered them to be weak. But this was a big mistake, and they lost harshly. Alarmed by this failure, the higher-ups of each continent launched their investigation against this Yao Clan.

What they found out left them dumbfounded. The Yao clan had never existed before the Grand northern alliance was created. It was as if they had appeared out of thin air."

## **Chapter 209 - History Of The Continent-II**

Lin Mu was listening intently to Jing Wei's each and every word. He had never known that the continent had such a history. From all that he had learned from his parents, the most he knew was the history dating back to a hundred years and the small wars that had happened during that time.

But even those events he didn't know properly and only knew the surface information. He was quite lacking in this aspect and was thus very interested in it.

Jing Wei had paused to take a breath before he continued speaking again.

"This Yao clan was mysterious and was never heard of before. They were powerful and had tens of cultivators that were in the Dao treading realm, along with three that were even at the Immortal Ascension realm. These three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators formed the backbone of their power and established their hegemony.

The Yao clan took the other two ruling clans of the northern Continent under them as vassals. These clans were called as the Gu clan and the Bei clan. Both of these clans too had an immortal ascension realm cultivator each backing them.

Now the Grand northern alliance had five immortal Ascension realm cultivators backing them, which was enough to change the balance of power. As they had become the Continent with the most immortal Ascension realm cultivators. The western and eastern Continent only had two immortal Ascension realm cultivators of their own, while the central Continent had three.

While this made it seem like the three continents were still in the advantage as they had a total of seven immortal Ascension realm cultivators, it was not so. The three continents still had their internal conflicts, which only ended up becoming worse due to this shift in power.

When the next battle happened, all five of the immortal Ascension realm cultivators of the Grand northern alliance descended while the three continents only sent four of theirs; one each from the eastern and western, and two from the central continent. The remaining immortal Ascension realm cultivators held down their respective bases as they could not be left undefended.

This battle lasted a day and night and ended in a stalemate, with neither party coming out victorious. This felt strange to the powers of the three continents, and they were suspicious. Their eventual investigations lead them to a shocking revelation.

The Grand northern alliance had actually been negotiating in secret with the smaller Powers of the three continents and the previous battle was but a mere display of power. Wanting to cull dissent, the higher-ups of the three continents cracked down onto the smaller powers that were likely to betray them and even ended up exterminating some of them.

But this was exactly what the Grand northern alliance wanted. Their act of suppressing the small powers instead ended up making some of them betraying them, and they thus joined up with the grand northern alliance. According to their strategy, they built teleportation formations in each of the continents within the territories of the smaller powers.

This tactic of their resulted in great losses to the ruling powers of the three continents, and they started to fall to the losing side. They tried many things to prevent this, even destroying the teleportation formations that the grand northern alliance built by paying a heavy price.

They lost tens of Dao treading realm cultivators of theirs to the enemy, yet it did not do much. For the Yao clan had some mysterious formation creation skills which allowed them to create these teleportation formations in a short amount of time with less amount of resources. In fact, they were even able to build teleportation formations to the southern Continent as well, which allowed them to gain a lot of resources.

Now utterly dismayed by this, the powers of the three continents came to a unanimous decision. They decide to unite and form an alliance of their own. At least until the grand northern alliance was dealt with. This took them a great deal of effort and many negotiations were held, but eventually they were able to achieve it, albeit with some flaws of course.

This time with their united efforts they were able to push back the people of the grand northern alliance that had occupied their territory and even managed to kill one of their immortal Ascension realm cultivators.

After this battle, the situation cooled down for a hundred years and the grand northern alliance did not act out as much. The alliance of the three Continents too, let them be for a little while as they

themselves were tired and needed time to recover. And they also knew that a beast pushed into a corner will retaliate with its full might. It was better to let the situation continue as it was.

But one day, it happened. Millions of cultivators suddenly appeared on the three continents out of nowhere. All of these cultivators used strange and unorthodox cultivation techniques and skills that were never known before. Soon it was known that these were evil cultivators and had come from another world.

The three continents were now at the greatest risk. Hundreds of cultivation sects and kingdoms were massacred overnight by these cultivators. It was at that time that they felt it, the calling of the world. They then found out for the first time that these cultivators were invaders from another world.

It was during this time that those ordained by the world's will appeared. Each of the top ten sects now had one person that was ordained by the world's will, including those from the strongest kingdoms. In total, there were about a hundred cultivators that were ordained by the world's will.

These cultivators formed the vanguard and helped in pushing back the invaders and killing. Eventually, people found out how the invaders had come to this world. The Yao clan had summoned them and had pawned off the three continents in exchange for getting to rule the world.

Angered by this, the ruling powers of the three continents came to a big decision. They would strike where it would hurt the most and remove the one thing that was allowing the Yao clan to suppress them, the teleportation formations.

They had decided to unite the continents, literally." Jing Wei revealed.

### **Chapter 210 - History Of The Continent-III**

Lin Mu was dumbfounded to say the least, upon listening to this. He wondered what kind of power would be required to move the literal continents of a world and join them.

