

Walker 561

Chapter 561 - Time For The Tribulations

Lin Mu's wait was going to be a long one. But he was taking this opportunity to observe the finer changes that occurred when someone was about to have their heavenly tribulation.

After all, if his plan went as he was expecting it to. The tribulation that the Fire Fang Snake underwent would be the tribulation that will help him break through to the Nascent Soul realm as well.

About two days passed like this, and there were no particular changes in the Fire Fang Snake.

But then...

~Huala~

The Black Water Snake who had been asleep this entire time, woke up. Spirit Qi vortex appeared around him as he started to absorb it too.

"He's close to the breakthrough as well?" Lin Mu said, feeling rather surprised.

"The standard is a bit low for the Black Water Snake, it seems like. The bloodline of the Fire Fang Snake should be a slightly superior to it and thus it took longer to reach the same point. It just needed to gather a larger amount of spirit Qi." Xukong said.

"I see..." Lin Mu muttered, feeling a bit pleased that he would now have two attempts with the heavenly tribulation.

Originally he was going to try out with the Fire Fang Snake's heavenly tribulation first and see if the bolts were enough for him to successfully break through. If they were enough, then it would be perfect. If not, then he would have to search for a secondary beast to use.

But with the Black Water snake's progress, Lin Mu would not have to wait as long and the process would be much faster for him.

"How long do you reckon this will take, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... there are no spatial disturbances in the sky yet so it should be a couple more days at the very least." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu looked up at the sky and could tell that the spatial borders were fully stable at this time. He remembered the condition of Alchemist Bilao and how the spatial fluctuation around him got stronger as time went by.

Lin Mu closed his eyes for a moment and opened them, this time using his spatial perception at full power. Lin Mu could barely spot a tear the size of a hair in the space around the Fire Fang snake.

"It's gonna take a while..." Lin Mu muttered and was about to close his eyes when he spotted something.

"Huh? Where did that mountain come from?" Lin Mu said, feeling stunned.

But when he blinked again, the mountain that had just appeared in front of him disappeared. Lin Mu rubbed his eyes and looked again, but saw nothing there.

"Must be an illusion..." Lin Mu shook his head.

Using spatial perception sometimes caused Lin Mu to see things that did not exist. He had asked senior Xukong about this and was given the answer that what he was seeing was the traces of old spatial fluctuations that sometimes leaked out from the void.

They were from a different place or the same places and had become lost in the void. They would end up storing an illusion of how things used to be and could appear like the real thing to the person who was observing it at that time using spatial perception.

Just to be sure, though... Lin Mu took a look around in better detail and could not see anything. Though when he gazed at the Ripple Mist sect in the distance, he could see a few black dots moving around the sect. Some came towards the sect while some went away from it.

"Hmm... Teleportation channels..." Lin Mu recognized.

Unlike the Tri Cauldron Peony Sect, the teleportation channels here were highly active, showing that the sect was greatly involved in trade and exchange. It could be of anything, items, letters, treasures, information, and much more.

His gaze lingered at the moving dots for a few more moments before he withdrew it closing his eyes, lightly rubbing them.

"Using spatial perception is still quite exhausting if I use it continuously..." Lin Mu said.

"It takes time to get used to it. Besides the way you are learning to do it is quite different from the cultivators who use a technique for it. While your method gives you a short time period, it also has no consumption of spirit Qi." Xukong spoke.

"I understand senior... this will only help me in long term." Lin Mu replied.

Seven days passed like with Lin Mu continuing to keep an eye on the Fire Fang Snake and The Black Water snake. The spatial fluctuations were steadily getting stronger and today they had reached a peak.

Surprisingly, both the snakes were about to have their heavenly tribulation at the same time.

"Looks like the spatial fabric destabilizing made their tribulations sync up. If the border is weak, the heavenly tribulation will have an easier time appearing in the world." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu looked up at the large crack in the sky with his spatial perception and knew the Heavenly Tribulation clouds would be forming at any time now.

"Little Shrubby," Lin Mu called out.

The beast in question had been having a few lazy days as he just absorbed the Beast Qi that Lin Mu gave him and spent the rest of the time sleeping.

"Yes, master?" Little Shrubby, who had just woken up, asked lazily.

"You should retreat to the cave for now. The Heavenly tribulation will be coming soon, you would be in danger if it hit you as well." Lin Mu said.

"Will you be getting injured again?" Little Shrubby asked with concern.

"I... don't know. But this is the only way I can get stronger now." Lin Mu stated.

Little shrubby soundlessly stared at Lin Mu for a bit before speaking, "don't worry, if you get injured I'll come to get you quickly."

"Alright," Lin Mu said while rubbing his head.

~RUMBLE~

The sky darkened as black clouds appeared overhead.

"It is time..." Lin Mu muttered as he looked up at the sky.

Chapter 562 - Tribulation Stirs The Sect

At the Ripple Mist sect.

A group of disciples were doing their job of refining some raw materials for spirit tools in one of the pavilions when they suddenly heard a low rumble.

"Huh? Thunder? In our sect?" One of the disciples stopped midway, making the chunk of metal floating in front of him fall.

"Be careful Ping Mo! Why are you acting like this?" One of the other disciples complained.

"Did you guys not hear the rumbling of thunder?" Ping Mo questioned.

"Thunder? How can there be thunder in our Ripple mist sect?" The disciple who had asked Ping Mo to be careful, stated.

"Yeah, our sect has formations that control the climate around the sect. How can there be thunder here?" Another disciple chimed in.

"Are my ears buzzing then?" Ping Mo said, doubting himself.

But then...

~RUMBLE~

"What the hell! It really is thunder!" The disciples said in unison as they all ran out of the pavilion.

Outside they could see hundreds of other disciples all staring at the dark clouds gathering in the distance.

"It... it cannot be... A heavenly Tribulation?" Ping Mo muttered in disbelief.

"Quick! We need to inform the elders! Someone is having their Heavenly tribulation at the forest!" Someone shouted.

