

## Walker 571

### Chapter 571 - Breakthrough!

While Lin Mu had spoken those words lightly, the Wild Man had still managed to hear them clearly. His ears perked up as he forced his body to move in response. But then he heard the pain filled grunt of Lin Mu.

"Huh? What's happening?" The wild man could not help but say.

He lifted his head and saw Lin Mu who had fallen on the ground. He seemed to be relatively uninjured except for his right hand, so he couldn't tell why Lin Mu was in pain.

'Was the last technique he used perhaps a sacrificial technique? Yes! That must be it! No other technique should be able to create that 'energy' otherwise.' The Wild man thought.

*~Shua~*

*~Shatter~*

But then a powerful aura flared from Lin Mu's body.

"WHAT!?! HOW?!" The wild man exclaimed.

A vortex of spirit Qi formed around Lin Mu as his body started to float in the air.

"He's having a breakthrough? But this is a Nascent Soul realm breakthrough? Why's there no heavenly tribulation?" The wild man said out loud, feeling utterly confused.

He observed Lin Mu for a bit more and saw the amount of spirit Qi in the air increasing more and more. Soon the spirit Qi had become condensed enough that a mist had spread around. The spirit Qi concentration in this minor plane was already five times more than the ripple mist sect's ambient spirit Qi, but now with the breakthrough as a trigger the amount only kept on increasing.

*~Rumble~*

The loud sound of heartbeats came from Lin Mu's body as they resonated with the spirit Qi in the air. With each beat, the spirit Qi would create a wave.

Wave by wave, beat by beat, Lin Mu's cultivation soared!

The brown armor on Lin Mu's body was instantly restored to the optimum condition before glowing even more. Lin Mu's Dantian was undergoing an even greater change. The shattered core had given birth to a tiny infant.

The infant was translucent and had features similar to that of Lin Mu. But there was a unique thing about him. There was a small silver ring with five spurs on its right hand's middle finger. It was the very same mysterious ring that Lin Mu wore!

*~ROAR~*

Suddenly the illusory figure of a large bear appeared in Lin Mu's Dantian. It had long claws that looked like daggers and had a unique triangular pattern on its chest. Its fur was brown while the patterns on it were black.

This was none other than the Great Slumber Bear!

The illusory figure of the Great Slumber Bear grew bigger and bigger, till it overlapped Lin Mu's body.

*~ROAR~*

The illusory figure of the Great Slumber Bear raised its head up to the sky and let out a roar, shaking the lands, and making every beast in the forest shiver. The wild man also saw the illusory figure of the Great Slumber bear and felt terror within his heart.

He could tell that the beast was no common beast. Just from looking into its eyes, he felt his bones quiver. He had felt such fear in his clan's training grounds before. They had illusory arrays that were able to replicate the auras of beasts. This let the clansman train their will and courage.

The wild man had gone through multiple levels of the formation array and had reached the very final level which contained the recorded aura of the strongest beast their clan had ever encountered. That was the level where the wild man had failed to complete.

"I-Immortal beast!" The wild man spoke with shock in his voice.

*~gulp~*

The wild man swallowed his saliva as he kept on looking at Lin Mu without missing a second. He did not even dare to blink, for the fear that he would miss out on something important. He couldn't help but recall his own breakthrough to the Nascent Soul realm.

Back then he had to survive four bolts of tribulation lightning before he was able to successfully breakthrough. But here was Lin Mu, breaking through to the Nascent Soul realm without any such obstacle.

The concentration of spirit Qi kept on increasing in the air as the mist got even denser. After five minutes though, it had reached a saturation point.

*~drip~*

*~drip~*

*~drop~*

The wild man extended his palm and saw the translucent water on it. His eyes widened as he looked up at the cloudless sky.

"S-Spirit Qi? Liquid spirit Qi? A rain of spirit Qi?" The Wild man muttered in disbelief.

Such a phenomenon was unheard of to him. He had seen the sacred grounds of his clan where the spirit Qi could form a thick mist like there was here in this minor plane, but spirit Qi rain? That was not possible according to his knowledge.

When a cultivator wanted to refine liquid spirit Qi they had to compress the spirit Qi wisps many times in their meridians and Dantian. It was a grueling task and needed to be done specifically in the condition of the Dantian.

The only other mode in which spirit Qi could be seen naturally was in the form of spirit Qi springs. But those were very different from this. They were formed over many centuries and needed unique conditions to do so. Not like now when the rain was spontaneous.

Just the amount of spirit Qi that was currently raining down right now was probably enough to make even a Dao treading realm cultivator jealous.

"What the hell am I doing?" the wild man realized his stupidity before quickly sitting down cross legged and absorbing the spirit Qi.

His body was like a sponge, as it soaked in all the liquid spirit Qi around him. But compared to Lin Mu he was nothing.

If the wild man was like a sponge, then Lin Mu was like a vacuum. The liquid spirit Qi directly formed a floating stream around him as it started to pour into his body.

*~Honglong~*

The rain of liquid spirit Qi continued to get stronger as all life in this minor plane rejoiced.

### **Chapter 572 - Disciple Of Jing Wei?**

The rain of spirit Qi was gathering all the spirit Qi that existed in the air as of now. The wild man had replenished all the spirit Qi he had used in the battle in less than five minutes of the rain, while Lin Mu was even farther.

Within Lin Mu's Dantian, one could see the Nascent Soul that was floating in the center. It was bathed in the liquid spirit Qi, which fully covered it. Lin Mu's Dantian had already been filled to the brim with spirit Qi.

A few brown sections could also be seen which was nothing but the earth elemental spirit Qi which was also part of Lin Mu's Dantian. His meridians were flowing with spirit Qi as it nourished his entire body.

Fifteen minutes passed like this before the rain of spirit Qi finally stopped. The Wild man had not only replenished his spirit Qi in this time, but he had also increased his own cultivation base by a significant amount.

