

## Walker 411

### Chapter 411 - Human Controlling Blood Curse

The battle was at a stand still. The pink ribbon of energy was spiraling and trying to drill through the blood shield of Gu Yao and Gu Yao was trying to resist it.

He couldn't afford to lose even a moment's time as he fully focused his efforts on the blood shield. The stalemate lasted for five seconds after which a change fully occurred.

*~Crack~*

"NOO!!!!" Gu Yao shouted.

A crack had finally appeared on the blood shield even after all that he had done and it only kept on expanding.

Gu Yao's eyes shined in red as more blood essence traveled from the ground to his body and then to his arms. His right hand was placed at the back of the blood shield and his left arm was supporting it.

But even after all that, the end result was disappointing.

*~Shatter~*

*~Rip~*

The pink ribbon of energy broke through the blood shield and directly met the right hand of Gu Yao. The flesh of his palm was ripped apart as the pink ribbon continued onwards. Gu Yao gritted his teeth as he made up his mind.

"BLOOD ESSENCE IGNITE!" He shouted.

*~Boom~*

Another loud explosion happened that knocked away Lin Mu, Yi Deng, and the supreme elder.

*~Thud~*

*~thud~*

*~Thud~*

All three of them slammed into the Walls of the chamber and left cracks on it. Lin Mu coughed out blood as he was already tired from using the third form of the Boulder collapsing fist and was reeling from the impact.

The chamber was covered in a red mist now, and the pink energy ribbon could no longer be seen. After a few seconds of silence, Lin Mu and the rest finally saw the aftermath.

*~drip~drip~drip~*

In the center of the site of the explosion was standing Gu Yao. His right arm was completely destroyed and only some remnants of flesh were left attached to his shoulder. The rest of his body had injuries as well, and blood was seeping out of his seven orifices too.

"YOU! I WILL KILL YOU!" Gu Yao yelled with pure rage.

*~grunt~*

Blood essence stream floated up from the surroundings as they formed into thousands of runes. The runes that he had made previously combined with these runes and now they could be seen everywhere.

"I didn't want to waste my progress by using this right now, but you left me no choice!" Gu Yao said.

*~Shua~*

*~Tremble~*

The ground started trembling as the blood essence streams turned into threads. The threads went up to the roof and easily broke through it.

*~rumble~*

*~crack~*

The roof started to fall apart and the chamber began collapsing. The supreme elder and Yi Deng were under the protection of the barrier and thus were able to withstand it. Lin Mu on the other hand simply used Phase and stood there.

He couldn't fully move yet as his spirit qi was in disharmony. He was chanting the severing heart sutra to control it, but still needed some time.

"Seems like we've run out of options..." Lin Mu said in an unwilling tone.

"Indeed... time for the final gambit?" Xukong asked.

"I want to see what his aim is, besides I can't move yet." Lin Mu said in a nervous voice.

He then pulled out a bunch of healing pills and stuffed them in his mouth, not caring which ones they were. He had plenty of them and had to be ready for anything now. The pills took effect rather quickly as their medical properties spread across his body.

The internal injuries and the flesh wound on his hand healed, leaving behind scabs. The small cuts and bruises he had suffered also healed.

Lin Mu quickly checked his spirit qi and saw that he now had less than fifty percent of it left. He had used a lot of due to how many times he used his skills and then he had also used the Boulder collapsing fist, which was at a higher power level.

Lin Mu had kept fifty percent of his spirit qi as the absolute limit and had decided that he would escape if that level was reached. He knew that the others may likely be dying, but there wasn't much he could do now. If he successfully escaped, he would have plenty of time to get his revenge.

Lin Mu looked up and saw that the blood essence threads had opened up a hole all the way to the surface now. His vision was getting blocked by all the boulders that had fallen, and he barely saw it between the gaps. He didn't know if the supreme elder and the others were fine or not, but there wasn't much he could do for now.

"This should be enough..." Lin Mu muttered to himself before moving a bit.

Confirming that he could move better now, he started moving to the top using blink and eventually reached the surface of the ground.

Lin Mu was now standing right beside the ancestral temple. The hole that had been opened up was halfway under the temple and half outside the temple near the surrounding ground. There were people running all around in terror as the blood essence threads spread around.

They went to the sky along with Gu Yao, and he was now visible to everyone in the city.

"People of Wu Lim City..." Gu Yao spoke and everyone watched him, frozen in terror.

"PREPARE TO BECOME MY SERVANTS!" Gu Yao declared.

*~SCREAM~*

Absolute chaos broke, and people started ruining everywhere. The cultivators that were among them sensed the cultivation base of Gu Yao and knew that they were not his match. The head priest of the temple was lying on the ground to the side, his legs ripped off.

He had been injured when Gu Yao broke the ground and a few of the other priests were also lying on the ground, some dead, some close to it.

It was now that the blood essence thread swooped towards the people.

"Human controlling blood curse: Absolute puppet!"

## **Chapter 412 - Cracked**

Thousand of blood essence threads were currently swirling in the sky.

Gu Yao's words were like a deity's judgment and the threads descended upon the people. Lin Mu was watching from below and could tell that the power of the ability that Gu Yao was using was much more than before.

"How did it suddenly increase in power?" Lin Mu questioned.

"He is sacrificing his longevity to increase the potency of the ability... you need to get away too," Xukong replied.

A blood thread appeared in front of Lin Mu too, but he cut it with his short sword. The blood essence thread dissipated and another one soon appeared in its place. Lin Mu kept on cutting them while observing Gu Yao. Lin Mu wanted to see how his skill worked, so as to find out flaws in it.

He knew that this was a lost cause for now and that he had already lost this battle. But for the next one in the future, Lin Mu knew he needed more information. He thus wanted to take advantage while he could witness the skill himself.

'Hmm... so it is called the Human Controlling Blood Curse. From its name, the effects are rather obvious, but there should be more peculiarities of this ability. There should definitely be some restrictions, seeing

that he is trying to control the entire population of the Wu Lim city.' Lin Mu thought as his spirit sense spread all around, observing everything closely.

