

Walker 401

Chapter 401 - Gu Yao

Gu Yao looked at the speechless faces of everyone and couldn't help but chuckle.

"Looks like my subordinates did much better work than I expected. I never expected them to be able to maintain the disguise for such a long time." Gu Yao laughed.

He then looked at Qing Yuan Tiu before asking "so I assume my brother is in trouble?"

"Master Wu Xun has been taken in by the royal court for questioning. They are investigating the disappearance of the mercenaries and the cultivators along with the commoners." Qing yuan Tiu answered.

"Ah... I see. I guess I'll have to get him back later on. By the time we're done here all the accusations will be nullified." Gu Yao replied.

The supreme elder and peak master Yi Deng drew out their weapons and got ready to attack. The supreme elder had a spear as his weapon while the peak master had a fan. From the spirit qi fluctuations that were coming from the two spirit weapons Lin Mu could tell that they were at the high grade.

This was the second time he was actually seeing a high-grade spirit weapon in someone else's hands. These weapons looked rather simple but Lin Mu could tell the difference between them. The spear of the Supreme elder was a pure forging type of spirit weapon while the fan that the peak master Yi Deng was using was an enchantment type of spirit weapon.

"Oh? You think you can fight me?" Gu Yao taunted.

"It doesn't matter, we will still stop you." The supreme elder replied before stabbing forward with his spear.

~shing~

Before the spear could stab into the body of Gu Yao though, it was stopped by his finger. The bloodstreams that were flowing around his wrapped around his hand like a gauntlet and he stopped the attack like that.

"Impossible!" The supreme elder exclaimed.

"Ahaha! If it was about a year ago, this would have been enough to injure me greatly. But I'm afraid you all are too late..." Gu Yao replied before flicking the spear away.

~shua~

The peak master waved the fan in his hand and an illusory fan that was ten times as large formed in the air. This fan was made out of orange flames and spread out towards Gu Yao.

~humph~

"Small tricks..." he uttered before flicking his index and middle finger together upwards.

With that gesture, a wall of blood rose from the blood pool and easily blocked the flaming fan. It was instantly doused and nullified, leaving Yi Deng breathless. Not only had that attack taken a lot from him, but it being blocked had also damaged him slightly.

Wu Hei too decided to give up on the pretenses and showed his true strength.

~huala~

Waves of spirit qi rose from his body as they spread in the area. Lin Mu and the two disciples of the Tri cauldron peony sect couldn't help but notice this.

"Peak stage core condensation realm!" Quan Hong exclaimed.

"Unity flipping fist!" Wu Hei chanted before his hands were covered in a white glow.

~Deng~

His fist was blocked by the blood wall again, but this time the blood wall actually flickered as if affected by the attack.

"Oh? That's a rather unique technique. Didn't think my little nephew would be able to hide his capabilities so well from his father." Gu Yao said before laughing, "haha! The blood of the Gu clan runs within you too! I knew that no child of the Gu clan can be as useless as Wu Xun told me."

Wu Teng who had been knocked to the side by Qing Yuan Tiu was finally able to stand back up. But his condition was not good. He had been caught off guard and was injured by a rather Strong attack. Qing Yuan Tiu was also at the mid-stage of the core condensation realm like him, plus her technique focused completely on offensive power.

Though what astounded Wu Teng even more was his brother's strength. He would have never expected that his brother who didn't like socializing and cultivating would one day be so much stronger than him. He couldn't imagine how much effort would it have taken to hide it for so long.

The humiliation and insults that his brother had suffered were something he did not like. But only now did he realize it was all intentional on his brother's part.

Wu Teng gritted his teeth in frustration. He hated the fact that he couldn't do anything right now. He hated that he was injured by a sneak attack and caught off guard. But the thing that he hated the most was that this man Gu Yao was actually related to them.

At first, Wu Teng was absolutely opposed to it, but now that he took another look at the man, he could recognize the facial features. They were a bit similar to that of his father and even his own. Plus, there was this gut feeling deep inside him telling him that Gu Yao was his blood-related uncle.

Wu Teng had never expected that he still had other family except for his mother and father left. From what his father had told them, he knew that Wu Xun was an orphan and had grown up poor.

Gu Yao looked at Wu Hei and shook his head.

"While you are powerful, you still have a lot to learn..." Gu Yao said before waving his hands.

A blood-red glow appeared on his body and spread around the area.

"I should have done this from the start..." Gu Yao muttered.

The supreme elder and peak master tried to defend themselves against the blood-red wave of energy but found it to be helpless.

As soon as the blood-red energy touched their bodies, they were stuck. It was as if their bodies had been frozen and no matter what they tried, they couldn't move.

~Slick~

Streams of blood flowed out from the blood pool and wrapped around the bodies of everyone here. Lin Mu was the same as others and found it impossible to move. If even peak stage nascent soul realm cultivators could be affected by this skill, then it was obvious that it would be impossible for him too.

"What... is... this...?" The supreme elder uttered with great difficulty.

"Ah... this will make it easy. Now you all just relax until the process is completed. Once it is done, all your sufferings and troubles will go away." Gu Yao replied with a toothy grin that terrified the people that looked at him.

Lin Mu chanted the calming heart sutra to see if it worked, but found it useless. He then tried the severing heart sutra and gained a little control over his body, enough to struggle a bit.

"You, why are you doing this?" Lin Mu questioned.

~clap~

"Seems like we have a rather talented person amongst us. I never expected someone at your cultivation base would be able to resist the blood binding seal." Gu Yao said before spirit sense extended from his body and touched over Lin Mu.

"Oh, what's this? I sense something familiar on you... Hmm... spatial qi traces? Not just that..." Gu Yao spoke before his eyes went wide in realization.

"You have the plate! You have the beast storage treasure, don't you?" Gu Yao asked.

Chapter 402 - My Master's Name Is... Xukong!

Lin Mu couldn't even begin to imagine how Gu Yao found out that he had the Beast storage treasure on him. The plate was damaged and could not function anymore, even the spatial fluctuations on it were gone, leaving behind bare traces.