"His choice in disciples... is much more terrifying than I thought..." the wild man muttered.

No longer was any fury present on his face, and no battle intent could be sensed from him either. It was hard to believe that the man was fighting Lin Mu with his full power just twenty minutes before.

While the spirit Qi rain had been enough to give the wild man an increase in his cultivation base, for Lin Mu it had barely been enough to stabilize his cultivation base. Usually the spirit Qi infusion that happened after a cultivator breaks through to the nascent soul, was so that it could provide the baseline spirit Qi needed to maintain it.

A Nascent soul needed far more spirit Qi to become stable than a spirit core. But this was also an initial cost. As once it became stable, no matter how much spirit Qi a cultivator used up his cultivation base would not regress.

In the realms before the Nascent Soul realm, if a cultivator went below the limit of the cultivation stage, they would need up regressing their cultivation base. One could actually use up all of their spirit Qi in the core and made it collapse, causing them to return to the Qi refining realm.

But in nascent soul realm, even if one used up all the spirit Qi in the body, their cultivation base would still be in the Nascent soul realm. But on the other hand if the Nascent soul was damaged or destroyed the person would lose their entire cultivation at the very least, or be killed at the worst.

But the same Nascent soul also gave the cultivator a chance to live after death. If a cultivator was killed before his lifespan was about to end, they would be able to transfer their true soul into the Nascent soul and let it wander outside the body.

Thus, even if the body died, they could live on in the Nascent soul. And if they were lucky, they may even be able to find another body to inhabit or if they were forced, they could even steal someone else's body.

All of these abilities were now what Lin Mu could use if he chose to do so. Once this entire process was done, Lin Mu felt a buzz going through his body, which made him wake up. Upon awakening, he saw the Wild Man sitting a short distance away from him.

As soon as he saw that though, rage appeared in Lin Mu's eyes.

"YOU!!!" Lin Mu shouted.

The Wild Man saw that Lin Mu had woken up and was a bit surprised. He was about to say something when Lin Mu came flying towards him at a great speed.

"Now DIE!" Lin Mu yelled as his fist came flying towards the Wild man.

Lin Mu was not even using the Boulder Collapsing fist, yet the power contained in this punch was no less than of the first form- Impact. This was now just his pure strength coming from the combination of his Five treasures realm cultivation which had entered the second stage having completed the refinement of the first organ and the upgrade in his cultivation base.

*~whoosh~*

The winds generated from Lin Mu's punch were strong enough to make the broken branches and leaves around them fly away. The Wild Man had a shocked expression on his face, and fear could also be seen in his eyes.

"STOP! You passed the test! You are worthy of being Jing Wei's Disciple!" The Wild Man hurriedly shouted.

*~Woo~*

The fist came to stop just an inch away from the Wild Man's face, but even that was enough to redden his skin. The compressed air was enough to graze and scratch his skin, making him bleed slightly.

But the Wild man would very well take this kind of damage than the full force impact of that punch. While he had been able to take multiple of these before, one had to know he no longer had any of the defensive treasures on him and his spirit tools had been broken as well.

Even with his recent progress in his cultivation base due to the rain of the spirit Qi, he very well doubted he would be able to endure the power of the punch. And even if he did, he would be quite injured from it with multiple broken bones.

Lin Mu who had stopped mid way, lifted his head and looked the wild man straight in his eyes.

"What did you say?!" Lin Mu asked, anger still visible in his eyes.

"You passed my test! I know you are the disciple of Jing Wei!" The Wild Man repeated.

"How do you know Jing Wei?" Lin Mu questioned, still maintaining his attacking stance.

"He's my grandfather." The Wild man revealed.

"Grandfather...?" Lin Mu muttered as he looked closer at the Wild Man.

He tried to compare his feature with that of the old man Jing and realized they did seem to be a bit similar.

"Luo'er?" Lin Mu muttered.

### **Chapter 573 - Jing Luo**

Upon hearing the name from Lin Mu's mouth, the Wild man suddenly turned red, even more red than his face was previously.

"DON'T CALL ME THAT! Only Grandfather can call me that!" The Wild man said, feeling embarrassed.

Lin Mu saw the loud reaction of the Wild man who he now confirmed to be the grandson of Jing Wei.

"Call me Jing Luo." The Wild man stated.

"Okay... but wait... weren't you supposed to be dead? Jing Wei said you died from the experts of the sects." Lin Mu asked, feeling confused.

Lin Mu had withdrawn his hand by now and eased up a bit. Jing Luo was the same and could relax a bit now. But just as Lin Mu did this, he was reminded of something important. He had forgotten about Little Shrubby in the heat of the moment.

"Little Shrubby!" Lin Mu said before flying away in the direction he had seen him being launched.

Jing Luo was also a bit lost and went after Lin Mu. The two men flew for about a minute before reaching the place where Little Shrubby was. It was not hard to find him, as he had created a long path of destruction as he had passed through the forest.

Upon finding him, Lin Mu hurriedly checked him for injuries with concern.

"Huh? He's fine?" Lin Mu muttered with surprise.

"That spirit Qi rain should have allowed him to heal himself." Xukong who had been silent since Lin Mu arrived here, spoke.

"Senior Xukong? You're awake?" Lin Mu replied.

"Yes, I've been awake the entire time," Xukong stated.

"I thought you were deep in cultivation or something happened to the connection once I arrived in this Minor Plane." Lin Mu replied.

"No, I've just been observing everything. You fought well against Jing Luo. I think this is the first time you were able to use all your abilities at once and even got Little Shrubby to assist you." Xukong spoke.

"You were observing, I see. Then you must have some idea about that man, right? Do you really think he's Jing Luo? If he was, then why did he attack me and continued to do so?" Lin Mu asked, feeling confused.

"I've been observing everything closely from the start and I can tell one thing for sure. That man was never intending to kill you. He had always been increasing his power in response to your own." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head for now, and wanted to focus on checking Little Shrubby's condition. He probed his body with his spirit sense and saw that his Dantian was filled to the brim. Not only that, but his core was also about to be saturated.