Lin Mu searched for the supreme elder and Yi Deng for a bit before he found them on the other side of the Temple grounds. The two of them seemed to have already been captured and the blood essence threads were entering their bodies.

"Dammit! Looks like their guard was off while they tried to protect themselves from the falling debris. But still, how did he do it this quickly when it was taking him so long back in the chamber?" Lin Mu said to himself.

"The runes... he is using the old runes that are in the tunnels as well." Xukong suddenly spoke.

Lin Mu had nearly forgotten about the other runes as they had been damaged. His spirit sense pieced the ground, and he took a look at the tunnels.

"He's repaired the runes!" Lin Mu said with shock.

Gu Yao had apparently made this as a contingency if his other plan didn't work and was infusing the blood essence to repair the old runes. Lin Mu saw that the uncomfortable and repulsive aura that was spread in the tunnels was what was repairing the runes as well.

"He has modified the source such that it had a delayed response. The runes were always ready to be repaired, he only activated it now. Even I missed it somehow... this method is rather peculiar." Xukong explained.

By now Gu Yao had taken control over half of the population of the Wu Lim City and Lin Mu still wasn't able to find anything that could be done. He had been continuously chopping the blood essence threads and had finally caught the attention of Gu Yao again.

"YOU PEST! You should have died down there, but now your luck has run out. I'll refine you alive for years to come!" Gu Yao shouted.

Lin Mu gave him a glance before muttering.

"Activate the ward..."

~Shua~

It was as if the entire city had fallen dead silent at once. Gu Yao too felt his vision getting dark and found himself in a pitch black space.

"Wha-what? What is this?" He said in shock, feeling a bit disoriented.

Then it happened...

Ten Golden Yellow eyes the size of huge temple bells opened in the distance. A terrifying presence was exuded from them and they stared at Gu Yao. The man shuddered with fear and couldn't understand what was in front of him.

This was the strongest being he had seen till now and could not comprehend what its cultivation base would be.

In the real world, the air started to tremble, and even the ground started to shake. Lin Mu became alert and asked, "what is happening?"

"I'll try to do something more, you start running," Xukong replied in a stern voice.

~gulp~

Lin Mu nodded his head in acceptance and took one last look at the people before sighing to himself. He jumped on the short sword and controlled it to fly towards the Northern town. He had to get little shrubby before anything happened to him.

Lin Mu didn't want to leave it behind, and his next goal was in that direction, anyway.

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At the Sky precepts sect, the Star catching peak.

"ALARM! ALARM!" Disciples were running around shouting in terror.

The elders were sweating like they were in a desert and controlling the star catching formation that was going haywire.

"There's no other choice, inform the patriarch!" The high elder spoke.

"What should I exactly tell him, high elder?" Another elder that was low in ranking questioned while trembling.

Disturbing the patriarch could be a grave mistake and if they were joint to do it, they needed to have a legitimate reason for it. The star catching formation array had a few incidents like this before and the patriarch had already grown sick of it.

He had ordered that unless it was of grave importance, the matters should not be taken up to him directly. In exchange, he had increased the authority of the high elder of the Star catching peak so that she could take care of most troubles on her own.

This had worked for the past few months, but then suddenly this had happened.

The star catching peak had lost a lot of their disciples a year ago, and they did not want a repeat of that again. Thus they now had different protocols that they followed and the number of elders assigned to the star catching peak was increased as well.

The junior elder waited for the response of the High elder and shuddered when he heard it.

"Tell the patriarch, the world's barrier has been cracked..."

### **Chapter 413 - I AM XUKONG!!!**

Inside the mysterious ring, the altar was calmly glowing. Yet the spatial energy was swirling in chaos.

It was swirling around Xukong who was floating a long distance away from the ethereal alter. He was currently using the spatial energy he had to accumulate to strengthen the link between his main body and the avatar.

"Bah! Seems like summoning more of my cultivation base is impossible, it is too far away." Xukong said in frustration.

"Looks like I'll have to use my own store of it... it doesn't matter, I'll be able to recover it back in a few months," Xukong spoke after thinking a bit.

'Hopefully, the drain on the ward will be lessened as well... he will need it a lot more in the future.' Xukong thought, before his eyes glowed with a deadly gleam.

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"You threatened my disciple, didn't you?" A voice spoke.

Gu Yao couldn't bring himself to speak anymore and could only stare at the ten golden yellow eyes.

"You dared for me to show up, didn't you? Here I am..." The voice spoke again.

Gu Yao bit his tongue and stimulated himself through the pain, making himself snap out of the state he was in.

"You are not a being of this world are you?" Gu Yao questioned.

He was still trembling, but he still held on somehow.

"Oh? This is interesting, you can still talk in my presence." The voice replied.

"You really are then. You are the same as the being that the merchant brought... you are an invader as well." Gu Yao said.

An eerie silence spread after Gu Yao spoke and the deadly aura that was coming from the ten golden yellow eyes got stronger as well.

"It does not matter if I am an invader or not. What matters is that if you dare come after my disciple, I will hunt you down! It doesn't matter if I have to shatter this world to do so." The voice replied.

"HAAHAH!" Gu Yao suddenly laughed.

"You do know that if you dare to do that, the immortals will descend. Besides, you are not the only one who is above the immortal Ascension realm, I have allies that will not stand in silence if you try this." Gu Yao threatened this time.

The space started trembling as Gu Yao felt cuts appearing in his body. His spirit qi became disarrayed, and his nascent soul felt like it would be snuffed out like the flame of a candle.

Cracks started to appear around the ten golden yellow eyes as massive white pillars manifested. The ends of the pillars ended in a sharp point, and they were tens of kilometers long. Gu Yao counted them and found there to be eight of them.

Finally, the golden yellow eyes moved and a body appeared behind them.