Not to mention, the beast storage treasure wasn't even on his body, but rather in the ring itself. Lin Mu and Xukong were extremely sure that no one could perceive the ring on Lin Mu's finger.

"How do you know this?" Lin Mu questioned, confusion apparent on his face.

"Oh? So you admit? As for your question... I know the person who that beast storage treasure belonged to and that it is rightfully mine." Gu Yao replied.

A new link appeared in Lin Mu's mind, and a great revelation appeared to him.

"That dead nascent soul realm cultivator... you were the one who killed him..." Lin Mu said.

"If you are talking about that merchant, then it is indeed true. But he is the one who tried to cheat me first! He got what he deserved, no one can disrespect the blood of Gu and live to tell the tale." Gu Yao said in a fierce tone.

An image formed in Lin Mu's mind as the string of events started to make sense to him. The traces of the invader on Gu Yao, him killing the 'merchant', and him doing the blood sacrifices.

'Wait, if that invader came from the Great Slumber beast who was in the Beast storage treasure then for him to get infected by it would require them to come in contact, wouldn't it? Also, it is obvious that the merchant was not from this world, then how did he appear here?' Lin Mu wondered.

"That merchant... how did he come 'here'?" Lin Mu emphasized.

Gu Yao's brows rose as he heard the intonation of Lin Mu's question.

"Usually I wouldn't bother to speak, but since I'm bored after so long and you people will forget all this anyway, so it wouldn't matter. " Gu Yao uttered in a nonchalant tone. Besides, I get to satisfy my curiosity too...' He thought.

The eyes of everyone stared at him as they were unable to move. Even the supreme elder was listening intently, wanting to know everything, hoping that there might be some hint that could help them.

"You boy," Gu Yao pointed at Lin Mu. "Who are you? You clearly know about that merchant and even seem to know his origin." He asked.

Lin Mu hesitated to answer, but then Senior Xukong spoke in his mind.

"Cooperate with him. Perhaps there might be a way out of this situation without fighting. It is clear that the invader is not him and neither it is controlling him, thus you don't have an obligation to kill him right away.

Besides, if he really tries to attack you, the ward should activate. While it wouldn't be able to harm him, it should give you long enough to escape." Xukong suggested.

"I'll try senior... But these bindings, what do I do about them? I won't be able to escape if they stay." Lin Mu replied.

"Just do what you are doing now, I'll try to figure out a solution for it till then. Just keep him busy." Xukong said.

"Alright," Lin Mu replied before focusing back on Gu Yao.

"I am Mu Lin... I found the skeleton of that merchant out in the forest a while back." Lin Mu answered.

"I see... but that doesn't explain why you know about his origin." Gu Yao replied as a dangerous glint appeared in his eyes.

Seeing that Gu Yao was perhaps about to act, Lin Mu hurriedly replied.

"My master told me!" Lin Mu said.

Gu Yao stared deeply into his eyes, which made Lin Mu shudder but soon calmed down after he withdrew it a few seconds later.

"Hmm... at least you are not lying now even if you did about your name." Gu Yao stated.

Lin Mu would have flinched had it not been for the bindings that restrained him.

'He can detect lies? How?' Lin Mu wondered with surprise.

"There are many methods to do that. But in his case, it is just pure experience. He is far too old for you to deal with directly." Xukong explained.

"Now then... tell me the name of this 'master' of yours... if he can perceive the origin of that merchant then he shouldn't be someone unknown. Who is he? Someone from the top ten sects?" Gu Yao questioned directly.

The supreme elder had an expression of shock on his face and so did the other just that it was not visible.

"Should I tell him senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"Go ahead, it does not matter in the long run. What will he do even if he knows my name?" Xukong replied.

Lin Mu internally nodded and took a breath before speaking.

"My master's name is... Xukong!" Lin Mu revealed.

~hum~

An invisible wave of aura appeared on Lin Mu's body as soon as the name was spoken. No one in the chamber sensed it, not even Lin Mu.

Gu Yao heard the name and tried to remember if he knew anyone by that name. Wu Hei was also intrigued, as this was the first time he heard the actual name of Lin Mu's master. He hadn't dared to ask it before, as they were unsure if it was appropriate.

If the master of Lin Mu wanted to stay hidden and they forced him to say the name, it would only be bad for them.

Wu Hei had his curiosity satisfied, but even he was unable to recognize who that name belonged to. All of the powerful cultivators that he knew were well known, their reputations speaking for themselves. But this was a name that was foreign to him.

'The boy is not lying, but what is this name. It doesn't seem to belong to any of the cultivators. No wait... can it be? Could it be one of those old monsters?' Gu Yao wondered.

Chapter 403 - Servant?

Gu Yao knew that the beast storage treasure wasn't something that could be identified by just anyone. Even in the top sects, there were barely a handful of people who may recognize the symbols on it. This reduced the pool of potential candidates to a handful.

"Your master, what is his cultivation base?" Gu Yao questioned again.

This time his eyes glowed in red and it seemed to have affected Lin Mu.

"And don't try to lie this time, I'll know if you do..." he added.

'Is this one of the techniques that Senior Xukong mentioned?' Lin Mu wondered.

The others were also listening to the question and Wu Hei was particularly interested in this as well.

"I do not know." Lin Mu straightway said.

"What?" Gu Yao asked feeling a bit bewildered.

"I do not know what his cultivation base is." Lin Mu said again.

Gu Yao glared at Lin Mu and his eyes glowed with a red light. But even after a minute, he seemed to be unable to sense anything.

'He's not lying... He really doesn't know...' Gu Yao realized.

Even if Gu Yao had doubts about the authenticity of this information, the technique he was using confirmed that Lin Mu was not lying.

While Gu Yao was thinking of this, Xukong was telling Lin Mu something else.

"Can you move your right hand now?" Xukong questioned.

"Yes, I can move the fingers a little bit." Lin Mu answered.

"Good, that should be enough. Now, this is what I need you to do..." Xukong started explaining.

The more Xukong spoke the more Lin Mu was excited. If the method that Senior Xukong Had just told him worked then it would be possible for him to get freed from the bindings. But for this method to work, Lin Mu needed more time and for that, he would have to distract Gu Yao for more time.