"While you think this is shocking, there are far more feats that can be accomplished by the cultivators in this cosmos. Even creating life is not impossible." Xukong spoke in Lin Mu's mind.

Lin Mu was overwhelmed by this information and simply nodded as he focused back on to what Jing Wei was speaking.

"But accomplishing this was no easy task, and a great number of resources were needed for this. Eventually though, they formulated a plan that could be fulfilled with the cooperation of each and every power of the three continents.

They laid great formations arrays in the lands of the three continents, along with the southern wild continents. They tried to keep this hidden for as long as they could, but eventually, the truth was revealed. The grand northern alliance acted swiftly, starting another war to stall their efforts.

And that was what happened. Their process of competition of the plan slowed down to a turtle's pace after it had reached around fifty percent completion. Another hundred years passed like this.

The Yao clan eventually grew tired of having their teleportation formations destroyed and decided to try a reckless tactic. They too decided to do what the ruling Powers of the three continents were doing. They decided to join the northern Continent to the central continent as well.

Unlike the three continents though, they were able to keep this hidden for a much longer while. Their plan was nearly ninety percent complete before the alliance of the three continents figured out what they were doing from their movements.

Afraid of what could happen next, they decided to initiate their plan prematurely. Another war was started and in this, one immortal Ascension realm cultivator each of the Continents died. Knowing that this was their final few stands, the Yao clan decided on an even reckless plan.

They decided to destroy the entirety of the eastern or western Continent. While this caused them to lose their benefits later on, it was still better than them losing everything.

The formations arrays were activated and the continents started moving, this was the time when the Yao clan decided to act. With their mystical teleportation formations, they summoned a beast of great power. This beast was in the pseudo immortal realm and ended up appearing in the Western Continent. It caused great devastation and the destruction of the ruling powers of the Western Continent.

Still, by pitting all their resources and hidden reserves against the beast, they were able to slay the beast, but now before it detonated at the end of its life. The detonation of a pseudo immortal beast was never seen before in this world shook the entirety of it, causing the western Continent to sink into the grand ocean.

During this time, the Eastern Continent and the southern Continent had also managed to join up and unite. They had succeeded in their plan, but at a massive cost. Even the northern Continent had managed to join up with the central continent, but the area where they joined was rather narrow, spanning only a few kilometers.

The ruling powers of the remaining two continents were utterly terrified and knew that the situation was now apocalyptic. They thus did something that was never done before, sacrificing a great number of their cultivators and resources they called their ancestors that had ascended to the higher realm. They were able to do this as they too had gained new knowledge from their analysis of the Yao clan's teleportation formations.

Understandably they were not able to contact anyone specific but could only send out a mass message to everyone that had ascended from this world. They eventually got the responses and four immortals descended to this world.

The day that they descended, the entire world shook and the heavens were split apart. Heavily tribulation lightning appeared as if to punish the people who had summoned the immortals, but it could not do so. The four immortals snuffed it out like the wick of a candle with little effort.

But their descent came with a great price, they could not stay here for long, having mere minutes before they would cause irreversible damage to their home world. Two of the immortals joined forces and created a great barrier around the world that would prevent the invaders from coming in.

This depleted their powers and they could not stay in this world anymore. One of those immortals was the progenitor of the number one ranked sect, the Sky precepts sect. While the other one was an independent cultivator from the eastern Continent.

The two final remaining immortals decided to exterminate the Grand Northern alliance. Their every movement caused earthquakes, and the sky thundered with their steps. They descended onto the northern Continent and exterminated the Yao clan thoroughly removing all their traces.

One of the remaining two immortals was from the western Continent and was in grief due to the loss of his people. Regretting that he never left anything for his people, he took an oath and disappeared. No one knows where he went, but it is considered that he could not stay in the world anymore and was thus forced back to the higher realm.

The final remaining immortal though did something else. He left behind a prophecy. He revealed to us that there are more powers in the other worlds that are coveting our resources and would one day descend becoming invaders.

He wanted us to be ready and warned that until the right time came, the world shall stay sealed. After saying those last words, he too disappeared.

All of this occurred about ten thousand years ago.

The world was now in shambles, and it took a thousand years before it could recover to a semblance of stability. Still, the powers were all greatly weakened and many of them had been destroyed leaving behind a handful that prevailed in the end.

All of these powers were the ones that constitute the cultivation sects and the kingdoms of today. Of course, this was the same for the northern continent as well. While the Yao clan was exterminated and the grand northern alliance had collapsed, some remnants of the clans were still alive.

The area that joined the northern Continent with the central Continent was now bigger than before and had reached an area of hundreds of kilometers and looked like the waist of a pear. With the smaller top part being the northern Continent and the bigger bottom part the central continent.

Five thousand years passed by and the Powers had recovered decently. Although they did not have as many Dao treading realm cultivators as before. And the number of immortal Ascension realm cultivators had also fallen. These immortal Ascension realm cultivators soon entered seclusion and were never seen again as they had sacrificed a lot in order to summon the immortals.

Eventually, the remnants of the Northern Continent formed small tribes and started attacking the kingdoms in the Central continent. By now the northern Continent was called as the forbidden continent."