Gu Yao got the full glimpse of the being that he was in the presence of.

"If it were not for the innocent people in this world, I would have not hesitated. My disciple calls this world his home too, and I do not want to destroy it for so little. But I swear... If any harm comes to my disciple, even if you call the immortals to try to stop me, I WILL DESCEND MYSELF!" The Voice declared, dripping with a murderous aura.

Gu Yao felt terrified again and finally realized that the being in front of him was much more worse than he had thought.

"WHAT BEAST ARE YOU?!!" He shouted.

"I AM XUKONG!!!"

And with that Gu Yao lost consciousness.

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Lin Mu was still flying towards the Northern town and had covered about one fourth of the distance by now. He was rapidly using his spirit qi but did not dare to save it, he knew that if he hesitated now, he may get in fatal danger.

Lin Mu had tried to speak to Senior Xukong a few times but received no response. He gave up for a while and just reckoned that he was probably trying to hold back Gu Yao.

"No one has come after me yet, so it should be fine..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

*~Zoom~*

About ten more minutes passed, and by now Lin Mu was running low on spirit qi. He had less than ten percent of his spirit qi left in the dantian, and this was the lowest he had ever fallen.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth and made a decision.

"Dammit! No time to be indecisive." Lin Mu said to himself before talking out two pale white stones along with a pill bottle.

Lin Mu opened the cork of the pill bottle and poured some pills into his mouth before clenching the stones in his hand.

Waves of spirit qi came from his body as he released more and more of it.

What Lin Mu had eaten were none other than the Mid Grade Basic qi pills, and the stones he was holding were also mid grade spirit stones. He knew that this was the fastest way to replenish his spirit qi and also to continue flying.

The mid grade spirit stones replaced the spirit qi he was using for flying and reduced the drain on his dantian, while the mid grade basic qi pills were replenishing the spirit qi in his dantian. He was chanting the severing heart sutra as well, so as to rapidly assimilate the spirit qi.

Just like this Lin Mu's attention was split into multiple tasks and he pushed himself to his full potential.

Unknown to him, his body's conversion from normal physique to the Xiantian physique had started again. He was already at ninety nine percent completion, but it was those fractions of the last percent that were the hardest for him to progress in.

But Lin Mu kept on soldering on and flew at his max speed. Replacing the spirit stones that crumbled into dust while using them. By now twenty minutes had passed and he was almost at the Northern Town.

"LITTLE SHRUBBY COME OUT!" Lin Mu commanded.

#### **Chapter 414 - I'll Return Soon...**

Lin Mu's command reached Little Shrubby through the link he had with him and the beast came rushing out of the house. During the time he was away from the northern town, Lin Mu had been checking up on little shrubby through the link and had found it to be fine.

There really wasn't any trouble that happened during that time and Lin Mu did not sense any danger either. Lin Mu directly flew over to his house, ignoring the shocked gazes of the townsmen that looked at him. He was flying on a spirit sword so it was obvious that he would catch a lot of attention.

Lin Mu looked at Little Shrubby, who had clearly grown quite a bit by now. He was about thirty percent bigger than its original size, and his fur had also gotten thicker.

"There you are, we need to go quickly..." Lin Mu said to the beast.

"Okay!" Lin Mu heard the response in his head.

"Whoa! You can speak clearly now." Lin Mu said, feeling surprised.

Lin Mu observed him using his spirit sense and discovered that the beast was already at the peak stage of the qi refining realm.

"Me, can, yes," Little shrubby spoke again, in broken words.

"Huh, seems like you will need more practice... well for now we need to rush." Lin Mu said before entering his house.

He went to his backyard, where the graves of his parents were.

"Father, mother, I wanted to give you a better farewell, but the situation is not appropriate. Forgive my insolence." Lin Mu said before placing his hands on the two graves.

His spirit sense split into multiple and spread around the area. Lin Mu then willed it and the two graves were directly stored into his ring along with most of the soil around him. A five meter wide and three meter deep hole was opened up on the ground and Lin Mu fell into him.

He quickly balanced himself and landed on his legs. Lin Mu came out of the hole and took out the formation plate. The illusory formation was still active, but he didn't know if the others would be able to find his house.

With Gu Yao in the equation, all the assurances he had were thrown out of the window. Senior Xukong was still not responding, and he knew he could not waste time in hesitation.



Lin Mu knelt in front of Little shrubby, and picked it up in his arms.

"We need to some place far now..." Lin Mu muttered.

"Us, far? Okay!" It responded.

Lin Mu placed Little Shrubby on his back and told him to hold on. Little Shrubby simply extended its claws and latched onto Lin Mu's clothes that were already a bit torn from all the battles he had been in the past few hours.

He then jumped on the spirit sword and flew in the direction of the Northern forest.

The members of the Hei corps had seen Lin Mu flying over the city and were rushing to see him as well. They had received a letter from the Lord that there was going to be some trouble, but they did not know what exactly it was.

They wanted to hear it from Lin Mu, but he gave them no chance as he flew away rather fast. He was already holding two more spirit stones in his hands to supply him with the spirit qi. With the uninterrupted supply of spirit qi from the stones and the replenishment of his dantian from the basic qi pills, Lin Mu's condition was improving by the minute.

*~shua~*

Lin Mu's robes fluttered in the wind as his gaze sharpened. He knew that he had gone past the point from where there was no return. He had already started to plan ahead and now needed to start the next part of his plan as fast as possible.

Lin Mu knew that Gu Yao could catch up with him if he slowed down even a bit. The Nascent soul realm cultivator could fly, and Gu Yao was even at the pseudo Dao shell realm. Lin Mu had seen how the supreme elder of the Tri cauldron Peony sect had reached the Wu Lim city in just a few hours by flying and knew the speed at which Gu Yao would be able to travel at.

Lin Mu had still not heard from Xukong and thus knew that he must still be holding up Gu Yao at the city. He didn't know how he was doing it from so far apart, but just attributed it to him being Xukong.