"Why did you do this?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Why? To get what's rightfully mine of course. And to destroy the Empire." Gu Yao answered.

His words shocked everyone in the chamber. If words such as these were spoken in public that person would be swiftly executed for treason against the empire. The empire was the supreme ruler of the world and the people were its subjects.

"The Gu clan from hundred years ago... so you belong to them." Lin Mu spoke in an understanding tone.

"Oh? You actually know about this? That's interesting, the emperor did his best to erase all traces of our existence and yet someone knows about it." Gu Yao said in an impressed tone.

"But how were you able to survive when the Gu clan was exterminated back then?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The emperor greatly underestimated us. We knew that it wouldn't be good to stay in the open anymore, and thus we decided to hide. We sacrificed a majority of our clan to hide a few and resources. We had vowed to have revenge against the empire." Gu Yao said with fervor.

"So this place... these ruins. They are the inheritance that the Gu clan got all those years ago." Lin Mu stated.

Gu Yao tilted his head as he was rather surprised by Lin Mu's words. He had not expected this piece of information to even be known to anyone. Even in his clan, there were only a handful of people that knew about it and they were all dead except for him.

"Enough talk, time to finish this all." Gu Yao said hurriedly before waving his hand.

Lin Mu could tell that the man was flustered after having this fact revealed. Even Lin Mu didn't know that this was the inheritance that the Gu clan obtained back then. According to what Jing Wei had told him, the site of the inheritance was unknown and that it was destroyed.

But by linking all the runes and chambers that existed in this place, it was obvious to Lin Mu that it was the inheritance site that the Gu clan gained. Even the existence of the Gu Legion became obvious because of it.

'So the Gu clan went into hiding and established the Gu legion. But to make things easier for them, they also made a cultivation sect called the Autumn Valley sect and made their cultivators legitimate. All the while they were kidnapping and sacrificing the cultivators to fuel Gu Yao's cultivation while also gaining power.' Lin Mu analyzed.

"Aargh!"

Suddenly a pain filled shout was heard and Lin Mu looked towards its source. The one who had shouted was none other than Quan Hong. A streak of blood flowed up to his head and entered his seven apertures. He tried to resist, but nothing seemed to be working.

"YOU! STOP THIS!" The supreme elder shouted with difficulty.

"It will be over soon and then you all will have nothing to worry." Gu Yao uttered before flicking his hand and doing the same to Fa Lao.

"AARGH!" Fa Lao shouted in pain as well.

The people watched in horror, except for Qing Yuan Tiu, who was watching with interest. She wondered what kind of technique the sect ancestor was using.

A few seconds later their shouting stopped, and the bindings on them disappeared as well.

~thud~

~thud~

Both Quan Hong and Fa Lao collapsed to the ground and stayed motionless for a minute before moving. The Supreme elder and Peak master Yi Deng had thought that they had died, but it did not seem to be the case. But what they saw only terrified them even more.

"This servant greets master!" Both Fa Lao and Quan Hong stated in a respectful tone.

They looked up and one could see a faint red glimmer in their eyes.

"YOU FIEND! What did you do to them?!" The supreme elder questioned with rage.

"I just made them my faithful servants," Gu Yao said before looking towards the supreme elder. "Don't worry, it will be your turn as well." He added.

"I have to thank that merchant though. That being that tried to take over me, I learned a few things from it. They complement my cultivation technique quite well and even enhance it." Gu Yao said.

Chapter 404 - Control And Punishment

Lin Mu recognized what Gu Yao was doing. He had seen something like it before and linked that to it. And seeing how he had been infected by the invader as well, there was only one answer.

"He's using the invader's ability!" Lin Mu exclaimed internally.

Lin Mu had already seen a few examples where the invader had been controlling others. The invader had hidden within the ashen cloak mercenary's dead body when he was killed by the great slumber bear who was also infected by the Invader.

From what he could tell that the Great Slumber bear was perhaps the very first being that was infected by the invader or could have even been the one to spread it. But then when he considered that there were other beasts like the Blight Dust Beast, he thought otherwise.

Lin Mu had learned from Duan Ke that the Blight Dust beast never left its territory, and neither did the Great Slumber bear go there. Which meant that there was a different way that it had spread.

'Maybe the great slumber bear was not even supposed to be infected. If this merchant had brought both of them here, then maybe it happened during their fight. If he was going to capture a Strong beast like the great slumber bear, it wouldn't make sense to weaken it with the invader...' Lin Mu thought.

While Lin Mu was thinking this, not even five seconds has passed. Gu Yao had sped up his process and was not targeting Wu Teng. The man was already injured and thus could not put up a fight physically. Thought his willpower was another thing.

"I'll die but won't let you do this!" Wu Teng yelled, breaking through the restrictions.

"Oh my, what a strong will nephew. You've certainly inherited this from the bloodline of the Gu clan. If we didn't have a strong will we wouldn't have survived all this time." Gu Yao said before making a seal with his hand and throwing it to Wu Teng.

~Clack~

The seal tightened around Wu Teng's body tightly and the sound of a bones cracking was heard.

"Aargh!" Wu Teng shouted in pain but couldn't move anymore.

Lin Mu's focus was on him when it happened and saw the reason behind it. In order to gain control over the people, Gu Yao had to loosen the previous restrictions he had put on them. He had to balance this with the controlling process and lower the restrictions accordingly.

It was this very moment where Wu Teng had used to break through the restriction.

"This is good, if our current plan doesn't work, we can use that as well. But if that really does happen, the ward will be activated as well." Xukong said.

"I understand, Senior." Lin Mu replied.

Lin Mu did not want to let the ward activate here and wanted to see if he could explain this ordeal himself. He knew that defeating or killing Gu Yao was going to be impossible, plus with the people in his control Lin Mu knew that he was going to be outnumbered too.

'But how is he able to control someone at the Adult stage of the Nascent Soul realm when even he is technically at the same stage?' Lin Mu wondered.