"That rain... it pushed Little Shrubby to the limit." Lin Mu muttered.

"If he continues to cultivate here for a bit more, he is likely to break through to the Nascent Soul realm." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu watched on with concern for a bit before letting out a sigh.

"Give him more of the beast Qi, that should speed up the process. His wounds have already healed due to his body using the liquids spirit Qi rain to repair it, so his progress should be fast." Xukong suggested.

Lin Mu nodded his head and quickly chanted the Nurturing heart sutra. Jing Luo, who had been following Lin Mu, saw the state of the beast and was surprised too. He was sure his punch should have at least broken a few bones of the beast, but it seemed to be fully fine.

'No wait, its aura got stronger too.' Jing Luo thought.

But the next moment he saw Lin Mu do something. Since he was watching from the back, he did not see Lin Mu chanting the Nurturing heart sutra, but he did see him drawing out a string of energy from his body.

"What is that?" Jing Luo felt confused.

He could very well tell that it was not spirit Qi and neither was it Vital energy. It was also not the pink energy that he had seen Lin Mu use in his attack. Jing Luo then saw Lin Mu injecting that string of energy into the beast.

~shua~

As soon as that was done, Jing Luo could feel the aura of the beast explosively rising for a second before calming down again.

"What did he do? What was that energy?" Jing Luo muttered to himself. His voice though, reached Lin Mu, making him turn around.

"Just something that will help him..." Lin Mu said mysteriously.

Jing Luo didn't know if he should ask more and just decided to keep silent. He had after all beaten up the man's pet and he would probably beat him up if he pissed him off more. Even though Jing Luo knew he was above Lin Mu in terms of cultivation base, the man had defeated him.

And now that Lin Mu was in the Nascent Soul realm as well, he highly doubted he would be able to last against him.

"You were gonna tell me what happened with you before... Jing Wei said you were dead." Lin Mu spoke.

"Ah yes... I did nearly die. I was being pursued by multiple experts from different sects. Eventually, I ended up in the borders of the Ripple mist sect, where I got trapped. I could not leave the barrier the experts had set up, so I decided to make my final stand here.

I ended up detonating one of the prototype spirit tools I was making. That spirit tool killed most of the experts that were chasing me but it also pushed me to the brink of death." Jing Wei answered.

"How did you survive, then?" Lin Mu questioned, feeling curious.

"The same way that beast did... I got a lot of spirit Qi to heal myself with. And I got that when I ended up here." Jing Luo answered.

"Here? This minor plane?" Lin Mu spoke.

"Yes... well, not exactly. We are technically in the Sacred Grounds of the Ripple Mist sect." Jing Luo revealed.

### **Chapter 574 - Over 50 Years Of Isolation**

When Lin Mu had roamed through the Ripple Mist sect he had heard from the many people there that the sacred trials will be held soon. And the most promising of disciples would be participating in it.

Lin Mu learned that the sacred trial would be held in a sacred ground which was nothing but a Minor plane that was located parallel to the location of this place. It was of course located in the lesser void, and accessing it required specific spatial coordinates.

But since it was a sacred ground of the Ripple mist sect, it was forever anchored to this location and would not move. Thus all they needed to enter it, was an access key or token. Once someone had this, the gate would let them in.

This gate could be in various forms, but Lin Mu did not know what it was for the Ripple Mist sect.

But after hearing that they were in the sect's Sacred Grounds, Lin Mu understood his previous illusion better.

'So what I was seeing was nothing but the sacred ground because of my spatial perception. The spatial disturbances caused by the heavenly tribulation should have weakened the barriers surrounding it, thus allowing me to peer into it.' Lin Mu thought.

But this gave rise to another question in Lin Mu's mind.

"Wait, if this is the sacred grounds of the sect, why did you never leave it?" Lin Mu asked. "Was it so that you could heal and cultivate?" He added.

"No... I've been looking for ways to exit it for a long time now. Actually, I've been looking for an exit since the very first day I ended up here. But could not find it." Jing Luo answered. "Even the entrance that should have been used by the disciples of the sect is missing for me."

"What? How's that possible?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I don't know. I think it may have something to do with the spirit tool I detonated." Jing Luo said.

"What kind of a spirit tool was it?" Lin Mu asked, feeling curious.

"Well, if you're my Grandfather's disciples you should have known about the inheritance treasure of our clan." Jing Luo stated.

Upon hearing this, Lin Mu instantly understood what he was talking about.

"The Myriad Armament Canopy Abode..." Lin Mu spoke.

"Exactly, you truly are his disciple." Jing Luo nodded his head.

"Umm... about that..." Lin Mu interrupted him.

"What's the problem?" Jing Luo asked with confusion.

"I think you got one thing wrong... I'm not Jing Wei's disciple." Lin Mu revealed.

"What! How? You should definitely be his disciple. There is no way you would know so much about him and you would not have his short sword either. Grandfather never let me touch it and said that he will only pass it to his final disciple." Jing Luo said, feeling shocked.

"Ehmm... I bought the short sword from him... as for the rest, we just helped each other and got to talk. That's why I know this much." Lin Mu stated.

"This can't be... grandfather would never sell the Short sword, unless... something changed him." Jing Luo said, realizing something.

*~Sigh~*

Lin Mu sighed and remembered that the man in front of him had been isolated for over fifty years now.

"I guess I should explain everything to you from the start... how I met Jing Wei and Duan Ke." Lin Mu spoke.



Jing Luo nodded, and both of the men sat down to get comfortable. Lin Mu started from the very first day that he had encountered the old dusty shop. He recited each of his meetings and how they found out about the invader.

Though there were some points that Lin Mu glazed over as they included his secrets as well. By the time he was done, over six hours had passed by and it was now night time. Jing Luo was both amazed and saddened by all that he had heard.