Two hours passed like this, and Lin Mu had crossed over four hundred kilometers like this. But this did not come without a cost. His meridians were aching due to the constant use of large amount of spirit qi, and his store of spirit stones had also been reduced by about fifty.

Lin Mu landed on the ground and placed the short sword in the sheath.

"We'll continue on foot from there..." Lin Mu said.

"Okay!" Little Shrubby replied in the same manner as before.

It didn't seem like he had much of an opinion in what Lin Mu said and simply followed what he was saying. They started running and Lin Mu remembered how fast Little shrubby really was. His speed had increased even more now that he had reached the peak stage of the qi refining realm.

In fact, he was faster than what Lin Mu was when he was flying on the short sword.

'I guess there really wasn't a need for me to carry him, huh? It could have easily outrun me if I left him to it...' Lin Mu thought.

Lin Mu looked around and scanned the area with his spirit sense. He was able to somewhat recognize the area and knew that he had traveled about one tenth of the distance to the cave where the Great Slumber bear was sleeping in.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath before opening his eyes that shined with determination.

"I'll return soon..."

### **Chapter 415 - Far From Home**

About three days had passed since, Lin Mu had escaped from Gu Yao and right now he had covered most of the distance to the cave of the great slumber bear.

~huu~

Lin Mu let out a cloud of steam from his mouth as he looked around the snowy tundra. About a day ago, he had reached the point where snow was still present in the area and now it was getting more and more dense. He reckoned that by the time he reaches the cave, the area would be no different from when it was winter.

In the depths of the northern mountains, there was no difference between winter and summer. There was snow all around the year and the wildlife had already adapted to this. But this also meant that the beasts here would be hardier and tougher.

Last time Lin Mu was lucky since the roar of the great slumber bear had scared most of them off, but now he had to fight with the beasts that he came across. Luckily though, he had not needed to fight against a core condensation realm beast till now.

He had encountered a few of them of course, but he was able to avoid them by going around. Also, perhaps because it was the summer, there was still an abundance of prey, which led to the spirit beasts being less aggressive against him.

They would only attack him if he got too close or if they were naturally aggressive type beasts. Since Lin Mu was focusing on getting to the cave as fast as possible, he wanted to reserve his spirit qi and not use it in fighting.

He was mostly using it to travel fast and reach the cave. But Lin Mu was not invincible and had to rest every night or he wouldn't have been able to last this long. Thankfully, he had a rather large amount of food in his ring and he was able to cook it whenever he needed it.

Another thing was that Senior Xukong had still not responded to Lin Mu. He had gotten worried and thus had checked the inside of the ring, only to find him floating around the ring in silence. His eyes were closed and the spatial energy swirled around him, slowly being absorbed into his body.

Guessing that he was relatively fine and was just resting, Lin Mu decided to wait till he woke up himself.

It was near the evening, and thus Lin Mu had decided to take a break for now. Unlike him though, Little Shrubby was not the least bit tired. It would simply follow him without complaining at all and only asked for meat.

Little Shrubby had really improved in cooking meat and could make it without burning it. Though there were some parts that were left slightly raw.

"Cook, cook, give, meat," Little Shrubby told Lin Mu.

"Alright, let me take some out..." Lin Mu replied before taking out a wooden chopping block that was about a meter wide.

He placed a slab of raw meat on the chopping block and let Little Shrubby do the work. The beast was able to tear apart ribbons of meat from the slab using its sharp claws and did so one by one. His work was rather uniform and most of the pieces were of the same size.

While he was doing this, Lin Mu took out some firewood and ignited it with the minor fireball technique.

~Shua~

The wood ignited almost instantly, and Little Shrubby paused to watch it. The beast was rather interested in this technique and wanted to learn to make fire too. At the kitchen in his house, it was using the fire from the oil lamp to ignite the stove and thus found it a bit inconvenient.

But seeing Lin Mu create flames in his palm like that greatly interested him. He returned to cutting more meat, and Lin Mu began to take out some skewer sticks. He had bought a lot of them back at Wu Lim city when he went shopping during the first day and that had made it convenient for him now.

The skewers were pieced with the meat ribbons and Little Shrubby started cooking some on his own, while Lin Mu did the same. They ate their fill and Lin Mu replenished his vital energy and spirit qi that had been consumed that day.

He sat down in a cross legged posture and chanted the severing heart sutra. He perceived the condition of his body and sensed that the conversion of his cells from normal to Xiantian cells had reached nearly to completion.

It could be said that it was at 99.9% now, and he only needed that one push to reach the full completion.

'Hmm... I should reach it rather quickly now...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Time passed, and it was now nearly midnight. Lin Mu opened his eyes and looked at little shrubby, who was lying at his side.

"I'll sleep now, tell me if anything comes close." Lin Mu said.

"Okay," Little Shrubby said before standing up.

Lin Mu pulled out a bedroll from his ring and placed it on a layer of tree branches before laying on it. He placed his soft white bolster and rested his head upon it before entering the Sleepscape.

Inside the Sleepscape, Lin Mu appeared in front of the spirit apple tree and saw the ripened apples that were growing on it. He plucked more of them and placed them inside his ring. He had appeared in the Sleepscape after a few days and he had an aim today.

Lin Mu choose a location that was at a short distance from the spirit apple tree and kneeled down there. He placed his hand on the ground and withdrew the graves of his parents. The entire chunk of the soil that Lin Mu had taken from his back yard was pulled out as it fell to the ground.

Then, as if it had a mind of its own, the ground of the Sleepscape melded with the soil from the graves and they automatically leveled to become the same as they were before.

"Rest well... mother, father..."

### **Chapter 416 - Empress**

In a world far beyond the mortal realm, there existed a planet.

The planet was covered in many shades of colors and people could be seen flying out of it on various magical tools and vehicles.

This planet also had a moon that revolved around it. This moon emitted a pale green light from it and illuminated the planet with it. The strange thing was the sun that existed in the solar system was a dark blue color as well.