"It is the blood pool. It has refined blood essence in it which he is using to control their bodies and mind. If he did this on his own, it would have been quite difficult, but with the supplementary power of the blood pool he can perhaps control even an actual Dao Shell realm cultivator!" Xukong answered.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth upon hearing this revelation sped up what he was doing. Knowing that it may not be enough and just to be on the safe side, he decided to try to delay Gu Yao even more. Perhaps he may even be able to stop him before the others were controlled.

"You should stop this while you can, or my master will not be pleased!" Lin Mu shouted at Gu Yao.

Gu Yao looked towards Lin Mu as a smirk appeared on his face. The others looked at Lin Mu too, some wondering how he was still talking despite having a low cultivation base.

Gu Yao created another seal and more blood flowed out of the blood pool and crawled up the body of Wu Teng. He then turned around to walk towards Lin Mu.

"Oh, and why would I care about that? You don't even know what your master's cultivation base is, and I know he is not anyone strong. There is no one named Xukong in any of the top sects and if it is someone from other lower sects then they are not worth to me, anyway." Gu Yao spoke in an insulting tone.

"Tell me you can detect lies using your skill right?" Lin Mu questioned, not bothered by his words.

"I do, but why does that matter that to you?" Gu Yao replied, getting annoyed.

"Ask me again what my master's cultivation base is," Lin Mu asked with a smile.

"Don't waste my time, when I already know that." Gu Yao said, raising his hand, ready to act.

"Try again, if I'm lying you can kill me, anyway. Or is it that you are scared?" Lin Mu taunted.

~Tch~

"Pesky brat! I'll sever your limbs and refine your body into a pill if you dare to lie!" Gu Yao threatened.

Lin Mu kept on watching him while maintaining the control of his spirit sense. But just as he was about to speak again, he heard another voice.

"Your servant greets master," Wu Teng said.

Gu Yao had succeeded in controlling Wu Teng as well.

"Good, good, now on to the next one." Gu Yao looked at the remaining people, before settling on peak master Yi Deng.

He flicked his hand and more blood streams covered Yi Deng.

"Now where were we? Ah yes, your upcoming punishment." Gu Yao said while looking at Lin Mu with an evil glint in his eyes.

Chapter 405 - Above Immortal Ascension Realm!!

Gu Yao was feeling both ecstatic and anxious at the same time. Ecstatic because his plan was finally in its second phase and anxious because of Lin Mu. He was still confused about how or why the restrictions and seals were not working on the boy.

He could understand the case with the supreme elder of the Tri cauldron peony sect as the man was near to him in terms of cultivation base, while in the case of Wu Teng it was because of his willpower and him lowering the restrictions back then.

Another thing was their bloodline itself. The bloodline of the Gu clan flowed in both of his nephews, and it was also why his skills wouldn't work properly on them. Gu Yao himself was unsure about the things that he had learned from that invader.

He knew that it was a rather different kind of invader and was perhaps quite powerful. Even he had only been able to stop it from taking control over his body because of the blood pool and his cultivation technique. But that invader had also taught him some things inadvertently.

While trying to free himself from its control, Gu Yao was able to learn the methods it used. Seeing that they were rather useful, he adapted them into his own cultivation technique and created the Human Controlling Blood Curse.

He also knew that the technique was not absolute and came with its own set of conditions. One of the conditions being that the technique needed a large quantity of blood essence and also needed a specific formation array to work.

That was the reason why he had not left this chamber. If he wanted to, he could have left at any time, but he was staying here willingly, waiting for the prey to walk in. The gate that blocked the entrance and the barriers around it were a kind of a test that would only allow a strong cultivator to pass.

Gu Yao had been ready the entire time and continued to grow his blood essence reserves while waiting. The more time he stayed hidden, the more blood essence he would obtain and the stronger cultivators he would be able to control.

When Wu Xun was summoned by the king of the Shuang Qian kingdom, Gu Yao knew that it wouldn't be long before their existence was revealed to the world. That's why he had planned to do another large-scale sacrifice and divert the attention of the people by taking advantage of the marriage of his elder nephew.

In fact, the entire marriage alliance was suggested by Gu Yao himself, so that lots of cultivators could be gathered here together. He had thought the plan was close to success but just a single day before the marriage this had happened.

'Fate is unpredictable... but my actions are not!' Gu Yao thought to himself as he looked at Lin Mu, who still had a smile on his face.

While Lin Mu was able to still speak, he was stuck in his previous position with his right hand closed in the form of a fist and his left hand at his side.

"Now where were we? Ah yes, your upcoming punishment." Gu Yao said while looking at Lin Mu with an evil glint in his eyes.

"Tell me brat, what is your Master's cultivation base?" Gu Yao questioned as Lin Mu had asked.

His eyes glowing in red as he activated his skill to detect lies. He could tell if someone was lying by perceiving the changes in their blood flow. With the bloodstreams covering them and the restrains active, his accuracy was a hundred percent and perhaps only someone who was many times stronger than him may be able to lie to him.

But if that was the case, then they would have no need to lie and would be able to fight their way out anyway by overpowering Gu Yao.

Lin Mu took a breath and glanced around at the condition of the other before speaking.

"My master's cultivation base is... Above the Immortal Ascension Realm!!!" Lin Mu revealed, his voice echoing in the chamber.

At first, Gu Yao was looking at him with a ridiculing gaze, but as he looked on, his expression started wavering.

"He... he... he's not lying... how... how can it be?" Gu Yao muttered to himself.

"Say that again, what is your master's cultivation base?" Gu Yao questioned again, doubting everything.

"I said, my master is a being above the Immortal Ascension Realm and if that's not enough then know that he is thousands of years older than anyone in this world!" Lin Mu said, adding fuel to the fire.

He knew he had trapped Gu Yao in a dilemma and as long as he stayed in it for a little while more, Senior Xukong's plan would work.

"You... you're not lying," Gu Yao said; this time clearly.

The remaining four people in the chamber heard it clearly. Wu Hei was frozen in place as his expression switched to that of shock. Qing Yuan Tiu stumbled back hearing the confirmation from her sect's ancestor. While Yi Deng was currently being assaulted by the ability of Gu Yao, he was still able to hear what had been said.

The most affected was the supreme elder.

'I... tried to recruit the disciple of an ascended cultivator...' the supreme elder thought.