"So grandfather has sealed his cultivation base... and of course they would think I was dead the life light bead I had was destroyed when I came to this place and it does not work across different planes." Jing Luo spoke.

"It's not all bad, though. Old man Jing should recover soon and even Duan Ke should progress a lot. They had gone into seclusion when I last met them and were going to capitalize on the gains they had." Lin Mu stated.

*~Sigh~*

"What's gone is gone... all we can focus on is the present now." Jing Luo said in a melancholic tone.

But his state did not last long as he realized another important thing he had forgotten in the heat of the events.

"Hang on! You managed to enter this place; then you should know how to leave it too." Jing Luo said, feeling hopeful.

"Oh yeah, we should be able to leave no problem." Lin Mu replied, feeling confident.

He knew the ring could open the portal between the two worlds and even if it was hard at the start, Lin Mu's ring now had the coordinates and should be able to open a portal so that they could return as well.

"Perfect! When's the earliest we can leave?" Jing Luo said, feeling impatient.

'Hmm... plenty of time should have passed by now, and I don't think the sect's experts should be there. It should be fine to open a portal.' Lin Mu thought.

"Alright. Do you need anything? Or do you need to be in the same location you came from?" Jing Luo asked.

"Umm... I guess we should go to the same location I arrived from, just in case. Though we will need to wait for Little Shrubby to wake up." Lin Mu replied.

"Ah... I see." Jing Luo said after looking at Little Shrubby.

"Though if you want to just take a peek I can do that too." Lin Mu said, seeing his disappointed look.

Jing Luo's eyes lit up and it was evident he wanted to see the outside world after so many years. After all, even if this place was a cultivation paradise compared to the outside, it would still get boring after a while.

## **Chapter 575 - The Exit Of The Plane**

"Is leaving little Shrubby here fine? Nothing dangerous lives here, right?" Lin Mu asked.

"Oh yeah, nothing should happen. Most of the stronger beasts have been killed by me over the years, and no predators remain. As for the other beasts, I doubt they will even come within a kilometer of this place." Jing Luo said while looking at Little Shrubby. "His aura is simply too powerful for them. They will dare not approach." He added.

"I see... very well, then. I can let you peer out into the real world." Lin Mu said.

As Lin Mu had said, he returned to the place where he had first arrived. It was not that hard to find, as there were plenty of traces left behind by him. Though it did take them another two hours to reach there even while flying.

The strange thing was the mountain in the background never changed its size and always looked the same.

"It's one of the methods of spatial manipulation. No matter where you look from, the mountain will look the same. And when you actually get onto it, you will realize that it is even bigger than it actually appears." Xukong informed.

Lin Mu's eyes lit up after hearing this new information, and he quickly memorized it. This was actually even more exaggerated as he didn't need to actively memorize it. His breakthrough to the Nascent Soul realm had not just affected his body, it had also increased his brains' capabilities.

Now it wasn't that difficult for Lin Mu to memorize an entire book in a single read. As for things he heard, they were even easier to memorize. While this was not eidetic memory, it was still many times beyond a normal human's abilities.

After reaching the spot where Lin Mu had arrived, Jing Luo looked around.

"Hmm, this place does look quite similar to the state when I first arrived in this minor plane." Jing Luo said upon seeing the damage caused by a spatial portal in the surroundings.

"What place did you arrive at?" Lin Mu asked curiously.

"That place was on the mountain itself, so it's quite far from here." Jing Luo spoke.

"Ah, I see." Lin Mu responded.

He then got to work and sensed the area with his spirit sense before activating his spatial perception. After a minute of adjustment due to Lin Mu's increased cultivation base, Lin Mu was able to grasp the state of the spatial fabric in this area.

"Here we go," Lin Mu muttered as he extended his right hand, which wore the mysterious ring.

Jing Luo could feel a pressure exuding from Lin Mu. It was quite different from what he had felt before. If it was like the waves of the sea before, now it was like reverse gravity exuding from his body. It made him subconsciously want to get away from him.

~shua~

Lin Mu waved his hand and a tear opened in the space in front of him.

'Tearing the fabric of space with such ease... even grandfather would find it hard to do so with his spirit tools.' Jing Luo thought.

He looked at Lin Mu and his body, but could not see any treasure or spirit tool on him.

'Just what kind of a treasure is he using? Or perhaps it's a skill instead...?' Jing Luo wondered but did not question.

He trusted his grandfather's judgment and knew that if he had chosen Lin Mu, then there must be a solid reason behind it. Jing Luo watched on as the tear in the space started to expand, till it reached the width of over a meter.

Lin Mu opened his eyes and felt the drain on his spirit Qi. It was significantly less than before which he attributed to his progress in the cultivation base and reaching the Nascent Soul realm.

But when he saw the portal in front of him, his brows became furrowed.

"This... this isn't the same place..." Lin Mu muttered upon seeing the black portal.

"What's the problem?" Jing Luo asked upon hearing Lin Mu's doubtful tone.

Lin Mu got closer to the portal and very carefully extended his spirit sense out of it. As soon as it reached into the portal, he could feel the strong tearing force tugging on it. This prompted Lin Mu to immediately pull it back.

"This is not right." Lin Mu said.

"What happened?" Jing Luo asked again.

"This portal... it does not link to the location of the Ripple Mist sect." Lin Mu said.

"It doesn't?" Jing Luo questioned, getting even more confused.

"No... the place that is beyond this portal is the lesser void." Lin Mu answered.

Jing Luo knew a little about the void from his clans' records and thus understood Lin Mu's words.

"From what I know the Minor planes exist in the lesser void, right? So I don't understand what the problem is." Jing Luo asked.

Lin Mu shook his head before speaking. "If I opened a portal here, it should have directly linked to the Ripple Mist sects location... But it did not."

"And what does that mean?" Jing Luo inquired.

