

## Walker 591

### Chapter 591 - Balancing

Lin Mu heard the warning of senior Xukong and knew that he should not go overboard with this. Besides now that he thought of it, this was not something he would be able to do for long, as once Little Shrubby completes his breakthrough the seven illusory figures will disappear.

Seeing as he did not have long to do this, Lin Mu had to make a choice. He would have to select a beast about the seven to strengthen.

"Hmmm... I can exclude the Flash Fire Liger and Scorch Claw Tiger as they are already the dominant bloodlines. If I strengthen them further, they may become unstable. So which one should I pick?" Lin Mu muttered to himself in contemplation.

Lin Mu thought over the different abilities offered by each bloodline and reckoned that strengthening the Thunder Bolt Cheetah bloodline might be the better choice. It may increase the speed of little Shrubby further, as that was its main trump card against many enemies.

Not to mention that Lin Mu relied on Little Shrubby's speed to travel around. Even if he could fly now, he knew his speed could not be compared to that of little Shrubby in most cases, at least when he did not use his own skills.

If Lin Mu were to use Fade along with blink and kept on using them, he would be traveling at the fastest speed possible for him, which would be more than Little Shrubby's. Though that may change if the bloodline ability of the Thunder bolt Cheetah is added to the mix.

"I'll pick that one!" Lin Mu said before chanting the Nurturing heart sutra and converting the spirit Qi within his Dantian into Beast Qi.

A string of beast Qi was produced in his Dantian and it floated around. Lin Mu did not stop chanting there though and continued with it. As long as little Shrubby was in this state he wanted to take benefit of it.

While chanting the Nurturing heart sutra, Lin Mu also sent the strings of beast Qi that he had already refined to the Thunder Bolt Cheetah's illusory figure. This time because Lin Mu was actively controlling the string of beast Qi, the other illusory figures did not have the chance to take it.

~shua~

The Thunder Bolt Cheetah absorbed the beat Qi and his body started to glow in an electric blue light. Some sparks of electricity even coursed around its body before calming down. Once that was done, the illusory figure became a bit more opaque, showing that it had been strengthened.

But this was merely the start as Lin Mu kept on producing more and more Beast Qi. He sent two more strings of Beast Qi to the Thunder Bolt Cheetah's illusory figure, after which it had become almost the same as that of the Scorch Claw Tiger.

"That is enough, you should evenly distribute to the rest now." Xukong advised.

Lin Mu nodded his head and managed to refine four more strings of beast Qi before sending one each to the remaining illusory figures. Each of the figures seemed pleased from this and had increased its presence.

Little Shrubby's breakthrough was now at its end, and the spirit Qi infusion had also stopped.

*~thud~*

His body landed back on the ground as he opened his eyes, that glowed with a powerful light. His fur swayed in the wind, and his muscular body rippled with strength.

*~ROAR~*

Little Shrubby let out a world shaking roar that echoed across the entire Minor Plane. There was a strange pressure contained within the roar such that all of the beasts of the forest that were just becoming active after the passage of the Tribulation clouds, became silent again.

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In the tunnels below the mountain, a man was mining the ores and metals in the wall.

*~Rumble~*

*~thud~*

"DAMMIT!" Jing Luo cursed, as another large chunk of rock fell on his head.

This had been happening more and more recently and he knew it was due to the removal of the source vein of the Spirit stone mine below. It had caused a reduction in the spirit Qi saturation of the soil, which in turn led to the materials getting weaker and loosening.

Since then, whenever he mined, there would often be a random piece of ore or just rocks that would fall on him. While this did not hurt him in reality, it was still frustrating to get hit by rocks over and over again, when one was working.

*~ROAR~*

Jing Luo, who was about to hit the wall with his pickax again was shaken.

"What was that?" Jing Luo wondered as he focused on it.

Since he was deep in the caves, the sound became distorted and it was hard to tell what sound was it that he was exactly hearing. But once he focused on it, Jing Luo managed to recognize it.

"Huh? A roar? Wait, is it time already?" Jing Luo said in a surprised tone.

He realized that the roar belonged to none other than Little Shrubby. He also understood that Little Shrubby may have broken through due to the power contained within the roar.

'No wonder I felt like the concentration of spirit Qi here reduced again. That beast must have broken through to the Nascent Soul realm and caused this.' Jing Luo thought.

He stored away the pickax and the materials he had mined before rushing out of the mine. Jing Luo appeared in the cave residence before he flew up to the mountain top. He could already feel the difference of spirit Qi in the air and knew that he was right.