"You idiot! Do you really think the elders are stupid like you? If we can see the heavenly tribulation, they must have sensed it long before." The precious disciples cried out while slapping the back of his head.

"Ah, that's true. But which senior brother or senior sister could it be? And why are they choosing to have their tribulation in the forest when they could do it in the sect under the assistance of the Tribulation platform and the elders as Dharma protectors?" The previous stupid disciple questioned.

"How could I know? But whoever it is, they must be confident of their breakthrough and must want to do it on their own independently! They must have their own pride!" The other disciple said with a knowing expression.

At one of the higher buildings in the central peak, a bunch of elders were standing in a gallery while observing the clouds in the distance.

"Is it truly a disciple having a breakthrough?" A green robed elder questioned.

"I do not know high elder, let me check our roster. If any disciple was close to a breakthrough we should have it on our list." A brown robed elder replied.

The brown robed elder took out a long register and opened it. Flipping through the pages he came to a particular page, after which his brows became furrowed.

"This is strange... they're not on the list..." The brown robed elder said before turning to another young man. "Quick check the whereabouts of all the disciples on the roster!" he urged.

"Yes Elder!" The young man said before taking out his communication jade slip and contacting certain people.

About two minutes later, sweat appeared on his face as he shook his head.

~gulp~

"All disciples are accounted for elder... I fear it may not be someone from our sect..." The Young man stated.

The green robed elder stroked his beard as he looked up at the dark clouds that had not stopped expanding.

"The Heavenly Tribulation clouds... they are far too big for a normal Heavenly tribulation." The green robed elder stated.

Everyone else hurriedly looked at the clouds and found them to be exactly as how the green robed elder had stated.

"Heavens! It is some unique type of a Tribulation? Is it some genius that is having a breakthrough?" One of the elders exclaimed.

The green robed elder did not say anything and simply narrowed his eyes, as his gaze tried to peer far into the distance.

Lin Mu could see the dark clouds and the faint glow of lightning hidden within. There was also the spatial tear that was hidden behind the clouds but it could not be seen by common eyes.

Lin Mu squinted his eyes and his gaze went past the clouds. There he could see a large tear in the spatial fabric. This one was much bigger than the one Alchemist Bilao's heavenly tribulation had caused.

"The two snakes will be having their tribulation together... don't know if it will make it better or worse." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He chanted the calming heart sutra in the preparation of the tribulation. Lin Mu knew he should wait for the first tribulation bolt to fall before he jumped into the fray. He did not know what difference there will be if it is two beasts having a tribulation together than just one.

Lin Mu was reminded of the warnings of the Lost Immortal.

'Better to be cautious a million times than be dead once.'

It was a simple and crude line, but Lin Mu had seen that it was backed by many years of experience and misfortune. It would only do him good to heed the warning. After all, he was not doing anything normal... he was about to steal a Heavenly tribulation!

Cultivators dreaded Heavenly tribulations and wanted nothing more than to get away from them. They feared the day their tribulation would arrive and would try to delay it as long as possible.

Only those that were about to run out of tier life span or those that were brave geniuses would attempt it as quickly as possible. But here was Lin Mu... not even twenty and about to undergo his second tribulation.

One had to know there were many Peak stage core condensation realm beings that underwent the Heavenly Tribulations. But there were less than ten percent that actually survived.

If surviving just a single tribulation was this hard, then Lin Mu was going the extreme way. Trying his chance against multiple tribulations just because his own could not be summoned.

~Rumble~

The clouds started to stir in the sky as arcs of lightning jumped from one part to the other.

The Fire Fang Snake and the Black Water Snake seemed to be prepared for this and were also looking up at the sky at this moment.

Chapter 563 - First Bolt Successfully Taken!

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and opened his eyes that were filled with determination. He leaped far and increased the distance from the two snakes.

The Fire Fang Snake and the Black Water Snake did not pay any attention to Lin Mu at all. It was not that they did not want to but rather they could not afford to. They simply looked up at the sky, while spirit Qi waves continued to rise from their bodies.

~Rumble~

The first bolt of tribulation lightning started to form in the cloud as it gathered together. Two huge 'mouths' opened up in the clouds and it looked like the lightning bolts were their tongues.

Lin Mu braced himself as he didn't know if the lightning would still strike him at this distance or not. The distance that he had chosen was double the distance of the Tribulation platform that Lin Mu had seen at the Tri Cauldron Peony sect.

~boom~

The two tribulation bolts were fully formed and finally fell from the sky with a loud thunderclap.

~Zap~

The bolts struck the two snakes as they hissed in pain. Spirit Qi swirled around them acting like barriers but it did not seem like it was effective.

~shua~

Flames came out of the Fire Fang Snakes' mouth as they swirled around, joining the spirit Qi barrier that had just collapsed. Blood trickled out of its scales that had been broken from the tribulation lightning bolt but it still managed to withstand it.

The Black Water snake was in a similar condition with its scales being broken. The only difference was that these scales also seemed to be burned, unlike the Fire Fang Snake. The Fire Fang Snake lived near volcanoes and had good hesitance to heat and fire.

Even the heat of the tribulation lightning bolt was enough for it to withstand. But one could not tell if this would be naturally possible or was this due to the intervention of Lin Mu in the form of Beast Qi.

The Black Water Snake spat out a blue mist from its mouth that surround his body and attached to his wounds. The bleeding soon stopped as the flesh got stiffer.

The Black Water Snake had used its venom which could make a victim's blood clot in its body on himself!

If it were another human or creature, their blood would freeze in their veins, eventually killing them but to Black Water Snake who had resistance to his own venom, he could use it as blood clotting medicine.

Lin Mu saw that the might of the two tribulation bolts was nearly the same as that of Alchemist Bilao.

'Seems like it is manageable.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"How many bolts do you think there will be senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... if these beasts were normally undergoing the heavenly tribulation with their original talent, even this single bolt should have been enough for them to break through. But with the improvement of the Beast Qi, I reckon they will have at least two more bolts." Xukong stated.

"I guess, I should get two attempts then. One with each snake." Lin Mu said.