"It means... this minor plane is not anchored to the Ripple Mist sect. If we step into the portal, we will end up in some random part of the Lesser void. And if that portal happens to close behind us, we will not be able to return back here." Lin Mu explained.

"This..." Jing Luo muttered, feeling surprised.

Lin Mu looked on with a complex expression as he was wondering what had gone wrong too.

"What could be the problem, Senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"I think... what we are in right now is not a complete Minor plane... but rather a fragment of it that has been carved out due to the detonation of that spirit tool Jing Luo used. And since this fragment was carved from that minor plane, it was not fully anchored to the sect." Xukong answered.

"Damn... this just makes it even more difficult." Lin Mu muttered.

### **Chapter 576 - Escape Plan**

Lin Mu knew that now that there was no direct exit to the plane, they may very well have to traverse the void to get out. This was a task more dangerous than anything that Lin Mu had ever done till now and he did not want to do it just yet.

Lin Mu had learned the dangers of the void very well from senior Xukong. While the ring gave him a very big advantage with spatial manipulation, it was still not enough. Lin Mu remembered what senior Xukong had said to him once in the Sleepscape.

'That ring is an immensely powerful artifact, but that is also your shackle. Even if a baby is given a sledgehammer, it is not like they would be able to use it properly. It is the same with you, the ring is powerful and fortunately restricts its level according to you.'

The mysterious ring may eventually allow Lin Mu to traverse the void safely but now was not the time. Even at the Nascent Soul realm, he was far too weak for it. Even Immortal Ascension realm cultivators died like ants if they were careless with the void, not to mention a Nascent Soul realm cultivator.

Jing Luo had been watching Lin Mu and the complex expressions that had appeared on his face. From that, he knew they may have been in an even more difficult position than he had originally thought.

'There must be something... something we are missing...' Lin Mu thought hard to find a solution.

"Wait, I've heard that the Ripple Mist sect has its sacred trials every ten years. You've been here for over fifty years, right? Then you should have seen or sensed some change then." Lin Mu asked.

"Hmm... when I first came here, the sacred trials had just ended. After that ten years passed before the next trial's happened. I did see some changes in this plane... the beasts seemed to be restless and the spirit Qi in the air would fluctuate greatly." Jing Luo answered.

"Spirit Qi would fluctuate?" Lin Mu muttered.

He looked around and felt the high concentration of the spirit Qi here.

"If there is such high concentration of spirit Qi then there must be some source of it right? If this plane was cut off from the sacred ground, there should have been no spirit Qi after one point, but the concentration is still maintained.

It must be coming from somewhere, right?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I think there is a spirit stone mine here below the peak there. The Concentration of spirit Qi is quite stronger there. I've tried to get to it since I wanted more materials for making spirit tools and formations, but I could not break through the tough rock there." Jing Luo answered.

"There might be a way!" Xukong suddenly spoke.

"What senior?" Lin Mu asked hurriedly.

"We may be able to link this fragment with the sacred grounds of the Ripple mist sect for a short time. But it will be difficult... and will also need the right opportunity." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu thought over it and realized that this may be the only option for them now. He had no better ideas and even Jing Luo, who had been here for over fifty years, was clueless.

"How will we do it, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"We will be... collapsing this entire fragment of the minor plane," Xukong revealed.

"Collapse? But won't that kill us too? How will we escape it?" Lin Mu questioned, feeling confused.

"Yes, there is a chance that it will kill you. That's why I said it will be hard and will need the perfect time to do it.

Think of the Ripple mist sect as an island in the sea while the sea is the lesser void. If that's true then the Sacred grounds are like a ship floating in the sea while the fragment we are in currently is like a lifesaver. While the lifesaver is floating in the sea independently, there is still a link with the main ship.

Before the ship was anchored to the island and the lifesaver was floating in at the shore of the sea. It would bob and move, which let you see the illusion of the mountain before when you were at the Ripple Mist sect.

Then came the heavenly tribulation which disturbed the spatial fabric and that combined with you using the ring to open a portal to there, it pushed the fragment deeper into the lesser void. So now getting back to the shore is difficult.

But... you can still go to the ship since there is still a tether. But to do that is not as simple as this example." Xukong explained.

"Please tell me the method senior." Lin Mu requested, fully ready for anything.

"What you will need to do is to create a vacuum in this place... but not just any vacuum but rather a vacuum of spirit Qi." Xukong spoke.

"A vacuum? How will I be doing that?" Lin Mu asked.

"By absorbing it, of course! Basically, you will take up all or most of the spirit Qi of this minor plane which will cause its borders to get weak. The lesser void will exert pressure on it and will make it collapse.

Now here comes the tough part... when this collapse happens, the force of the lesser void will also push the fragment to the sacred grounds but for a very brief moment. It will be like a ball striking a wall, you will have to cross over when that ball is touching the wall or it will bounce away.

That will be your moment to act. You will use the ring and hopefully latch on to the sacred grounds, before jumping there." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu listened to the entire explanation carefully, making sure to not miss any points, and once Xukong was done with everything, Lin Mu closed his eyes thinking over it and assimilating the information.

~huu~

"Alright... I think I got it. I will be using Well of slumber, won't I?" Lin Mu spoke.

### **Chapter 577 - Jing Luo's Mountain Residence**

"Exactly... you are the only one who would be able to pull it off. Without that bloodline ability... it will be close to impossible." Xukong replied to Lin Mu's question.

If this thing were to be done by anyone else, they would need a long time to absorb the spirit Qi of this entire plane. Not only that, but they would also need to absorb it faster than the production speed of the spirit stone mine.

The amount of spirit Qi in this minor plane was quite massive. Even if its borders were restricted, absorbing enough spirit Qi to trigger a collapse like that would be a herculean task.

While Xukong had suggested Lin Mu this method, even he was unsure whether Lin Mu would be able to do this.

'Hopefully, he succeeds... even if he doesn't, I can interfere. At least in the void, I should be able to control things better.' Xukong thought to himself.