The light of the sun barely reached the planet and most of the light was provided by the pale green moon. There were forests, deserts, seas and snow mountains on the planet. But the most impressive part was not that but rather the massive amount of buildings that covered nearly half of the planet's surface.

There was a common symbol on each of the buildings and even on the ground itself. The symbol was that of a serpent biting its own tail. But the serpent didn't look like a normal one, but had the features of a dragon having a dragonic head.

If one looked up at the moon from the surface of the planet they would see another shocking sight. The moon had the symbol of the serpent present on it too. The serpent was emerald green in color and glowed with a stunning allure.

Among these countless buildings, cultivators could be seen going about their duties. Some flew to their destination, some teleported, while some just walked.

There existed an exquisite temple upon the top of the peak of the tallest mountain on the planet, far from the dense buildings. The temple was built directly into the mountain and the rest of the mountain was covered in a forest.

The mountain was rather peculiar in that, even at such a tall height there was no snow falling on it, despite the fact that the other mountains around it were covered in snow. At the foot of this very mountain, an old woman was standing.

Her hair was black but her face was still covered in wrinkles. She looked up at the peak and sighed.

She hesitated a bit before starting to climb the mountain. Despite being old her speed was astonishing and it was as if the space itself shrunk below her feet. With a single step, she would cover tens of kilometers but even then the mountain still stayed the same.

One could tell from this just how tall the mountain was. If one looked at the clouds, they would find that they were quite far down from the peak. The woman continued to climb and was at the level of the clouds now. The dense clouds masked one's vision and made it difficult to see.

*~Boom~*

The woman had just entered the cloudy forest when suddenly an explosion happened. She didn't seem fazed by it and quickly dodged it.

"Hmph! Stop this!" She spoke.

*~Hiss~*

From behind the foggy forest, a giant head appeared. Its features were still hidden, but the glowing red eyes could not be missed.

"The mountain is forbidden for entry! No one is allowed!" A deadly voice came from the giant head.

*~gulp~*

The woman gulped in fear as she finally witnessed what the voice belonged to. It was a massive snake, just head of which was bigger than tens of elephants combined.

"It is urgent! Tell the Empress... 'his' presence was detected." The old woman spoke.

*~Hiss~*

The hissing sound of the snake instilled fear into the old woman's bones, but she still held on.

"Whose presence?" The snake questioned.

The old woman took out an octagonal mirror from her spatial storage tool and showed it to the snake.

As soon as the snake saw it, his pupils went wide and it recoiled from terror.

"HIM! YOU FOUND HIM!" The serpent spoke in a mixture of terror and excitement.

"Yes! We finally found his signs! Now, please let me meet the empress!" The old woman pleaded.

The snake paused for a bit before nodding his head. It moved to the side and spoke, "go ahead then... I'll inform the rest to let you proceed unobstructed."

"Thank you, Senior." The old woman cupped her hands in respect before heading forward.

The Serpent looked towards the peak and let out a low hiss. But there was a strange power contained in it such that it traveled very far and reached the entire mountain.

The old woman did not hear this and simply continued on her journey. It took her a day, but she finally reached the exquisite temple at the top of the mountain peak.

The woman took her first step upon the temple grounds and stopped. She kneeled on the ground and kowtowed ten times and stayed in the same position without moving.

An entire day passed before a voice was heard. The voice was cold and yet it was as if bells were chiming together with it.

"Who are you?" The voice questioned.

The voice belonged to a woman and held a fierce aura within it.

"I am the fifty-seventh generation ancestor, may the Holy Empress grant me an audience." The old woman responded with utter respect.

Her head was still planted upon the floor, and she did not dare even an inch.

"Come..." The woman's voice spoke.

"Yes, Empress!" The old woman replied before standing up.

She walked forward and passed through a grove of trees before reaching the main part of the temple.

There were lanterns glowing in everywhere and fireflies floated around. Under the mystifying glow of the moon, a woman stood at the entrance of the temple. She had red hair and a face that was so beautiful any mortal whether a man or woman would die out of pleasure upon seeing it.

Her eyes emerald green with slit like pupils similar to that of a snake. Her nails were a similar color and her dress as well. Faint scales could also be seen glimmering on the fluttering dress.

The dazzling beauty looked at the old woman with a petrifying gaze.

"Speak..."

### **Chapter 417 - Prophecy**

The old woman almost fell upon seeing the dazzling beauty, and had to use every ounce of her millenniums of cultivation to control herself.

"Holy Empress, it is my greatest honor to meet you." The Old woman could not help but say.

"Do not waste my time, speak what you are here for." The Empress warned.

The old woman shuddered and took a deep breath to build up her courage.

"We... detected the signs of that old monster." The old woman said before taking out the octagonal mirror to show the empress.

The empress looked at the mirror for a second before the mirror automatically floated up to her. She held it in her hands and gazed at it deeply, looking at the image that was imprinted in it.

The image was of a colossal creature with eight legs and Ten golden yellow eyes. It had a bony white body and countless threads made up a dense web behind him.

It was none other than the Void Weaver Spider, Xukong.

"It really is him... after all these years..." The Empress muttered.

She then looked back at the old woman and spoke.

"Where is he?" She questioned.

"He is in one of the mortal worlds... or at least that's where we got his qi signature from." The old woman answered.

"A mortal world? Him? Are you trying to fool me?" The Empress asked in a cold tone.

"I dare not, Empress. I swear upon my life and the lives of my descendants everything that I speak is truth and only the truth. I lie, I allow the wrath of the moon to descend upon me!" The old woman declared.

As soon as her oath was completed, a wave of qi came out of nowhere and surrounded her body. It imbued her body and intense pain filled her. Yet even under duress, she did not dare to show one bit of displeasure. A few seconds later the pain faded away, and she took a breath of relief.

"So you are telling the truth..." The empress said before turning her back to the old woman.