"Be careful though, you will need to time it properly. If it is too early or too late, the Punishment lightning bolts will descend instead of the Pure Tribulation lightning. We do not know if that will work for you or not." Xukong warned.

"I understand senior." Lin Mu replied and came closer to the two snakes.

~Rumble~

The clouds stirred as more lightning crackled through the seams, gathering up at the 'mouths'. Once the spear like lightning bolts were just about to be completed, Lin Mu jumped into the fray. And the snake that he had chosen to use first was the Black Water Snake.

~BOOM~

~BOOM~

The lightning bolts fell with a thunderclap, tearing through the air as they struck the beings below. Except one of them was diverted slightly. The first bolt hit its intended target which was nothing but the Fire Fang Snake, but the second one that was supposed to hit the Black Water Snake hit Lin Mu instead.

"ARGH!" Lin Mu grunted in pain, as the searing lightning coursed through his body.

His robes were burnt as a brown layer could be seen glowing below. Unlike the last time, his skin was not affected and only his robes were burnt.

The Mortal Strengthening Scripture had endured the might of the tribulation lightning bolt!

But that was not all. Unlike before the armor of the Mortal Strengthening Scripture was still intact and no cracks could be seen on it. Lin Mu was actually a bit worried about this and wondered if the armor would stop the effect of the Tribulation bolt too.

But that didn't happen. While that armor did manage to block the impact of the bolt, it didn't stop its effect on Lin Mu's core.

~Crack~

Lin Mu's core which was half covered with cracks started to crack again. The cracks spread more and now covered three quarters of the entire core. Lin Mu could also feel the spirit Qi around him stir, as if it was excited.

"IT WORKED! IT WORKS!" Lin Mu internally exclaimed, still feeling numb from the lightning bolt.

He quickly chanted the severing heart sutra to get through the pain and tried to move.

'I'll need to move to the Fire Fang Snake for the next bolt.' Lin Mu thought.

He looked at the Black Water Snake that was dumbly staring at the sky, as if wondering where the Tribulation bolt went. The Fire Fang Snake on the other hand was bleeding even more and was lying on the ground weakly.

"Is it dead?" Lin Mu wondered and probed the snake with his spirit sense.

~hummm~

~Crack~

But then he received a sudden surprise. The core within the Fire Fang Snake's body had already been fully covered with cracks and was about to shatter. There were dense waves of spirit Qi coming from it and it was evident the Nascent Soul was about to be born.

"How can this be? The tribulation is not even over yet?" Lin Mu stated.

Chapter 564 - Second Bolt Successfully Taken!

Lin Mu could not understand why the Fire Fang Snake was already having its breakthrough to the Nascent Soul realm even though there were still more tribulation bolts about to come.

From what he knew the tribulation bolts were just enough for a person or creature to break through to the Nascent Soul realm. Which meant that they needed all of those bolts to break through to the Nascent Soul realm.

If they did not endure all bolts, their core would not be fully cracked and then shatter to give birth to their Nascent Soul. If something like this happens then their situation would be the same as that of Alchemist Bilao.

Lin Mu had taken his last tribulation bolt and he was now unable to break through to the Nascent Soul realm. Of course, this was not permanent, there were ways by which one could trigger the heavenly tribulation again.

The most common way was to just cultivate more so that the infusion of spirit Qi generates a heavenly tribulation. But doing so would take quite a long time and resources as the cultivator would have to heal all their cracks of the core.

Usually, cultivators who failed their heavenly tribulation but still survived would end up regressing to the Qi refining realm as their spirit core would be destroyed. They would need to cultivate again and reached the peak of the core condensation realm in order to break through.

But not many people had this opportunity and the reason for this was their lifespan. Qi refining realm cultivators could live till 150 years at most. While those at the Core condensation realm could live till 300 years.

For a cultivator to reach the peak of the core condensation realm, they would take multiple decades if they were talented. This would mean that they would usually be older than 150 years.

This basically meant that they would die automatically from old age. Only very talented people who reached peak of the core condensation realm before the age of 100 truly had any chance to survive the restart of their cultivation.

"Oh no, this is due to the imbalance." Xukong suddenly said.

"What do you mean senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It's due to you influencing the Fire Fang Snake with the Beast Qi. The heavens think that the fire fang snake's talent is enough for threes bolts of tribulation lightning. But her body itself and the core only needed two bolts to breakthrough.

You increased her potential, but her cultivation could not keep up with it. Perhaps if you had started a bit earlier, she would have needed three bolts to complete her breakthrough." Xukong explained.

"That means..." Lin Mu muttered.

"The fire fang snake will die if she takes this tribulation lightning bolt." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu felt bad about this and did not want the beast to die. While it was true he had given her and the Black Water snake the Beast Qi to take advantage of the Heavenly Tribulation, his heart would not feel good if they died in the process.

"Then I'll just have to take the tribulation bolt myself. I'm here for that so this will work anyway!" Lin Mu declared.

He suddenly felt a newfound strength fueling him. He didn't know where it came from but Lin Mu found that all the pain and numbness he felt was wiped away. He jumped near the Fire Fang Snake the very moment the next tribulation bolt was about to descend.

~KABOOM~

The final bolt of tribulation lightning was the strongest. Two such bolts were shot by the tribulation clouds. One struck the Black Water Snake and was rightfully his, while the second one struck Lin Mu when it was supposed to hit the Fire Fang Snake.

"ARGH!!!!" Lin Mu shouted in pain upon bearing tribulation lightning.

~WENG~

The sound of metal bending could be heard as the armor made from Mortal Strengthening scripture appeared on Lin Mu's body again. The brown glow managed to block the impact of the lightning but some parts of it seemed to be out of shape.

The armor itself was the same shape as Lin Mu's body but was perhaps a couple of millimeters bigger. It did not crack under the tribulation lightning but instead bent to take the impact. Lin Mu ended up kneeling on the ground as he felt like a mountain had just been thrown on his back.

Lin Mu's inner robes were fully scorched now and the top half of it had already been reduced to ashes. Still, he managed to take the second bolt of tribulation lightning successfully.