At the top of the peak, he saw Lin Mu and Little Shrubby. Lin Mu was sitting on the ground cross legged and looking at Little Shrubby while Little Shrubby was getting used to itself.

"Congratulation on the breakthrough!" Jing Luo said upon reaching the top.

*~growl~*

Little Shrubby looked at Jing Luo and growled.

"What did he say?" Jing Luo asked upon seeing the beast talk.

### **Chapter 592 - Start Of The Plan**

Lin Mu listened to Little Shrubby's words and chuckled.

"What did he say?" Jing Luo asked again upon seeing Lin Mu's strange reaction.

"He wants to even the score." Lin Mu replied.

"Even the score? What do you mean?" Jing Luo questioned, getting even more confused.

"He wants to fight you again for that punch before." Lin Mu answered.

Jing Luo was stunned by this response and didn't know what to think. But after a little consideration, he reckoned it should be fine. He had fought many Nascent Soul realm beasts while being weaker than them.

And here was Little Shrubby who had just broken through to the Nascent Soul realm while he was at the Child stage of the Nascent Soul realm. He didn't think he would have a problem with this.

"Alright, let's do this!" Jing Luo agreed.

*~Roar~*

Little Shrubby Roared in agreement and the three of them moved to a more suitable place.

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About two hours later, Jing Luo was sitting with a scowl on his face.

"Cheer up, it's not like you lost." Lin Mu spoke.

"That doesn't change the fact that I could not hit him either!" Jing Luo said in frustration.

"Hahahah!" Lin Mu couldn't help but laugh again.

About two hours ago, Jing Luo and Little Shrubby had fought, but were unable to come to any conclusion. The fight lasted for two hours during which Little Shrubby was unable to cause any major damage to Jing Luo while Jing Luo was unable to hit Little Shrubby.

Little Shrubby's speed had increased by another notch due to Lin Mu strengthening the Flash Fire Liger Bloodline and the Thunder Bolt Cheetah bloodline. This had allowed Little Shrubby to outrun and dodge all of Jing Luo's attacks.

No matter how much Jing Luo tried, none of the attacks hit Little Shrubby. He was simply too fast for them. Jing Luo even deliberated whether he should use some of his strongest attacks, but then realized that if he had reached that point and was still unable to hit little Shrubby it was better to end the fight.

Thus the fight ended in a draw with neither party coming out on top. Lin Mu was quite impressed by Little Shrubby though, and knew that this was not his full speed either. Since Little Shrubby was dodging, he was using the short bursts of speed to do that.

If he were to run in a straight line, he would be much faster than that. Plus, he had not used the Seven Beasts Burst either, as that would increase his overall capabilities by multiple times. Once that was used, who knows the battle may have flipped in odds again.

*~Sigh~*

Jing Luo shook his head and accepted the result in the end.

"What will you be doing now?" Lin Mu asked.

"I'll mine out all the materials, while you cultivate. I'll try to be as fast as possible so that we can escape the moment you are done." Jing Luo reiterated.

"That's good. You should be able to tell how long it would take if you sense the spirit Qi in the environment. The moment it gets impossible for you to absorb spirit Qi naturally, you should consider that the time is near." Lin Mu replied.

"I'll keep that in mind." Jing Luo stated.

The two men split apart and went to do their own tasks. Jing Luo went back to the mines, while Lin Mu went to the mountain peak. Little Shrubby, on the other hand, was going to hunt down all the beasts of the minor plane as they were technically resources as well.

Jing Luo had made a storeroom with a chilling formation. The beast corpses would be put there by little Shrubby so that they don't spoil and when it was time, Lin Mu would get all of them together.

Lin Mu looked around at the mountain peak and wondered what would be a good spot for sleeping. Since he would be using Well of Slumber, Lin Mu would have to sleep and hope that he would be able to control it better this time.

He eventually picked a large boulder and carved out a room in it. Calling it a room was a bit too much though as it was literally just a cavity that had been emptied out. Lin Mu then placed a bed in there and his favorite white bolster.

Lin Mu had gotten quite a few items for comfort in his ring, and they were quite useful at times like these. Having put set all of them, he laid down on the bed and tried to sleep. His mind tried to stimulate the Bloodline ability of the Great Slumber Bear as it started to fall deeper into sleep.

*~hummm~*

Within Lin Mu's Dantian, his Nascent Soul was calmly floating in the middle of his Dantian while bathing in the liquid spirit Qi. The spirit Qi nourished the infant and made it glow slightly. But a short while later, a humming sound could be heard as another illusory figure appeared in the Dantian.

This figure was that of the Great Slumber Bear. It reached the Nascent Soul and overlaid upon it. The infant was fully hidden within the illusory figure of the Great Slumber bear as the bloodline ability activated.