She started walking into the temple and lightly spoke, "follow."

"Yes, Empress!" The old woman hurriedly replied before following behind her.

The inside of the temple was surprisingly mundane looking, but the power contained within those walls could not be denied. The old woman felt beads of sweat appear on her forehead as she sensed the formation arrays that were present everywhere.

They came upon a hall that had a pedestal constructed in the center of it. The empress placed the octagonal mirror on it and it automatically melded with the pedestal. The pedestal started glowing and a curtain of light appeared in the air.

On the curtain of light, a scene of the night sky could be seen. Countless stars twinkled on it, and it seemed as if they were moving. Bit by bit their speed increased and it was as if it had zoomed out. Now instead of stars, entire galaxies and nebulae could be seen on it.

The empress pointed her finger at the light curtain, and it started shifting again. This time a strange multicolored layer appeared in front of them. On one side of the layer, the galaxies and nebulae could be seen and on the other side, a pitch black area was seen.

A frown appeared on the Empress's face and she shook her head.

"What's the problem, Empress?" The old woman questioned.

"As I expected, finding him would not be so easy. If it was, I would have done so a long time ago." The Empress answered.

"Does that mean..." The Old woman said with hesitation.

"We will have to wait... he is still beyond our reach." The Empress replied.

The old woman felt her heart fall, seeing the empress show a sad expression. It was only for less than a second, yet the old woman felt as if she needed to dedicate herself to the Empress.

"We... found something else, Empress. I do not know if you will find it worth your time though." The old woman spoke carefully.

"Mm? Go on speak, I give you the permission." The Empress permitted.

"Along with the qi signature of the Old monster, we found the traces of something else..." The Old woman contained.

"Traces of what?" The Empress asked.

"The Shadow Gloom Bone Lord..." The Old Woman revealed.

"Him... he is still alive?" The Empress questioned, her voice filled with killing intent.

"He has been killed many times, but his unique abilities have allowed him to survive till now. Five millenniums ago the eastern celestial court mounted an offense against him and exterminated the main body of his consciousness.

We believe that it may be one of the fragments of his avatar that had been wandering the void. The strange thing was, we felt its traces on the same world as that of the old monster." The old woman explained.

"Humph! A dead man whose time has long past dares to linger on still." The Empress uttered with malice.

"Does the Empress... want us to interfere?" The Old Woman questioned carefully.

"No... we cannot break the rules of the celestial court. As long as he stays in the mortal world, we cannot touch him." The Empress spoke with disappointment.

"Seems like fate does not favor us..." the old woman signed.

The Empress's eyes glowed slightly upon hearing her words.

"Fate, huh?" The Empress muttered.

"You said, something Empress?" The old woman responded.

The empress looked the old woman in the eyes and lightly shook her head before speaking.

"Tell me... what is the progress on the seven ancestral serpents? What has happened in these past seven generations?"

"We were able to retrieve one of the seven ancestral serpents about twenty five thousand years ago, but the rest of them are still missing." The Old woman answered.

"Which one is it? And what state is it in because I haven't sensed it?" The Empress questioned further.

"It is the... Three clawed Terra Python. But sadly it is in a fossilized state and we haven't been able to revive it." The Old Woman answered.



"Good... bring it to me. I'll do it myself." The empress ordered.

"As you command, Empress!" The old woman replied before hurrying to complete her task.

After the old woman was gone, the Empress walked out of the temple and stared at the pale green moon.

"I will fulfill the prophecy one day mother, I swear upon my honor as the Empress... And when that day comes, the Serpent Moon Sect will bathe in the rain of Glory!"

## **Chapter 418 - A Surprise**

*~Shing~*

*~Splatter~*

The short sword soared through the air as it cut the neck of a snow fox.

*~thud~*

Before the beast could even let out a cry, its life was ended and it collapsed on the ground.

*~huu~*

"Almost got me..." Lin Mu muttered.

It was the fifth day, and Lin Mu was woken up by the howl of a few beasts. He had thought that they were somewhere far away, but he suddenly detected something approaching him at a rapid speed. Little Shrubby saw it too and tackled the beast with all its force before it could touch Lin Mu.

Lin Mu frankly did not expect for Little Shrubby to do that as he could very well use flicker to dodge it. But he was still touched, nonetheless.

After that, the deal was sealed pretty quickly and all it took was a flick of a sleeve before the beast was slain.

"Are you okay?" Lin Mu asked Little Shrubby as he kneeled.

"Okay," Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu quickly scanned him with his spirit sense and didn't find any injuries or such on his body.

"Alright, you're all good." Lin Mu nodded and looked back to the corpse of the snow fox.

Its fur was white, which allowed it to meld with the snow easily and its speed also seemed to be quite fast. It was at least faster than Lin Mu, but less fast than Little Shrubby.

"Oh? It's actually at the early stage of the core condensation realm..." Lin Mu said feeling surprise.

He quickly found the core of the beast and dug it out. Holding it in his hand, he actually saw a pattern of a fox on it.

"Whoa! It's even a beast with an awakened bloodline!" Lin Mu said, this time feeling shocked.

He had already seen what kind of an effect the bloodline crystal of the Trunk faced cow had when he had exploded it, and he was wondering if he should make something like that again. It seemed like a good trump card that could be used to surprise enemies.

But more than that, Lin Mu could practice refining a bloodline crystal once more before actually making one from the Great Slumber bear. Although Senior Xukong had already told him that he could do it on his own, he wanted to be prepared.

Little Shrubby walked up to him and looked at the beast's core in his hand.

"Want!" He said.

"You want it? Umm... you can't have it, I need it to practice." Lin Mu denied.

The beast seemed a bit disappointed but quickly recovered, "okay!" it replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and stored the corpse of the snow fox and the core into the Ring. He checked upon Senior Xukong and saw that his eyes were twitching.

'Hmm... seems like he's gonna wake up soon...' Lin Mu thought.