Jing Luo saw the determination that had suddenly appeared in Lin Mu's eyes and wondered why.

"Did you think of something?" Jing Luo asked.

"Yes... I have a solution." Lin Mu spoke.

"To get us out of here? What is it?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Alright, listen carefully." Lin Mu said before explaining the entire plan to Jing Luo while omitting a few details that were treading on his secrets like the Well Of Slumber.

"This... I've never thought something like this could be done." Jing Luo spoke after hearing the entire thing.

"It is indeed risky, but the only option we have left." Lin Mu replied.

Jing Luo nodded his head and did not waver.

"I've been here for fifty years already, and it has been far too long. Grandfather and Duan Ke have suffered for far too long. Our enemies have risen again and I won't let them be." Jing Luo spoke.

"Very well. But before we can start that we will need to get access to the Spirit stone mine." Lin Mu spoke.

"Ah, yes. My home here is on the mountain, let's go there. Over the years I've managed to dig a tunnel that leads to the location of the Spirit stone mine, but I can't get past the last part. The rocks there are much harder than anything I've seen before." Jing Luo spoke.

"Okay, let's go check it out." Lin Mu spoke, and both of them flew to the mountain.

Lin Mu no longer worried about Little Shrubby, as there was no beast that could harm him here. Along the way, Lin Mu talked with Jing Luo and learned of all that he did here during the past fifty years.

He was greatly injured when he first arrived here and it took him five years just to heal from his injuries. During that time there were many dangers in this minor plane. There were other Nascent Soul realm beasts that threatened his life and had attacked him.

While he had managed to escape them, he had gotten injured over and over again. It took him another ten years before he was able to adapt to this place. But with all the hardship came the benefits, too.

Jing Luo learned a lot here in that time and got to solidify his own power. Eventually, he started to focus on making spirit tools and weapons using the materials that were present here. Those leaves he had made patches on his robes with were all refined by him.

He had managed to make spirit tools and weapons from basic materials of this place, even though it was hard. While this place was like a paradise, it did not have all the right materials that were needed to make the spirit tools, thus Jing Luo simply managed with things that he had.

Instead of finding materials that could handle the runes and formations, he modified the formations such that they could be used on common materials as well. This was all due to the research that he had done on his own here.

His hand was forced due to necessity and this new methodology of making spirit tools was born from that.

"This man is a genius, similar to his grandfather. He managed to comprehend the 'Return to simplicity' principle of formations. Many good formation masters never learn that in their life even when they are taught, and he did it on his own." Xukong praised.

Lin Mu knew how much senior Xukong's praise was worth. Anyone that could get praised by him was greatly deserving of it and was leagues above others. Lin Mu now wondered if he should learn from Jing Luo, but he did not know if that would be possible currently.

Lin Mu and Jing Luo eventually reached the residence, which was nothing but a large cave in the mountainside. But it was not dark like one would think. Once Lin Mu entered inside and got to the main part, he was surprised.

There were glowing lamps everywhere, and it was bright. There were large workstations on which various materials were lying and formations that glowed in the air. There were skylights carved out in the roof, through which sunlight entered the cave.

There were even plants growing in the residence, and there was an entire garden here. Jing Luo had grown some of the common plants that he needed for materials here. Usually, these plants would take decades to grow, but in a paradise like this, they grew like weeds.

There were also some decorations in the residence like skulls of beasts, large horns that hung from the walls, along with many weapons made from the bones of beasts. Lin Mu saw a great sword that was placed on one of the shelves. The Sword was simply massive. It was nearly twice the size of Lin Mu's entire body.

But that was not all, as when he scanned it with his spirit sense, he found it to be densely covered with runes upon runes. There were so many formations on it that there was simply no space left.

### **Chapter 578 - A Great Sword**

Lin Mu didn't even know if the sword was able to handle the activation of so many formations, not to mention the consumption of spirit Qi that came with it. But then he remembered the spirit Qi concentration here and understood that the sword would still be able to function.

But if this was the Shuang Qian kingdom, for example, there was no way the sword would be able to work, unless the user supplied all of the spirit Qi on his own. But that was not all, as Lin Mu could not even tell the grade of the sword.

The reason for this was because while the sword did have a lot of formations, it was not emitting any major spirit Qi fluctuations, which made it hard to estimate. But just from the quality and number of formations on it, Lin Mu guessed that it was a high grade spirit weapon easily.

"Ah, I see you noticed it." Jing Luo said upon seeing where Lin Mu was looking at.

"What is this sword?" Lin Mu questioned, feeling quite curious.

"To be honest, even I don't know. The sword randomly fell from the sky one day. I've tried to analyze it but the runes and formations on it are just too complex for my capabilities." Jing Luo spoke.

"Fell from the sky? When exactly did this happen?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... it was a year after I appeared in this minor plane. Back then there were some instabilities in the world due to the detonation of the spirit tool I had. That was a prototype of a peak grade spirit tool, thus it had quite a lot of power in it.

Though seeing this place was likely to be part of the sacred ground of the Ripple Mist sect, I reckoned it just came from there. Or perhaps it was part of their sect and accidentally fell here due to spatial interference.

And I had no reason to doubt it either, as it was not like that was the first time it happened. From time to time, beasts would also appear out of thin air randomly. I had to be on my toes all the time for the fear that a random Nascent soul realm beast would pounce on my back.

Oh, there was also that one time when half a cliff fell about an inch from my head when I was sleeping." Jing Luo answered.

Hearing Jing Luo's words, Lin Mu was reminded of the random items that he got from the lesser void when he used the ring's ability. But at least it wasn't as dangerous as Jing Luo's condition. Lin Mu didn't know if he would ever be able to sleep peacefully, knowing that a cliff would randomly fall on his head.

"This sword, you said you analyzed it... did you try to ever use it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes, I did. And I failed... miserably." Jing Luo said with a wry smile.

"Why? It's just a sword, can't you just swing it?" Lin Mu felt strange.