"I... Did... IT!" Lin Mu said between breaths.

The Fire Fang snake was also looking at Lin Mu with a strange glow in her eyes. Her core was still shattering bit by bit as spirit Qi started to pour into her body. The Black Water snake was in a similar position.

~SHUA~

Lin Mu's Dantian was currently trembling. Arcs of tribulation lightning danced within it as they jumped from one part to the other. It looked like the lightning was protesting and saying this was not where it belonged. It tried to escape but Lin Mu's Dantian was like a steel vault.

No matter how much the lightning tried to hit the walls, nothing happened. The strange thing was even Lin Mu didn't feel any pain coming from his Dantian when the tribulation lightning was hitting its walls.

Lin Mu wanted it to go towards his Dantian but unfortunately, he had no control over the tribulation lightning. From what Lin Mu had learned the tribulation lightning should have a trace of the heaven's will in it and was thus sentient to a certain extent.

The previous bolt did not act like this as it was much weaker than this, but since this was the most powerful of the past two, it had a greater sense of self.

"What do I do now?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

~hum~

Lin Mu's attention was suddenly pulled towards the Black Water Snake as a spirit Qi vortex surrounded it.

Chapter 565 - Turn Back?

The Black Water Snake suddenly started to float in the air as the spirit Qi vortex poured into him.

~shua~

The Fire Fang Snake was the next one to float up as the spirit Qi cortex infused spirit Qi into her too.

"Both of them are having a breakthrough at the same time..." Lin Mu muttered.

It was a rather unique situation that rarely ever happened in the world. Most of the creatures of cultivators would choose to be far away from others in order to be undisturbed and have a safe breakthrough.

A simultaneous breakthrough like this was unheard of in this world. The phenomenon caused by the two beasts breaking through at the same time caused an upheaval in the forest.

The concentration of spirit Qi in the air increased multiple folds and a mist appeared everywhere.

"Is this... spirit Qi? It has become visible?" Lin Mu said feeling amazed.

~Roar~

~howl~

~Chirp~

The sounds of three different beasts could be heard coming from afar. Lin Mu felt like he could tell what they meant.

"They seem to be... rejoicing?" Lin Mu sensed.

He then turned to look at the two snakes whose auras were increasing by the minute. But while looking there he felt like he saw the illusion of a mountain again. This time it was a bit more clear as the mist would disappear around it.

"What is that?" Lin Mu couldn't help but say.

This time the illusion was visible for longer but it did eventually fade.

~Sigh~

Lin Mu looked within his Dantian and saw that the tribulation lightning was still arcing around, trying to find an exit.

"When will this reach my core?" Lin Mu wondered.

~Tremble~

"Huh?" Lin Mu suddenly felt a strong fluctuation of spirit Qi coming from the side. He turned around and saw that it was coming from the mountains where the Ripple Mist Sect was located.

The mountains were barely visible due to the dense spirit Qi mist that had appeared by Lin Mu could sense the waves very clearly.

"These spirit Qi waves... they are not from a Nascent Soul realm Cultivator... they are stronger than the patriarch of the Tri Cauldron Peony Sect and even Gu Yao." Lin Mu said.

"Quick, you need to leave. It's a Dao Shell realm cultivator! They must be coming here to check the phenomenon. The heavenly tribulation must have caught their attention." Xukong said.

Lin Mu realized that a single beast's breakthrough to the Nascent Soul realm might not have attracted them but two beasts breaking through to the Nascent Soul realm at once brought a completely different type of a heavenly tribulation. This was evidently more than enough for a Dao Shell realm expert's interest to be piqued.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth and summoned the short sword before calling out to little Shrubby.

"LITTLE SHRUBBY COME!" Lin Mu said through his link.

~Whoosh~

The spirit Qi mist was blown away as a reddish blur arrived at great speed, causing a gust of wind.

"Are we leaving?" Little Shrubby who had just appeared asked.

"Yes!" Lin Mu said before getting on his back.

He strapped in the harness and little Shrubby started running.

~Whoosh~

Little Shrubby's spirit knocked away some trees as he launched into the air. But just a few seconds later a strange sound was heard.

~Honglong~

Lin Mu then saw a large formation array appearing in the sky. The formation array extended all over the forest and even beyond that. In the distance, Lin Mu could even see a pale barrier that had just materialized.

"Dammit! They activated the formation array of the sect!" Lin Mu cursed.

"It should still be fine. They probably did this to stop the Nascent Soul realm beasts to stop from escaping. They should not know about you being here, this is just a safety precaution." Xukong judged.

Lin Mu's quickly thought over it and found it to be likely. He had not let out any signs of him being here and even the cave that he lived in briefly was cleaned out by him every day. He was doing his best to not leave traces.

Even in the sect he had not spoken to anyone and had kept to himself. And this was when he actually appeared on the ground and not underground.

"That's where the phenomenon started, go there!" An elderly voice was heard echoing from afar.

Hearing this Lin Mu confirmed that the sect's experts were here for the two beasts instead of him. But this did not mean that he was out of danger. While he could indeed escape the barrier, it was very likely that they would discover him. And if he decided to hide here for the time being he would be found by the Dao Shell realm expert.

He could use Phase and sink into the ground far enough that he would be away from the senses of the Dao Shell realm cultivator but there was still the Tribulation Lightning jumping around in his Dantian.

The moment that lightning hit his core, Lin Mu would start breaking through to the Nascent Soul realm and that was something that was bound to bring attention to him. And if at that moment he was underground, he doubted he would be able to maintain focus on using Phase and would accidentally lose control of it.

That was certainly not something Lin Mu wanted to happen.

Lin Mu looked around while thinking of something when a crazy idea suddenly appeared in his mind. His head snapped to the back and he used his spatial perception to the full extent that he could.

"Come on... I know you are there..." Lin Mu muttered.

For a few seconds, Lin Mu saw nothing but mist and felt the approaching waves of the Dao Shell realm cultivator. But then he saw it... he saw the illusory mountain.