He glanced at the spatial energy streaks and found them to have calmed down a bit. They weren't moving as fast as they were a couple of days ago. Xukong waking up was important to Lin Mu as without him, refining the bloodline of the Great Slumber bear would be an extremely difficult task.

"Come on, let's continue." Lin Mu said to Little shrubby and started running ahead.

Little shrubby followed behind and they traveled through the snow, leaving behind footprints that soon faded away due to the snow that kept on falling. This part of the journey was getting a bit hectic for Lin Mu as his legs kept on getting sunk in the snow.

"Bah! We'll just fly," Lin Mu decided, and controlled the short sword to float in front of him.

He picked up Little shrubby and jumped on it. Flying on the short sword was incredibly convenient, and it didn't even take him ten minutes before they reached the mountain where the Great slumber bear was sleeping in. Lin Mu was going to leave Little Shrubby on the smaller cave on the other side of the mountain as he didn't want it to get hurt during the process.

Lin Mu could see signs of beasts around the cave and guessed that one of them may have made this their nest. He quickly scanned the cave with his spirit sense and did not find anything in there.

"Huh, was I mistaken?" Lin Mu wondered.

They stepped into the cave and half way there, little Shrubby stopped in his tracks.

"Not like," he said.

After hearing his words, Lin Mu realized that the aura of the great slumber bear may be keeping the beasts away. They would come close to check the cave but would run away after sensing the aura of the great slumber bear.

"Alright, you stay in this part when I go ahead." Lin Mu said.

"Okay!" Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu was going to check the condition of the great slumber bear for now, as he wanted to wait till Senior Xukong woke up. He also wanted to see what was the cultivation base of the great slumber bear now, and if it had fully recovered from the invader or not.

Back then it was still expelling the invader from its body and was violent. In order to expel the invader, it had to consume its cultivation base and remove it bit by bit. According to Senior Xukong's estimation, the beast would have reached the early stage of the core condensation realm by the time it expelled all traces of the invader from its body.

"Here we go..." Lin Mu muttered before using phase and walking through the end of the cave.

It was still damp like the last time he had come in, but the chill had reduced quite a bit. The inside of the cave was much warmer than the outside.

'This is a bit unusual... it shouldn't be this warm...' Lin Mu thought after sensing the increase in the surrounding temperature.

He could tell that it was at least twice as warm as outside in here. Only when he reached the main cave where the great slumber bear was sleeping did he find out why.

#### **Chapter 419 - Refining The Snow Fox Bloodline**

Lin Mu was standing some distance away from the huge beast that was sleeping in the cave. It was curled up against the wall of the cave and steam could be seen coming out of its mouth and nose.

"Damn, so the warmth in the cave is due to its body temperature..." Lin Mu muttered.

The great slumber Bear's condition was much better than before and it had recovered completely. There were no more bone spurs on its body and the black patches had disappeared as well. Lin Mu could see the triangular pattern on its body much clearer than before.

Lin Mu chanted the severing heart sutra and sensed the faint fluctuations of spirit qi that were coming from the great slumber bear. Since he couldn't use his spirit sense due to the chance of him walking the beast up, Lin Mu could only do this.

'What!' Lin Mu exclaimed in his mind so as to not alert the beast.

"How did it reach the peak stage of the core condensation realm so fast?" Lin Mu wondered.

The spirit qi fluctuations coming from the beast were quite faint, but they were still enough for Lin Mu to tell that.

*~Sigh~*

"This is gonna be difficult, isn't it?" Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He returned back to the other cave and sat down on the ground. He started thinking about whether he would be able to kill the beast or not this time. He had been able to successfully injure Gu Yao, who was at the pseudo Dao Shell realm, thus he knew he could do it forcefully if he needed to.

But he needed the entire body of the Great slumber bear if he wanted to refine the Bloodline. The more parts that were lost, including blood, the lesser his success rate would become.

*~sigh~*

"May as well practice for now..." Lin Mu decided.

He took out the corpse of the snow fox and also a small barrel to collect its blood. The snow fox was much smaller than the trunk faced cow and thus would not have the same amount of blood as it. He had not wasted much of its blood back when he killed it, as he had stored it rather quickly.

Lin Mu held its body over the barrel upside down and let the blood flow out of the neck.

*~Drip~*

The blood started dripping into the barrel and was fully drained after ten minutes.

"Now that this is done, the next step is to set up the runes." Lin Mu recalled.

He took a small amount of blood from the barrel and started writing runes on the floor of the cave. The ground was solid rock and thus, he didn't have much problem in writing the runes. If it was soil or dirt, the runes would not have been properly written.

About thirty minutes later, he completed this and got ready for the next step. He placed the barrel in the center of the formation and then the corpse of the snow fox. Finally, placing the core of the beast, he started pouring his spirit qi into the formation and started the process.

*~Shua~*

The runes lit up and the corpse of the snow fox floated up. Streams of blood rose from the barrel and started wrapping around the corpse.

*~hum~*

The core of the Snow fox started humming as a small illusory figure of a snow fox appeared in the air. This figure was much fainter than the Trunk faced cow's and Lin Mu understood this was due to the bloodline being lower ranked than the trunk faced cow's.

The rest of the process went rather smoothly, and about an hour later, Lin Mu had the bloodline crystal of the snow fox in his hand. He looked at the red crystal and saw the imprint of the snow fox inside it. Lin Mu looked through the beast records he had and discovered that the bloodline ability of the snow fox was enhanced camouflage.

Their fur would meld with the snow and their aura would be surprised as well.

'So this is why it was able to get close to me despite being in the range of my spirit sense...' Lin Mu understood.

While the bloodline ability was useful in a snowy area, it wouldn't come in handy in other regions. It was not that an idea appeared in Lin Mu's mind.

'What happens if I give the bloodline crystal to little shrubby?' Lin Mu wondered.

He knew that beasts could improve their own bloodlines by consuming other beasts, but this was in the case of raw meat and unrefined cores. Lin Mu didn't know if there would be a detrimental effect or a beneficial effect if Little Shrubby ate the core.