Trying to recruit or taking in someone else's disciple was considered a sin in the world of cultivators. The relation between a master and disciple was sacred, and violating it was considered one of the biggest taboos.

If a cultivator was found to be poaching someone else's disciple, that cultivator had the right to challenge and fight him for it. Even if it was said in passing, the other cultivator could still take offense and attack them.

While the sects frequently poached disciples from other sects and wandering cultivators, that was only done because their masters were weaker. But a cultivator that was above the immortal Ascension realm? That cultivator wouldn't even need to lift a finger before flattening the entire Great Zhou Empire.

Chapter 406 - Bloodline Crystal Explosion

Gu Yao was now in a great dilemma. It was now his own skills against the words of a boy who he doubted greatly. On one hand, he was sure that his skills were accurate and that the boy was not lying, but on the other hand, what the boy has said was utterly ridiculous to nearly everyone.

It took a minute to recover before a furious expression appeared on his face.

"YOU DARE TRICK ME? Who doesn't know that there isn't anyone above the immortal Ascension realm in this world? If there really was, then it would mean the world's barrier was destroyed." Gu Yao yelled.

The supreme elder who was scared about his own prospects also calmed down after hearing the words of Gu Yao.

'That's right, if the world barrier was really destroyed, everyone would know. Without that, there is no way anyone can enter this world. The barrier was created by two Immortals from the upper realm personally, there is no way it would be possible.' The supreme elder thought.

Lin Mu didn't show any reaction to Gu Yao's words though. What he wanted to do was already accomplished.

"Doesn't matter, you're done anyway!" Lin Mu said before his right fist started to glow in a bright red light.

There were beams of red light coming from the gaps between Lin Mu's fingers. The light seemed to be affecting the seals that were placed on his body. Gu Yao was only a hand's distance away before he saw it.

"What did you do!?" Gu Yao questioned in shock before attacking Lin Mu.

But before he could do anything, Lin Mu's restraints broke like glass, and he was freed.

"Take this!" Lin Mu shouted before throwing a small red marble at Gu Yao.

Gu Yao saw the marble approaching him and saw the image of a cow that had a trunk running around inside the marble.

"MOO!" A loud sound of a cow was heard as an illusory figure started forming in the air.

The figure started expanding and became unstable.

"Flicker..." Lin Mu muttered as dodged the incoming attack of Gu Yao.

"Blink..." He said as he reached his companion that was closest to him, Wu Hei. He picked him up and threw him to the other side of the chamber. With Lin Mu's raw strength, it was an easy task.

"Blink..." He used again to teleport to the Supreme elder and throwing him near Wu Hei as well.

"Phase..." Lin Mu muttered as he passed straight through Qing Yuan Tiu, who had decided to block him.

"Huh! HOW?" She said in shock before she was clocked at the side of her head.

~thud~

The attack wasn't strong enough to kill her, but it was enough to knock her away.

"Blink..." Lin Mu used to get to the Peak Master Yi Deng.

He glanced at the illusory figure of the Truck faced cow that was close to exploding and then at Gu Yao who was waving his hands, creating gestures to block the Bloodline Crystal from exploding. Merely five seconds had passed since Lin Mu had thrown the red marble at Gu Yao, and he knew that he was acting on borrowed time and thus had to be as fast as possible.

Not bothering with any kind of etiquette, Lin Mu grasped the leg of the peak Master Yi Deng, which was pointed up to the back, as he was frozen in that position. Holding it tightly, Lin Mu swung him hard before throwing him to the same place where Wu Hei and the Supreme elder were.

Lin Mu barely had less than two seconds left, and there were still three people left. But he didn't know if it would be worth saving them as they were under the control of Gu Yao.

"You can get one of them for now. They haven't received any orders from Gu Yao and thus haven't acted." Xukong informed.

Lin Mu realized that even during all that he had done, the three servants had not acted even if Qing Yuan Tiu had done so. This meant that they couldn't act unless given specific orders verbally.

Lin Mu blinked to Wu Teng and tackled him to the other corner, not caring for any injuries he may cause him for now.

~Shiing~

The waves of energy from the bloodline crystal of the Trunk Faced cow reached the peak and started exploding.

"YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS!" Gu Yao shouted before creating a blood dome around him.

Lin Mu paid him no mind and just muttered, "fade..."

~KABOOOOOOM!!!~

Lin Mu appeared inside the parallel space just a moment before the explosion happened, and he took a breath of relief.

"Now onto the next part..." Lin Mu muttered before moving to the area where he had thrown the four men to. He had already extended his spirit sense there beforehand and thus didn't have a problem getting there.

Him throwing the four men to the corner was just a way to minimize the injuries to them. Lin Mu was betting on the fact that the explosion from the Bloodline crystal would make Gu Yao lose control of the skill that he was using.

This would cause the peak master Yi Deng and Supreme elder to get freed and perhaps even Wu Teng. If that happened, Xukong had told Lin Mu that the two nascent soul realm experts should be able to defend themselves. And even if they didn't they should have some defensive treasures on them that should protect them.

Lin Mu had a good idea that Wu Hei had one of the defensive treasures and had thus thrown him to the side as well. Though he didn't know if it would be enough to bear the explosion of a bloodline Crystal.

The explosion of a bloodline Crystal had the same power as that of a spirit core explosion. When a beast or a cultivator had no choice and still wanted to defeat their foes, they would explode their cores as a final gambit.

Chapter 407 - Flipping The Odds

Since the bloodline crystal was formed from the beast core of the trunk faced cow along with all of its vitality and spirit qi, Lin Mu was sure that it would be even stronger than that if not the same strength. Xukong had told Lin Mu that the detonation of a spirit core or a beast core could have the same power as that of the attack of a nascent soul realm.

Another aspect of this was that the explosion of a beast or spirit core could cause a large amount of spirit qi waves that could disturb control skills like the one that Gu Yao was using.

But what Lin Mu had done wasn't something that could be done carelessly. In fact, no one would have thought that a bloodline crystal could be made to explode like this. A properly refined bloodline Crystal was far too precious to be used as an expendable item like this.