'Let's hope this works or we're doomed...!' Lin Mu thought before looking down at little Shrubby who was starting to get nervous as well.

"Little Shrubby turn around, we're going back." Lin Mu ordered.

Little Shrubby looked a bit confused but then started running as he was directed to without questioning.

Chapter 566 - Lin Mu's Risk And The Arrival Of The Sect's Elders

Lin Mu didn't know for sure what he was about to do would work or not, but he knew this was the only option for now. Xukong was also watching Lin Mu, spatial energy swirling around him.

He didn't tell Lin Mu, but he was always ready to act in case anything happened. So far he had only acted once against Gu Yao, but that had put him back two years in his progress. Thankfully, with Lin Mu getting the bloodline of the Great Slumber bear, he slept for two years and Xukong got to cultivate again.

~Sigh~

"He does take risks but at least he knows when's the right time to take them." Xukong muttered to himself as his eight golden yellow eyes gazed upon the ethereal altar.

Just beside the altar, one could also see a Grey color egg lying still. No movement could be observed from it, yet Xukong could feel the life within the egg.

"Wonder what thing you will be..." Xukong said.

Even with his countless years of experience, he could not tell what the beast in the egg was going to be. With the inclusion of beast Qi, there were far too many variations that could appear in a beast.

Beast Qi could awaken or strengthen a specific bloodline that was hidden within a beast. But when it was used in special conditions such as on a pregnant beast, the offspring's condition would be even more unpredictable.

The beast Qi would be able to affect bloodlines that were far deeper and hidden in the beast. Bloodlines that would never be awakened, no matter what if the said beast was fully born.

Though there was also the other end of this equation. The beast Qi could be overwhelming and awaken multiple bloodlines that conflict with each other and prevent the egg from ever hatching.

Lin Mu was unaware of the thoughts of senior Xukong and was fully focused on the road ahead. His eyes were squinted as he extended his right hand forward.

"I know you are there..." Lin Mu muttered as he tried to find the hidden mountain again.

It flickered in and out of existence, but he knew he could tap into it.

"NOW, OPEN FOR ME!" Lin Mu declared.

The mysterious ring hummed in response as a large amount of spirit Qi was drained from Lin Mu at once. Even the tribulation lightning within Lin Mu's Dantian was affected by it and got pushed to the side by the massive amount of spirit Qi that was being consumed.

~Hummm~

~Rip~

A tear appeared in the space in front of Lin Mu and expanded in a fraction of a second.

~whoosh~

With the speed Little Shrubby was moving at, it didn't even take them a second to pass through the tear before it faded away into nothingness.

"What was that!" A couple of voices said as they flew over.

The mist parted and once could see some elders floating in the air. All of them were evidently at the Nascent Soul realm, but there was one green robed elder who had stronger spirit Qi fluctuation. than the others.

"Elder Qing, do you sense something?" the nascent soul realm elders asked the green robed elder.

"Hmm... there are some spatial fluctuations here." Elder Qing replied.

"Spatial fluctuations? What! You don't think... there was an intruder here?" One of the elders said with shock.

Elder Qing furrowed his brows, which made other elders nervous too.

"No..." Elder Qing shook his head.

The other elders looked at him in confusion, wondering why he would say this.

"There were two beasts having a heavenly tribulation at the same time. Things such as this are bound to cause strange phenomena, not to mention heavenly tribulations themselves can cause spatial disturbances when they are strong." Elder Qing explained.

~pew~

The Nascent Soul realm elders collectively took a breath of relief. They certainly did not want any extra trouble, especially when the sect was at a sensitive time as that of the sacred trials.

"At least we got to see the Nascent soul beasts. Though... how did we not know there were two beasts who were close to a breakthrough?" One of the Nascent Soul realm elders asked.

"Just as we cultivators have fortunate encounters, the beasts can have them too. It is not our place to think about it much, you will just waste time, trying to pry the threads of fate." Elder Qing said wisely.

The elders were impressed by his words and nodded their heads.

"Though Elder Qing... I don't think I recall there ever being a Fire Fang Snake in our region. We know about Black Water snakes as they are native to here, but the Fire Fang snakes live way far to the south." Someone curiously asked.

Elder Qing raised his brows and thought over it, finding it to be a valid query.

"Do we have a record about who brought it here? Someone must have brought it, there is no other way it would end up here." Elder Qing asked.

"Let me check elder." One of the junior elders hurriedly responded, before taking out a long jade slip.

This jade slip was about three times as long as a normal communication jade slip and looked more like a ruler instead. The junior elder held it for a few seconds and closed his eyes.

"Ah, I think I found it." The junior elder stated.

"And, what does it say?" The other elders asked.

"The records state that one Elder Limo brought a bunch of beasts from the southern part of the continent about a hundred years ago. This Fire Fang Snake must be one of them too." The junior elder replied.

"Elder Limo? Did we have an elder like that in the sect?" One of the elders questioned.

The other elders seemed lost about it too.

"Umm... the records state that Elder Limo died over fifty years ago while fighting against someone named Jing Luo when he reached the area of our sect." The junior elder replied.

Chapter 567 - A Minor Plane?

The other elders had never thought that something like this happened in their sect and wanted to know more.

"Wait, I remember that. I was still an inner court disciple when that happened. A strong intruder apparently managed to slip into the sect. There were many other experts from different sects chasing him as well.

Our sect was near to the battle zone and they made a plan to coax him into the area of our sect so we could trap him." The elder replied.

"What happened after that?" the other elders curiously asked.

"The plan did succeed, but not without a cost. Elder Limo, along with seven other Nascent Soul realm elders of different sects, died in the battle." The elder answered.

"What? The enemy managed to do that? Who was he and what happened to him?" they asked further.

"Of course the enemy died. The combined attack of the elders was so strong that it eliminated all traces of the enemy. In fact, that was the reason why the seven elders died, because the man used a forbidden self sacrificing technique." The elder answered.

"Why don't you know about this Elder Qing, you were an elder too at that time, weren't you?" the junior elder questioned.