The beast was staring at the crystal in his hand and thus Lin Mu knew that he was interested in it. Little shrubby had watched the entire process of refinement from the start to the end intently and had sat in his place patiently.

Lin Mu was about to place the bloodline crystal of the snow fox in his ring when a voice sounded in his mind.

"Seems like it took me more time than I had expected," Xukong spoke.

"Senior! You're back!" Lin Mu said in excitement.

"Yes, I am back. I didn't think that expending my spatial qi would end up having such an effect." Xukong replied.

"What exactly happened back then?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Well... when the ward activated, I knew that I had to stall Gu Yao for longer than normal. Even if he wasn't able to act, he could very well send his newly acquired 'servants' after you. He had... already controlled the supreme elder and Yi Deng by then." Xukong answered.

"He did!?" Lin Mu said with shock.

"Yes, he did. That's why I had to ensure that he would be in no condition to speak for a while. For that, I had to use more of my cultivation base, which ended up with me tearing a hole in the world's barrier. This led to the world's will suppressing me, which took me five days to get out of." Xukong explained.

### **Chapter 420 - A Different Method**

After hearing the explanation given by Senior Xukong, Lin Mu finally understood the level of trouble that had been caused. Though now he wondered, what Gu Yao was up to.

"What happened to Gu Yao now senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... I do not know, but the mental strain I put on him should be enough for about three days. I think he probably woke up two days ago." Xukong estimated.

"Three days ago? Wait! If he was unconscious all this time, doesn't that mean we could have attacked him then?" Lin Mu asked, feeling as if they had lost a great opportunity.

"No... not exactly. Even if he was unconscious, he had already made the entire city his servant by then. After the Supreme elder and the peak master Yi Deng were controlled, the rest of them were a child play for him. It seemed like it was only those two who were causing him to take such a long time.

The weaker cultivators were controlled rather quickly after that. Because of this, even if you tried to attack him, the others would have stopped you. The Human Controlling Blood Curse that Gu Yao used is a rather sinister technique." Xukong explained.

"I see... Senior." Lin Mu replied.

"Well, now that you're already here at the cave, I assume you've checked out the condition of the great slumber beast? Is it weakened yet?" Xukong questioned.

Lin Mu shook his head and spoke, "seems like we underestimated its ability. Not only has it expelled the invader from its body, it has also recovered its cultivation base up to the peak stage of the core condensation realm."

"So it really did... I had hoped that it would take longer but seems like we have no option now." Xukong said.

"What do we do now senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"You won't be able to refine the bloodline of the Great Slumber bear with your current cultivation base," Xukong said.

"Then you mean..." Lin Mu said before being interrupted.

"Yes, you'll have to break through to the Core condensation realm," Xukong confirmed.

"But that would take more time, and won't the great slumber beast only get more strong till then?" Lin Mu asked with concern.

"Just because you need to be at the core condensation realm to refine the bloodline doesn't mean that you can't kill it." Xukong said.

Lin Mu understood what he was saying and nodded his head.

"My body is going to fully become a Xiantian physique too." Lin mu informed.

"Oh, it is? That's good... Wait!" Xukong suddenly said.

"What's the problem, Senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"There may be another way to approach this. If you obtain the Xiantian physique, your body will be strong enough to use that method," Xukong said.

"Are you suggesting a different method than what we practiced, Senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes. This one is a rather crude method and isn't used that much. But the advantage of this method is that you can directly assimilate the bloodline while also increasing your cultivation base." Xukong informed.

"It has risks and I'll explain them to you. Tell me if you want to attempt it after that." Xukong said.

"Alright Senior, please tell me." Xukong then went on to explain everything to Lin Mu.

The steps were many, and it took a while before Xukong was able to explain everything. But after that Lin Mu did not even rest for a second before saying, "I'll do it!"

"You sure?" Xukong asked again.

"Yes, Senior. I believe in myself, this is our fastest way. If we wait too long, who knows what more difficulties could arise." Lin Mu said.

"Alright, now then you have to prepare." Xukong said.

Lin Mu nodded his head and began chanting the calming heart sutra. He knew that to progress the Xiantian physique he no longer needed Vital energy as it had already been saturated fully in his body. That 0.01% that was left was something that he needed to check himself.

Lin Mu stimulated the vital energy within his body and observed its movements. It flowed from his cells into his blood and then into the rest of the body. A harmonic cycle was formed between this, and it continued without a stop.

He probed every single inch of his body and searched for flaws. He tried to see where the problem laid, and what was causing him to not progress further. Just like this, hours passed and night arrive.

*~Huu~*

Lin Mu let out a breath and opened his eyes.

"What could the problem be... I can't see it anywhere?" Lin Mu muttered to himself.

'What is it that I'm missing now...' Lin Mu thought as he ticked off things from a list.

Finally, he came upon something very obvious that he had missed.

"My Dantian! I never checked it." Lin Mu realized it.

He chanted the severing heart sutra and probed the dantian, trying to see where the problem was.

"Here it is... no wonder I couldn't see it." Lin Mu stated.

The last bit of impurities was actually settled upon the outer layer of the dantian and was hidden because of the spirit qi fluctuations that arose from it. The impurities had merged with the dantian and seemed as if they had always been there.

Lin Mu made up his mind as a serious expression appeared on his face.

*~hum~*

The spirit qi sea within Lin Mu's dantian started roiling as it began emanating wisps of spirit qi. The wisps tried to enter the meridians due to the dantian becoming full, but Lin Mu had blocked them. He forced the medians shut and kept on increasing the amount of spirit qi wisps in the dantian.

Bit by bit the pressure on the walls of his dantian started increasing, and Lin Mu felt as if knives were goring him from the inside. He gritted his teeth and continued doing what he was, not faltering even for a second.

Another hour passed as the howls of beasts could be heard from afar when the sound of something shattering could be heard.