If someone wanted to use it as a bomb, there were far more cheaper alternatives that could be used without much problem and they would not be as dangerous either.

A second Lin Mu reached the area where he had thrown the four men; Wu Hei, Wu Teng, Yi Deng, and the supreme elder. He ate another earthen qi pill and waited for a couple more seconds before deactivating the skill fade and reappearing in the real world.

~rumble~

~crack~

The chamber was still shaking due to the explosion, and cracks were spreading all around. Lin Mu immediately spread his spirit sense around to get an idea of the area and saw a barrier set up where he was standing. Inside the barrier, the supreme elder and the peak master Yi Deng were standing, maintaining the barrier.

The barrier had a multitude of cracks on it and looked like it would break any moment. Yi Deng and the supreme elder were injured as blood dripped out of their mouths and noses. Their clothes were torn in multiple places and the peak master's leg was bent at an awkward angle. It was evident that it was now broken.

Lin Mu looked for the other two people and found them to be in a slightly better condition. Wu Teng was knocked out and his head was bleeding. His ribs seemed to be broken as well at the place where Lin Mu had tackled him in.

Wu Hei was lying on the ground and was conscious. There were some scratches and cuts on his body along with his clothes being tattered, but there was also a blue glow protecting him. The glow was coming from a pendant that he had on his neck.

It had been hidden beneath his clothes all this time, but now it had been revealed due to the explosion.

~Shatter~

But the pendant did not last for long as its energy ran out and it shattered into multiple pieces.

'At least they are alive...' Lin Mu muttered to himself before turning around to look at the main culprit.

The blood pool was now destroyed as the blood had been burned due to the explosion, and the stone borders of the pool had also broken due to the force of the explosion. Lin Mu looked for Gu Yao and saw a sphere made out of blood floating in the air.

He also saw a few body parts lying around the blood pool and quickly identified them. They belonged to none other than the disciples of the Tri cauldron Peony sect Fa Lao and Quan Hong. But there was one person that was missing, Qing Yuan Tiu.

The woman was wearing a different type of clothes and her physique was also different, thus it wouldn't have been hard for Lin Mu to identify her remains. But they did not seem to be here. He quickly spread his spirit sense to the full and did a scan of the chamber.

'There she is...' Lin Mu thought to himself after discovering her to be in the opposite direction to where he was.

Looking at Qing Yuan Tiu, Lin Mu saw that she was still alive. The armor that she was wearing had protected her for the most part, but her face was still burned. Large burn wounds could be seen on her head as her hair had melted and stuck to her skull.

Her fingers were also burned badly, and bones could be seen poking from the flesh.

Overall, Lin Mu could tell that there wasn't much she could do anymore. But the danger was not over yet, the main culprit was still alive.

"PEAK MASTER, SUPREME ELDER, QUICK!" Lin Mu called them.

The two nascent soul realm men finally snapped out of their reverie and noticed Lin Mu was standing near them. They had fallen into a strange kind of daze and had barely been able to gain control of their bodies. Because they were being restrained before, they weren't able to fully defend themselves against the explosion of the bloodline crystal.

Their defensive treasures activated but weren't able to last for long. But even then they gritted their teeth and achieved their own defensive technique to defend against the force of the explosion, albeit with injuries.

The supreme elder sprinted forward and so did elder Yi Deng reaching Lin Mu. They didn't know what to say to Lin Mu now that he had pretty much saved them. But one thing was sure, they could no longer doubt the background of the boy.

Even if he didn't have a Master that was beyond the immortal ascension stage, he definitely had someone powerful backing him. There was no way he would be able to have skills such as these otherwise. Surviving an explosion like that with no injuries, breaking out of a seal that even they were unable to from, and even saving them.

None of these feats were something that should have been possible for someone that was in the qi refining realm. They even had a doubt whether the person in front of them really was a boy or it was an old cultivator that had returned to his youth and was now pretending to be a weak cultivator.

Chapter 408 - Battling Gu Yao

The blood dome that was created by Gu Yao had become a blood sphere sometime during the explosion. Lin Mu and the other two elders couldn't tell what was happening inside it, but it was obvious that Gu Yao was planning something.

"We need to kill Gu Yao or there will be a lot of problems." Lin Mu stated.

"Yes, we cannot let him escape. Just the blood sacrifices are worthy for him to be executed." Supreme elder replied with anger in his eyes.

The peak master Yi Deng flicked his hand and the fan shaped spirit tool appeared in his hand.

"Why are we waiting then? KILL!" Yi Deng shouted before flying forward.

He waved the fan and blades of wind formed in the air, before attacking the blood sphere.

~clink~

~clink~

~Clink~

It was as if metal was hitting metal and no damage could be seen on the blood sphere.

"Dammit! It's much more tougher than I expected." Yi Deng said before attacking again.

The supreme elder summoned his spear and made a gesture with his free hand, lighting a flame onto the spear tip.

"True flame extermination spear!" The supreme elder canted before throwing the spear with all his might.

~Shua~

The spear streaked through the air, leaving behind a trail of orange flames.

~Weng~

But just as it was about to hit the blood sphere, it suddenly expanded and turned into the shape of a shield.

"You think you can defeat me like this? Humph!" Gu Yao who had been hidden in the blood sphere all this time revealed himself.

The blood shield blocked the True Flame extermination spear, but not before being damaged by half. There were cracks on the shield and the spear was flickering with flames.

"Return!" The supreme elder ordered, and the spear flew back into his hands.

"Gu Yao, hear your crimes! You have sacrificed countless humans both commoners and cultivators. You dared to scheme against the empire and the sects. Just by the virtue of your bloodline, you belong to the traitorous Gu Clan.

Thus, in the name of the Supreme Elder of the Tri cauldron peony sect, I hereby condemn you to... DEATH!" The supreme elder declared.

The aura of the supreme elder skyrocketed as intense waves of spirit qi emanated from him. Lin Mu could feel the full impact of the spirit qi and finally understood how strong a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, that too one that is in the Adult Stage is like.

"HAHAHA! How many times have I heard the same words in the past, but I am still here, aren't I?" Gu Yao taunted as he created blades made of blood.