Elder Qing shook his head in response and spoke, "I was sadly in closed door seclusion at that time. I was close to death as my life span was about to end and had less than a year left to live. Thankfully, I managed to break through and extended my lifespan again."

"Ah, forgive me for asking this." The junior elder replied.

Elder Qing simply waved his hand in a gesture, saying it was fine.

"Though what do we do with the two snakes now?" Someone asked.

"Hmm... see if any of the elders can tame them or not. If they are not able to, just leave them as it is. They can serve to increase the power of the sect passively. Enemies will not dare to enter the forest with the fear of the Nascent Soul realm beasts.

Also... give them some herbs and pills. It's better to have their favor than to offend them needlessly. Now that they are Nascent Soul realm beasts, they should have higher intelligence and will know how to act." Elder Qing said.

"As you command, elder Qing." The elders responded with cupped hands before getting to their tasks.

~Zoom~

~thud~

~Crack~

~Crack~

~Crack~

A loud sound could be heard as a red blur broke through a few trees. This was none other than Little Shrubby who was moving at great speed and did not have the chance to stop. Thankfully, neither he nor Lin Mu could be hurt by slamming into trees such as these and were fine.

"That's enough, we can stop now." Lin Mu stated, upon sensing the change in the area.

Little Shrubby came to a halt with a flip and dug his claws into a large boulder. His claws cut into the boulder for over a meter before he managed to stop. Lin Mu unhooked the harness and got down from Little Shrubby's back.

~huu~

He breathed in the dense spirit Qi in the air.

"This place... it's definitely not the Ripple mist sect..." Lin Mu said.

While spirit Qi here was not as dense as to form a mist like during the breakthrough of the two snakes, it was still over five times as concentrated as that of the sect. Lin Mu took a look around and found it to be much different from the area of the Ripple mist sect.

Instead of multiple mountains, there was just one single mountain here. But the mountain was taller than any other mountain Lin Mu had ever seen.

"It's the same mountain..." Lin Mu muttered.

This is the scene that Lin Mu had seen previously in the forest. It looked like an illusion to him before, but now it was confirmed that it was all real.

"Seems like you managed to stumble into a minor plane..." Xukong suddenly said.

"Really senior?" Lin Mu said and spread his spirit sense around. "This place is much more stable than I thought though. It is even stable than the Myriad Armament Canopy abode of old man Jing." Lin Mu added.

"Hmm... probably because this is a naturally formed plane. Though it can't be considered to be a complete plane." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded and decided to take a look around. The spirit Qi in the air was quite pleasant to Lin Mu and his Dantian was quickly being replenished. Before he had used over ninety percent of his spirit Qi in order to open the portal to this minor plane.

One could tell from this how difficult it was to enter this place, but now that large amount of spirit Qi was restored by half in just ten minutes.

"This place is simply a cultivation haven." Lin Mu praised.

He walked around with little Shrubby in the forest surrounding the mountain. Lin Mu could not see the borders of the plane, which meant that either they were quite far away, or that the plane simply looped back after a certain distance.

If it was the second case, then the plane would be similar to Lin Mu's Garden of Karma. In the forest, Lin Mu saw a lot of beasts, but all of them seemed to be herbivores with nary a predator.

It felt strange to him as with no predator, the population of these beasts should have been overwhelming, yet they seemed to be normal. Lin Mu also saw some peculiar trees which he had not seen before, along with spirit herbs and fruits.

This place was simply a paradise for any cultivator. There was no danger and plenty of resources to consume. Just like this, Lin Mu continued walking and reached the edge of the mountain.

But just as he was about to take a step ahead, he felt danger and took a step back.

~shua~

A Sharp wooden spear struck the ground a few inches away from Lin Mu.

"Who?!!" Lin Mu said as he got ready to defend.

"Halt! Tell me who you are and how did you come here?!" A man suddenly appeared atop a cliff some distance from Lin Mu.

Chapter 568 - A Wild Man

Lin Mu had definitely not expected for there to be someone here. There were no signs of a human here, thus he estimated that this minor plane was fully isolated and only some herbivores were here along with plants.

But that spear that had just struck the ground in front of him had surprised him. Not just because it was so fast, but also because of the power contained in it. Lin Mu looked at the spear that looked like it was made from any common branch of a tree.

There were tens of carvings made into the spear all the way from the tip to the shaft's base. Lin Mu was able to recognize several of the carvings and understood what they were.

"High grade spirit weapon? That too from a common wooden branch?" Lin Mu muttered in shock.

Whoever made this had managed to turn a common wood into a high grade spirit weapon with the inclusion of the carvings. Even though Lin Mu would not be hurt by the spear if it hit him directly due to the defense of his body and the Mortal Strengthening scripture, it would still knock him back several meters.

Lin Mu finally looked at the man who had thrown that spear and found him to be rather haggard. He was wearing old and tattered robes that were repaired and patched many times. It didn't even look like the man had used a cloth to patch them and had instead used various leaves.

But the faint glimmer of the runes that he saw on those 'patches' surprised him again. Even the torn and tattered robes of the man were a High Grade Spirit armor!

Looking at the appearance of the man, Lin Mu would have never expected him to have these capabilities. The man had long hair that was divided into multiple sections and tied with what looked like a hemp ribbon.

His beard was also very long and almost reached his waist. His arms were thicker than Lin Mu's thighs and his legs were like that of an ox, strong and hardy. Overall, the man gave Lin Mu a wild barbaric vibe.

Lin Mu quickly tried to control his shock and got ready to defend against the man. He had not sensed the man's cultivation base, but realized that he must be quite strong if he had a spear like this. When the man got closer though, Lin Mu could see three more wooden spears strapped to his back.

On the left of his waist, there was a stone axe with a wooden handle and on the right, there was a dagger that looked to be made out of some animal's bone. All of them had runes and formations carved into them, showing that they were all high grade spirit weapons.

"Just who is this man?" Lin Mu couldn't help but say.

~shing~

Waves of spirit Qi emanated from Lin Mu's body as he fully revealed his cultivation base and the short sword came to float beside him. But that was not all, as the Iron Thorn Spear also appeared in his hand.