Even if a spirit weapon was sealed, and their skills can't be used, one could still act like a brute and swing them like a barbarian.

"Believe me, I tried, but the blade will just fly away from my hands if I do that. Even getting it here was a herculean task." Jing Luo spoke.

"Huh? How did you put it on that stand then? You must have had to lift it, right?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I didn't... or rather that stand was how I even got it here. I had to literally build the stand around it and then carry the stand here. I had to be careful while doing so as well, if I exerted too much strength or went too fast the blade would take that as an attempted use and would fly away, destroying the stand in the process.

I went through over fifty stands before I was able to get it here. They were hard to build too, considering the weight of the sword along with the formations. I had to put really inert, durability increasing formations on the shelf or it would break automatically. The sword's self defense formations are quite strong too." Jing Luo explained.

"That... quite a peculiar weapon alright." Lin Mu spoke.

"Of course it's gonna be peculiar. It's a Pseudo Immortal Grade weapon after all... or so I think." Jing Luo revealed.

"Pseudo Immortal Grade Weapon?!" Lin Mu said in shock.

The only Pseudo immortal grade weapon he had seen till now was the Myriad Armament Canopy Abode, but it was not an offensive spirit tool but rather a supportive one. Even if it did have offensive formations in it, that was only for self defense. But even then its power was massive.

Lin Mu couldn't even begin to understand how much power this sword would have since it was a fully offensive spirit weapon. And with the condition's that Jing Luo said the sword had, Lin Mu was even more intrigued by it.

"What do you think, Senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"Hmm, it's probably as Jing Luo said. The sword likely has gained a certain level of sentience and thus can fly away if someone intends to use it." Xukong replied.

"But if that's the function embedded in it, how would one use a weapon like this?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Any weapon that starts to exceed the boundary of the Spirit grades will gain sentience and along with it, new limits will be bound to the weapon. Some of these limits are intentionally put by its creator, while some are created automatically during its creation.

There is probably a limit bound to the weapon which dictates who can wield it. If one can find that limit, they will be able to use it. And seeing the number of formations on it, I reckon that limit must be something really severe." Xukong answered.

"I see... it really is just a decoration for now I suppose." Lin Mu muttered.

## **Chapter 579 - The Tunnels Below The Mountain**

"Perhaps only my grandfather will have any idea about how the sword really works. If there is anyone who can do it then it will be the number one Weapon refiner in the world!" Jing Luo claimed in a prideful tone.

One could tell from his voice that he truly believed this. Lin Mu nodded as well as Jing Wei was the only man he had seen that had skills such as that and was even praised by Senior Xukong. The latter part was of the greatest importance.

"That's probably true." Lin Mu agreed.

"Sad that we won't be able to take it with us..." Jing Luo spoke.

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

"The sword does not allow us to carry it and neither does it want to be kept into a spatial storage treasure." Jing Luo replied.

"Can I try it?" Lin Mu asked, having an idea.

*~Sigh~*

"Sure... I guess it doesn't really matter much now. Either we get it now, or just leave it here anyway." Jing Luo said, fully expecting the sword to run away again.

'Perhaps I'll have to patch up the roof again. It has already made enough holes that I ended up turning the roof holes into a skylight.' Jing Luo thought.

Lin Mu simply nodded his head and approached the Great Sword. It did not react to him, even when he was at the very side of it. It was just like Jing Luo had stated, the sword would only respond when someone touched it.

Lin Mu extended his right hand and touched the great sword's handle. The great sword trembled and at that moment, Jing Luo braced his head; as once the great sword had broken through the roof and the fragments had fallen on top of his head. While it had not injured him greatly, he still had a bump on his head for a couple of days.

"H-how?!!" Jing Luo said in the next moment, feeling absolutely shocked.

The great sword had disappeared into thin air, which was proof that it had been stored into a spatial storage treasure.

"See, it isn't really a problem." Lin Mu spoke.

Jing Luo couldn't help but look at the gold ring with green patterns on Lin Mu's hand. Lin Mu had already told him it was Jing Wei who had made the ring so he thought that was where the Great Sword was stored.

"Grandfather's craft has only gotten better over time..." Jing Luo murmured.

"Well then, where is the tunnel that leads to the Spirit stone mine?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Ah, yes. I almost forgot." Jing Luo said, recovering from the shock. "Follow me. The tunnel is quite deep in the mountain. I've been digging it for nearly twenty years now." He added.

Lin Mu followed behind the man and continued inward. Jing Luo got to the very back of the residence, where a pair of stone gates were erected. Lin Mu could tell that these were handmade and there were formations carved on them, too.

From the top of his head, Lin Mu could tell that there was an isolation formation on it, a locking formation, an insulating formation, and also a sealing formation of some kind. Lin Mu had spent quite some time studying the formation array of the vaults in the Tri Cauldron Peony sect and thus knew a lot about formations that would be placed on doors.

Jing Luo simply waved his hand and made the runes on the door move.

*~Kaching~*

The doors started to move and soon opened fully.

*~Whoosh~*

Once they were open though, Lin Mu felt a tide of spirit Qi hitting him. The tide was strong enough to blow his long hair back. Jing Luo had the same experience and seemed to be surprised by this.

"That... this has never happened..." Jing Luo muttered.

"The spirit Qi is leaking?" Lin Mu said.

"But if it really is, then... COME QUICK!" Jing Luo spoke in a hurry.

Lin Mu nodded his head and flew behind him. The two men flew at their max speed and traveled through the tunnels. Along the way, Lin Mu saw hundreds of branches in the tunnels. Lin Mu also realized why it had taken Jing Luo so much time to reach the place where the Spirit stone mine was.

'Looks like he also took the opportunity to mine out the precious materials and ores from this mountain.' Lin Mu thought, recalling all the raw materials that were kept in the workshop.

Even at their full speed, it took Lin Mu and Jing Wei over an hour to reach the bottom of the tunnels. This showed just how deep it went, but it was also due to the winding routes that were made by Jing Luo.