Raising both his hands to the front, Gu Yao started flicking them towards the three enemies of him.

~Zoom~

~zoom~

~zoom~

The blades of blood flew through the air at great speed, with two of them coming at Lin Mu.

"Flicker!" Lin Mu muttered just a moment before the blade touched him.

~cut~

Lin Mu's eyes went wide as he looked down at his abdomen. His robes had been cut clean from where the blade of blood had passed, and a faint cut could be seen on his skin as well.

"How?" Lin Mu questioned with shock.

This was the first time his skill Flicker, had failed to protect him from an attack.

"His attacks are too powerful for you to ignore them. They contain a higher amount of spirit qi in them and thus can bypass the effect of the first skill Flicker. It's better that you dodge them instead." Xukong hurriedly spoke.

Lin Mu was a bit thankful that he learned of this right now. If he did not know of the limitations of the flicker, he may have very well committed a grave mistake in the future. But he at least now knew that the limit for the skill flicker was the Nascent Soul realm.

But there was still the fact that Lin Mu didn't know if only Adult stage Nascent soul realm cultivators could affect him or if it was all cultivators in the Nascent Soul realm.

~shua~

Now that Lin Mu had been injured, the ward that was placed on Lin Mus started activating.

"Senior, stop the ward!" Lin Mu urged.

"You sure? Do you have some other idea?" Xukong inquired.

He knew that the ward was a defensive spell and would at most allow him to escape from here. But looking at Lin Mu Xukong could tell that Lin Mu perhaps had some other idea.

"I want to see if the two elders can defeat him and I also want to test out the full potential of the third form of the Boulder collapsing fist." Lin Mu said.

Lin Mu had never used the boulder collapsing fist beyond the limit of twenty percent. He knew that the skill was quite powerful and if the Bloodline crystal explosion could hurt Gu Yao, then it was likely that the third form of the Boulder Collapsing fist could do the same.

Lin Mu was betting on the fourth skill Fade as his final gambit along with the ward if he wanted to escape.

He trained his eyes on Gu Yao, who was now fighting both the Peak Master Yi Deng and Supreme elder together. The peak master flapped his fan and created blades of winds, while the supreme elder rained punches and kicks on the man while the spear flew around on its own, controlled by his spirit sense.

"I'll give you two an offer, join hands with me and I'll make you the top sect of the empire." Gu Yao said.

"HAH! As if we are fools to accept your offer." Yi Deng scoffed while creating a vortex that spun at great speed, sputtering the blood around.

"Your loss if you do not want to accept it. But know that my Gu Clan shall rule this continent and the Great Zhou Empire will be exterminated, just like they did to my clan!" Gu Yao proclaimed.

Chapter 409 - Pray

The Supreme elder and the peak master could very well tell that the man was insane and would not budge. There was no use in talking with him anymore and the best course of action was a swift death.

~shua~

Gu Yao created a whirling ring of blood that expanded to repel the two elders' back. The wind vortex that the peak master Yi Deng had created was destroyed as well, and the spear of the supreme elder was thrown to the side.

"He still has the support of the blood pool!" The Supreme elder realized.

Lin Mu looked around and saw that even if the explosion of the Bloodline Crystal had destroyed the blood pool, the blood essence was not fully destroyed. Barely ten percent of it was perhaps burned away, but the rest of it had just sprayed around in the chamber.

Under the control of Gu Yao, the blood was slowly gathering together. The blood essence was the fuel behind his technique and how he was able to fight against two nascent soul realm cultivators at once.

"Wait, why isn't he trying to control them again?" Lin Mu suddenly questioned.

All Gu Yao had to do was to control one of them, and then the odds would be flipped again. Lin Mu's eyes darted around, and so did his spirit sense trying to find the irregularity.

"Blink!"

"Flicker!"

"Blink!"

Lin Mu continually dodged the attacks of Gu Yao and tried to find what he was doing. He had already detected that the spirit sense of Gu Yao was split into multiple parts currently, and each one was doing something else. The two elders were busy fighting and could not lose their focus and thus could not tell Thai Gu Yao was seeming something even further.

Lin Mu chanted the severing heart sutra, increasing his perception to the peak. It was then that he discovered the true extent of Gu Yao's spirit sense.

'He has merged it with the blood essence... so that's how he controls it. But after merging it with the blood essence, the presence of his spirit sense is almost impossible to detect.' Lin Mu realized.

He discovered that some of the blood essence streaks were moving into some random locations. But after focusing there, he realized what his ultimate goal was.

"He's creating runes!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

The two elders heard his words and became shocked. Gu Yao had a similar expression and realized that he had nearly forgotten about Lin Mu.

"YOU BRAT! I'll kill you!" Gu Yao chopped his hand in the air like a sword and a long blade made of blood was created.

"HAA!" he shouted as the blade of blood traveled at great speed.

Gu Yao had already given up on Lin Mu's master. He reckoned that the boy was trying to trick him as nothing had happened till now. If he really had a Master that was that strong and was beyond the Immortal Ascension realm, there wouldn't be any delay like this.

A cultivator like that would be all-seeing and would know what was happening where in the world. If his disciple was in trouble, he would merely have to will it and the world itself would kill him. But since nothing like that had happened, he reached the conclusion that he really was being fooled.

"NO!" The supreme elder shouted and threw his spear to intercept the blood blade.

Lin Mu could feel the wind pressure assaulting him, as the blood blade tore through the air.

"Fade..." Lin Mu muttered, disappearing from the world.

All three men, Gu Yao, Yi Deng, and the supreme elder were left in shock as the boy disappeared into thin air.

"Wait! Were those!" Yi Deng suddenly realized something.

"SPATIAL FLUCTUATIONS!" Supreme elder exclaimed.

"Does the boy have a spatial treasure? No! It cannot be... his cultivation base is far too weak to use it." Yi Deng questioned.

"No, there is another way..." The Supreme elder spoke.

Yi Deng understood the look in supreme elders' eyes and shot more wind blades at Gu Yao, who was a bit distracted.