Lin Mu felt danger from the man in front of him and was ready to use all his capabilities. Tension rose to the peak as the man approached at a great speed. He leaped from the cliff and jumped from rock to rock.

He flew over a ravine as if it was nothing, which prompted Lin Mu to think that the man must be in the Nascent Soul realm. When he got closer to Lin Mu though, he noticed the Short sword and the Iron Thorn Spear that were with Lin Mu.

The man narrowed his eyes and spoke, "Who are you!?"

"I am Wu Lian." Lin Mu gave his fake name again.

~shua~

"LIES!" The Man shouted as a spear was thrown.

~DENG~

Lin Mu blocked the wooden spear with his short sword, which was also knocked quite a distance back. Lin Mu flicked his finger, forcibly controlling the Short sword and bringing it back. The man's eye twitched upon seeing this, but he kept his demeanor.

"Tell me who you are! Last warning!" The Man declared.

"Maybe you should tell me who you are! You are the one who attacked first!" Lin Mu stated.

"Insolent!" The man shouted as he threw another spear.

This time though, Lin Mu was ready and attacked with his own spear.

Thousand Armament Blade Scripture!

~Shua~

The Iron Thorn Spear was activated for the first time as a black light was released from it. The seals that old Man Jing had put on it to hide its full potential were finally released.

~Zoom~

The black light released by the spear met the wooden spear and managed to stop it dead in its track.

~DENG~

The wooden spear was sent flying back and got stuck in the ravine wall behind. A large crack spread from where the spear stuck in the wall and crumbling rocks could be seen.

"So you do have some capabilities... being at the Peak stage of the Core condensation realm and managing to hold off against my casual attack." The man said before waving his hand.

~whoosh~

All the wooden spears that he had thrown flew back, returning to his side.

"Now let's see how you take my serious attack!" The man said before withdrawing the Axe from his waist. The four wooden spears accompanied him to attack Lin Mu from all sides, and he himself lunged at Lin Mu directly.

~ROAR~

The man had missed one big thing when attacking Lin Mu though. Lin Mu was not alone.

~BOOM~

A fiery explosion knocked back all the wooden spears at once, as a red blur appeared at the side of the wild man.

~Growl~

Little Shrubby had received Lin Mu's command at the very start, and had hidden when Lin Mu sensed the wooden spear coming at him first. He wanted to see what the danger was first before acting. Lin Mu asked Little Shrubby to hide for now and attack when the opportunity was right.

Chapter 569 - Combat!

Seeing that Lin Mu was about to be overwhelmed by attacks, Little Shrubby attacked with his full force as well. His sharp claws glowed bright red as a scorching heat came from them. His fur flared up as a thundering roar came from his mouth.

~ROAR~

He swiped at the man's back while Lin Mu attacked from the front. His short sword danced through the air like a butterfly while the Iron Thorn spear struck like a Wasp.

~clang~

The clash was quite loud and the impact of all the attacks knocked away a lot of soil and leaves. The wild man looked back and saw a large Liger beast behind him. His clothes were struck by the beast's claws but were unable to pierce through the defense.

The man blocked the Iron Thorn Spear on his right with the Axe, while on his left he flicked the dagger to deflect the short sword.

"Not bad... not bad... but if this is all you have... then you are better off dead!" The man yelled and stomped his foot on the ground.

~Rumble~

The ground shook heavily as Lin Mu was knocked back. He flipped in the air to stabilize himself and stepped onto the short sword which came to him at the right moment. Little Shrubby was also knocked back, but he stopped himself after digging his claws into the soil.

"This is gonna be hard..." Lin Mu muttered as he attacked again.

This time, two slim swords appeared in his hands as he spun around like a vortex. The wind howled as it was sliced apart by the rapidly spinning blades.

~shing~shing~shing~

The slim swords met the wild man's dagger, which he had thrown.

~Crack~

The slim swords shattered under the attack of the dagger as they were unable to keep up with the durability of the dagger. After all, these slim sword were made from simple steel, even if they had been of a good quality.

But this was exactly Lin Mu's aim, as a smirk appeared on his face. His lips slightly moved as the wild man suddenly felt his vision blur. Lin Mu disappeared in front of him, which quickly made him shake of the daze he had felt.

"Too late..." Lin Mu whispered

Boulder Collapsing Fist- First Form: Impact!

~KABOOM~

The wild man was sent flying as a fist hit his flank. He flew for over a hundred meters in the air, as spittle flew everywhere from his mouth.

"H-how!?" The wild man was extremely surprised. He was sure he had not sensed Lin Mu approaching him at all!

'Did he just appear out of thin air?' The Wild man wondered.

"Tch~ he's way stronger than I thought. Seeing as he fully bore the attack of a ten percent Boulder Collapsing Fist- First Form: Impact, he should be in the Nascent Soul realm. At the very least at the Child Stage of the Nascent Soul realm too." Lin Mu analyzed.

He had really thought that he would have been able to knock out the man in one hit but he seemed to be way more durable. Lin Mu even targeted his flank, which was the only place that seemed to not be protected from the formations.

While Lin Mu was fighting at the start using weapons, he was intentionally not using any of the skills of the mysterious ring. He was taking this time to analyze the man and his spirit tools. With Lin Mu's little experience with the formations, he had gained a little insight into formation nodes and saw that the man's spirit tools were all weird.

There were way too many formation nodes on it, which made Lin Mu confused at first. This made him think that what he was wearing was a high grade spirit armor. But once he got to probe the nodes closely, he realized each of the 'patch' on his robes was actually an individual defensive formation!

The robes were actually not a High grade spirit armor, but rather multiple smaller low grade and mid grade defensive formations combined. This also meant that any spot they did not cover was undefended.

This spot was none other than the wild man's left flank. Thus using the severing heart sutra at the right moment, he sent him into a daze and then blinked to close the distance before using the Boulder Collapsing fist.

'He's good at hiding his spirit Qi fluctuations too... I would not have known he was at the Nascent Soul realm had I not seen him defend against my attack.' Lin Mu thought.