Upon reaching the end, Lin Mu and Jing Luo finally saw why the spirit Qi hit them like a tide at the doors of the tunnel.

"Cracks? How? I've tried countless methods, attacked endlessly, used explosives and yet nothing worked." Jing Luo spoke in disbelief.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows as well and got closer to check it out. He could tell that the walls here were different from the rest of the tunnels. The rock it was made out of was smooth, with very few striations.

Lin Mu tapped the rock and sensed it with his spirit sense, finding it to be more earthy rather than metallic in nature. Lin Mu went through his memories and tried to recall if he had read about this kind of rock before.

While Lin Mu was doing this, Jing Luo was observing the small cracks that had appeared on it. The cracks were very fine, and could be considered to be hairline cracks but even these fine cracks were leaking out a rather substantial amount of spirit Qi.

While it was not comparable to that of the spirit Qi rain that was caused by Lin Mu's breakthrough, it was still higher than the normal spirit Qi of the area.

"I remember now! This is Earthen Depths Obsidian!"

### **Chapter 580 - Earthen Depths Obsidian**

Lin Mu remembered reading about this kind of rock in the Memoirs of the Lost immortal. The man had also encountered it before and was actually blocked by it. That was one of the instances when he had been trapped.

He was exploring the depths of volcanic tunnels and it had collapsed, trapping him inside. On one side was fuming magma and on the other side was the Earthen Depths Obsidian.

At that time the Lost Immortal was at the Dao Shell realm. He could not go through the magma as he did not have any spirit tool or skill that would be able to resist its heat and breaking through the Earthen Depths Obsidian was also not an option.

The man was trapped in there for over a year before he managed to escape. He had suffered a lot during that time and had grown weary. But even then he did not manage to break through the Earthen Depths obsidian.

The only reason why he had managed to escape was that there was an earthquake and the magma that blocked his path was drained away. Once he had managed to escape from there though, the lost immortal swore to find a way to escape from that kind of situation in the future.

He practiced defensive Qi skills that were able to bear great heat and also learned about how to break the Earthen Depths Obsidian. This material was actually a mineral that was formed deep in the earth.

It was formed in areas where there was magma and was tempered by heat. It was said that the original minerals that it was formed from were melted and cooled over and over again, till a smooth surface like this was formed.

Earthen Depths obsidian was naturally hard and if a shard of it was broken, it would have an incredibly sharp edge. It was one of the best materials to make pure refinement type of spirit weapons from.

Though the disadvantage of it was that it could not bear formations as much as other materials. Thus it could not be used for the hybrid type spirit tools either. They could be used for armor too, but that was quite rare as molding the Earthen Depths Obsidian was not easy.

Jing Luo had heard what Lin Mu had said and was interested in it. He had not learned about this before and wanted to know more.

"You know what this is?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Yes, it's called as Earthen Depths Obsidian and is a hard mineral." Lin Mu spoke before explaining more of the properties of the material to Jing Luo.

Jing Luo being a weapon refiner, immediately assimilated this information and his mind came up with different ways to use it automatically. But this also let him understand how difficult it would be to get past the wall.

"If you know all this, then you should know how to get past it too right?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Yes... while the Earthen Depths Obsidian is quite hard to break, it is also brittle under certain conditions. It is very durable against direct attacks and even Qi skills, but what it can't bear for long is... vibrations." Lin Mu answered.

"Vibrations?" Jing Luo repeated.

"Yes... and I think I also know why there are these small cracks in it now." Lin Mu continued.

"Why?" Jing Luo asked.

"The same thing, vibrations. I'm guessing upon my breakthrough all spirit Qi of this minor plane was resonating. The one in the sky turned into rain but the one in the earth did not have a way to escape.

But this resonance still permeated and caused the spirit Qi beyond the Earthen Depths Obsidian to resonate in response as well. This translated it into vibrations which then caused the cracks in the Earthen Depths Obsidian.

But of course, these vibrations were not strong enough to fully break this wall of Earthen Depths Obsidian as it was caused by the resonance of the spirit Qi. Plus, once the small cracks were created, the spirit Qi could very well escape from there.

This reduced the pressure on the Earthen Depths Obsidian and thus prevented it from cracking even further. In a way it was a self preservative function, one could say." Lin Mu explained.

Jing Luo listened to the entire explanation and nodded his head.

"So we break it with the same method?" Jing Luo asked.

"Yup. Let's see if we can do it." Lin Mu replied and was about to do it when he was interrupted.

"You do know you have a much simpler method right?" Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Huh?" Lin Mu was stunned.

"Just use meld." Xukong reminded.

"Uh... oh right. How did I forget that?" Lin Mu wondered.

"You got engrossed in new information once again... learning it," Xukong replied in a knowing tone.

"Ah, haha..." Lin Mu chuckled lightly.

"Though if you don't want to reveal it right now, you can try using the method you were gonna use," Xukong added.

"Yeah, I'll do that." Lin Mu spoke.

"Is everything alright?" Jing Luo asked seeing that Lin Mu had suddenly stopped.

"No, nothing. I was just thinking something." Lin Mu gave an excuse and placed his palm on the wall.

He channeled some spirit Qi from his meridians and let it reach his palms. From there he coated the entire palm and caused the spirit Qi to vibrate.

At first, there was no response and nothing happened. There was no sound, no movement. But as a minute passed and the vibrations got stronger, some effect could be seen.

*~Humm~*

The walls could be seen trembling slightly. After five minutes passed though, another noise was heard.

*~CRACK~*

Jing Luo saw that a thin hair like crack had appeared on the wall.

"It's working! It's working!" Jing Luo spoke excitedly.

But Lin Mu on the other hand was underwhelmed.

'This... is not efficient at all.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

*~Sigh~*

"Why did you stop?" Jing Luo asked seeing Lin Mu lift his hand.