"SENIOR! O' MASTER OF MU LIN! IF YOU ARE HEARING US, WE BESEECH YOU TO KILL THIS FIEND!" The supreme elder shouted, his voice thrumming with spirit qi.

It was as if the walls of the chamber did not exist and Supreme elder's voice traveled through the ground all the way to the surface. There it spread into the surroundings, echoing in the city. Each and every person in the Wu Lim City could hear it.

The people who were at the mayor's Manor had grim expressions on their faces. This included Zhen Shui, the hidden member of the Hei corps, and the disciples of the Tri cauldron peony sect who had been asked to stay behind.

"They are in trouble! That is the voice of the supreme elder!" Tie Dan spoke, recognizing the voice.

"What kind of problems did they run into that even the supreme elder is shouting helplessly?" Someone else quietened.

"More than that, why would they ask for help from Mu Lin's master? He's not even here..." Another person wondered.

The other citizens of the town had similar feelings and did not know what to do.

At the Alluring Wisteria pavilion, Yue was grooming her hair when she heard the voice of the supreme elder. She bit her lip as the name of Mu Lin echoed in her voice.

"Will he be fine?..."

At the hideout of the Hei corps, the members were all anxious as they were praying for the safety of their lord who was with them in the tunnels. They had asked to join him as back up too, but Wu Hei Had straightaway denied them, telling them that they would be more of a burden than a help.

"O' Ancestors of yore! Please help our lord, please help our Saviour!" Hei Wen prayed, her eyes red with tears.

Back at the underground chamber, Gu Yao was still fighting the two elders, when spatial fluctuations appeared again.

Chapter 410 - Devastator!

The three of them sensed the spatial fluctuations and immediately became alert. They didn't know what could happen next and thus were anxious.

The supreme elder had called for help from the master of Lin Mu and was wondering if it was him that had taken away Lin Mu or perhaps he was the one that was coming to help them. But when the fluctuations ended, they saw something that shocked them even more.

A few meters away from Gu Yao, Lin Mu had appeared. But he did not look the same as he did ten seconds ago. His body seemed to have grown a couple of sizes and his clothes were stretched taut. His eyes were blood shot and his face was red as well.

Veins popped out on his head and neck while his muscles throbbed. He was standing in a punching posture and was looking at Hu Yao. His face was one of utter malice and a terrifying aura could be perceived from him. In front of him, even Gu Yao's blood aura seemed to be lacking.

"What are you..." Gu Yao muttered in shock.

Right now Lin Mu did not seem to be just a peak stage qi refining realm cultivator, rather his presence was horrifying to even Gu Yao and the supreme elder.

"GET BACK!" Lin Mu ordered.

The supreme elder and the peak master Yi Deng instantly understood that this was intended for them and they rapidly flew to the back. They didn't know what was going to happen, but they knew better than to stay there for now.

A smile appeared on Lin Mu's face as he said.

"Boulder Collapsing fist: Third Form- Devastator!"

~Shua~

~Rip~

~Tear~

The skin of Lin Mu's hand was torn open as a pink ribbon of energy was released from it. The supreme elder and Yi Deng immediately set up defensive barriers, knowing that the ribbon of energy could hurt even them. They couldn't tell what the energy was, but the power contained within it was no joke.

Gu Yao reached the same conclusion and set up a blood shield as well.

~Deng~Deng~Deng~

Multiple layers of blood walls papered in front of the shield, creating additional defenses.

The pink ribbon of energy traveled at a great speed, yet it seemed as if it was slow. There were after images left behind which made it seem like the ribbon was extremely long, even when it was not. The floor beneath was ripped apart as the pink ribbon passed over it.

Then finally, it met the blood wall.

~Crush~

~Shatter~

The first wall was broken like glass as the ribbon collided against the second one.

~Shatter~

Third wall

~Shatter~

Fourth wall

~Shatter~

Fifth Wall

~shatter~

None of the blood walls were able to hold back for even a second against the pink Robbin of energy. Both the supreme elder and Yi Deng knew how difficult it was to break those blood walls. They had broken a few of them before, but even then it had taken them quite a bit of effort.

"NO!!" Gu Yao shouted in anger.

He poured more of his spirit qi into the blood shield in front of him and strengthened it further. This was the strongest shield he could set up and had not expected the blood walls to be broken like this, or he would have made a stronger one from the very start.

~Boom!~

It was as if an explosion had happened when the pink ribbon of energy met the Blood shield. A sonic boom was created as Lin Mu was pushed back a few meters.

He held onto his hand that was aching and looked at the pink ribbon of energy. This time he had gone beyond his limit and had used fifty percent power in using the Boulder Collapsing fist's third form. Xukong had told him that he shouldn't use it more than thirty percent, even if his cultivation in the body tempering realm had reached the peak.

Lin Mu needed to be undisturbed if he wanted to use the third form of the boulder collapsing fist, and thus the parallel world was the perfect for it.

Lin Mu knew that this would not be enough, as the attack power of the technique would barely reach that of a causal attack of a nascent soul realm cultivator. He did not want that as it would be blocked easily. Thus he went beyond forty percent.

But this was too much for his body and would have destroyed his arm. A solution immediately presented to Lin Mu as he remembered the effects of the Burning Heart sutra. Not only did the Burning heart sutra raise his physical strength, but it also reinforced his durability.

Lin Mu chanted the burning heart sutra and then used the technique. During this, he discovered another ability of the Burning heart sutra. He realized that any technique that used vital energy would be boosted when using the Burring heart sutra.

The sutra seemed to have the ability to amplify it and thus Lin Mu made the decision to boost its power to a full fifty percent. This was the maximum that he would be able to handle, and even then, his hand would probably be disabled for a few days.

Even if alchemical pills such as the four vessels restoration pill were used, he wouldn't be able to use it to its full capacity. This was not because of the physical injury, but rather because of the strain that would be put on his meridians.

His meridians would not be able to heal fully even with the use of the Three vessels restoration pill and would thus require additional time.

The effect of the technique was just as he had expected too. The Third form of the Boulder collapsing fist was able to break multiple blood walls easily and now the only thing stopping it was the blood shield which was the most powerful defensive skill of Gu Yao.

"Come on, BREAK!"