Lin Mu trained his eyes on the wild man, who had now recovered. Unlike before, the man had a more cautious expression on him as his aura became a bit controlled.

"Let's see how you take this then!" Lin Mu uttered before pulling his fist back.

Boulder Collapsing Fist- Second Form: Piercer!

The wild man barely had any time to react before he saw a thin needle approaching him at blinding speed.

~clang~

He managed to put the bone dagger in front of him to block the needle, but was pushed back again. He gritted his teeth and poured spirit Qi into the bone dagger.

Alas! He was too late.

~Shatter~

The needle, which was the Piercer attack of Boulder Collapsing Fist, broke through the dagger before exploding.

~boom~

Bone fragments were launched everywhere, but the defenses of the Wild man managed to stop them from harming him.

"AHH!" the Wild man yelled crazily as he approached Lin Mu at breakneck speed. Lin Mu was surprised by this as the speed was almost comparable to little Shrubby.

~zing~

Little Shrubby intercepted the wild man mid air but was thrown away at the last moment by the Wild man's punch. The illusory fist imprint launched by the wild man sent little Shrubby crashing into tens of trees.

"Little Shrubby!" Lin Mu said with concern as anger appeared on his face for the first time.

"Damn you!" he cursed as a massive amount of energy seethed in his arm.

A pinkish glow appeared around his arm, which terrified even the wild man.

Chapter 570 - Devastating The Wild Man's Defense

The Wild man had not expected Lin Mu would have so many trump cards. The young man in front of him, shocked him to no extent. His attacks were varied, yet well timed. The liger like beast which he thought to be his tamed beast also attacked in sync, which made it hard for the Wild man to defend.

But when he knocked away the beast at the end and saw what Lin Mu was about to use he was utterly shocked. It was a type of energy he had only seen once before in his life. And it was used by an ancestral treasure of his clan.

The Wild man had thought it was a special energy that could only be found in artifacts and natural treasures but never in a cultivator. When he had seen that energy he was unable to tell what it was.

It neither seemed like spirit Qi nor vital energy. It was simply... different. Far more complex than either of those. But the energy Lin Mu was about to use was nearly the same as that. Or he could even say more potent than that.

The pink glow on Lin Mu's hand might seem pleasant to a few people but to the Wild Man, it was a call for death.

He immediately pulled out all of his defensive treasure and activated every defensive Qi skill he knew.

The tattered robes he wore started to glow as more and more runes appeared on them. The patches that were on it all flew out from it, making the robe even more tattered. Then multiple layers of barrier appeared around him. He shook his head, making the hemp ribbons that tied his hair come free. Each of the hemp ribbons started glowing as they joined the barriers as well.

The man clasped her hand together and made a few mudras before executing another skill. He even bit his tongue and spat out a little blood to complete the skill.

"Calamity repelling shield!" The wild man shouted.

An illusory form of a door god appeared around him. One hand of the door god held a lantern while the other held a ruler. The door god held out the lantern from which a flame came out. The flame then formed a spiraling barrier around the wild man. The door god also raised his ruler, ready to attack.

Lin Mu saw this all but did not care. The spirit Qi and vital energy mixed within his arm before combining to fully form the pink energy. The pink energy turned into a ribbon that started spinning.

Boulder Collapsing Fist- Third Form: Devastator!

The pink ribbon of energy shot out of Lin Mu's arm, while bloodying his knuckle. The layer of armor above Lin Mu's skin which was made from the Mortal Strengthening scripture also cracked. Thankfully, unlike the previous forms of the Mortal Strengthening scripture, the armor did not fully collapse if only one part was cracked.

~Shua~

The pink ribbon of energy created a gully in the ground as it soared through the air. Whatever came in its range, whether it be trees or rocks were instantly pulverized and this was when it did not even touch them.

It moved at a great speed such that after images were left behind, making it look like it was an extremely long ribbon. It kept on moving till it met the Wild man.

~BOOM~

The barriers that were made from the patches were instantly shattered by the pink ribbon of energy. The next to be destroyed were the wooden spears which the Wild man had brought forward to defend. The runes on them collapsed like straw in the wind before fading away.

Then came the turn of the defensive Qi skills that the Wild Man had prepared. The weaker skills were able to hold the pink ribbon of energy for a couple of seconds before they were broken as well.

The only defense that was left was the door god. The flame barrier created by the lantern of the door god managed to hold back the pink ribbon for four more seconds, before it was snuffed out.

~DENG~

Seeing that the flame barrier had collapsed, the door god swung its ruler at the pink ribbon of energy. By now, all the combined defenses had managed to drain most of the momentum of the pink ribbon but it was still more than enough to kill the wild man.

~zing~

Sparks flew as the ruler of the door god managed to block the pink ribbon for the time being. The stalemate lasted for an entire ten seconds before the pink ribbon showed signs of dissipating. The wild man had an expression of relief on his face but then it became tense again.

~Rumble~

The pink ribbon of energy became unstable and exploded.

~BOOM~

The illusory door god perished under the explosion as a large crater was created on the ground. Trees in a diameter of hundred meters were reduced to splinters as they were launched everywhere.

Lin Mu simply stood there as the brown armor of the Mortal Strengthening scripture took the impact from the splinters.

~hoo~hoo~hoo~

Lin Mu took deep breaths as blood dripped from his right fist. The area in front of him was covered in a cloud of dust and nothing could be seen in it. When the dust finally cleared, Lin Mu saw the aftermath.

In the center of the crater, he saw the wild man kneeling on one leg. The top half of his body left was bare as his robes were destroyed. Blood dripped from the multiple cuts on his body as his hair was splayed around haphazardly.

His head was down, making it hard to see his face. His beard was muddy and soiled, as it touched the ground fully. Lin Mu narrowed his eyes as he saw the slight movement of the man's shoulders.

He was still breathing!

"Dammit!" Lin Mu cursed.

"Another attack should do him in... Argh!" Lin Mu spoke but then pain suddenly filled his body.

The tribulation lightning had attacked his core!