*~Rumble~*

The throbbing of Lin Mu's heart could be heard as the area went silent for a moment.

*~Shua~*

But then a few seconds later, spirit Qi started to swirl around the area. The amount of it increased little by little as it then entered the large boulder and from there Lin Mu's body sucked in all of the Spirit Qi.

The process of absorption was not as fast as when Lin Mu had broken through, but it was still slightly faster than his normal absorption speed. But while this was happening, Lin Mu had just appeared inside the Sleepscape.

He was standing in front of the Spirit apple tree and looked around.

"Did the size of this place increase again?"

### **Chapter 593 - Change In The Sleepscape?**

Lin Mu could definitely feel the difference in the Sleepscape. To confirm it, he spread his spirit sense completely and fully covered the Sleepscape.

"It really did expand... seems like my breakthrough should have done this." Lin Mu understood.

Lin Mu still did not have a full understanding of how the Sleepscape worked, despite having it for a couple of years now. There were new things to find out every so often, which ended up surprising him.

"I wonder how long it will take for me to complete absorbing all of the spirit Qi in this minor plane... though the increase in cultivation should be helpful." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He had already planned out a few things that he was going to do in the Sleepscape once he was there, and took them out. The first thing that he wanted to do was to sort through all the gains from the past few weeks.

Lin Mu and Jing Luo had mined out the entire spirit stone mine underneath the main mountain of this minor world and had even taken the Source Vein off it. In the spirit stones that Lin Mu himself had mined out, there were a lot of waste parts such as rocks and soil.

Jing Luo had mined everything using a pickaxe that was a spirit tool, and thus he had mostly taken out the spirit stones themselves. While Lin Mu had mostly used Meld to cut apart the large blocks directly from the walls of the caves.

It was a time constraint that they had, and this was the fastest way they could rush it with. And now that Lin Mu was in the Sleepscape while his body absorbed all the spirit Qi of the minor plane, he would be free to do all the extra things.

"Let's get this out of the way first." Lin Mu said before withdrawing all of the spirit stone chunks that he had obtained using meld.

*~THUD~*

*~thud~*

*~thud~*

The sound of large objects falling on the ground could be heard as one after the other, Lin Mu withdrew the spirit stone chunks while flying around the Sleepscape. Thankfully, the Sleepscape had increased in size again. Or there may not have been enough space for Lin Mu to take them all out once.

"Now that I look at them this way... we really did mine a lot of spirit stones..." Lin Mu stated upon seeing the literal hills of spirit stones piled up around him.

Around seventy percent of the Sleepscape had been occupied by the spirit stones now, though a large quantity of them was also filled with the rocks and such things. That was the very part that he needed to separate.

But just when he was about to do that, he suddenly felt something.

*~Rumble~*

"Huh? Why's the ground shaking?" Lin Mu immediately became alert.

*~shua~*

Beside Lin Mu, a Grey orb of light appeared. The light faded away, revealing Senior Xukong.

"Look there!" Xukong pointed.

Lin Mu followed his gaze and saw that he was pointing him to the place where the Source Vein of the Spirit stone mine was laying.

"Huh? It's sinking into the ground?" Lin Mu muttered, feeling shocked.

He quickly flew to the Source Vein to see what exactly was happening and Xukong accompanied him. In the two seconds it took him to reach the place, the Source Vein had already sunk into the ground and only a few inches of it were left on the surface.

Lin Mu gripped it on the top and tried to pull it out but could not. Despite his immense strength, the Source Vein was forcibly swallowed up by the ground.

"What the hell?! What are we supposed to do now?" Lin Mu couldn't help but curse.

But then another change occurred in the Sleepscape.

*~HUMM~*

The entire Sleepscape hummed with excitement as the wind started to blow.

"Wind? There was never wind here before... no, not just that... Spirit Qi?" Lin Mu muttered.

That's right. Lin Mu could now feel spirit Qi appearing in the air of the Sleepscape. He could tell that the spirit Qi was slowly increasing in concentration too.

"How is this happening? The source vein... did the Sleepscape absorb it to produce spirit Qi?" Lin Mu wondered.

"Seems like the Source Vein of a spirit stone mine was enough to trigger the Sleepscape to change again. This should be the new feature it gained by absorbing the source vein." Xukong spoke.

"But transplanting source veins is a very difficult task, didn't you say that before senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Indeed... But you must not forget that this is not the real world or any other plane for that reason. This is a Garden Of Karma. We already have the bare minimum information about it thus anything could be possible here.

It absorbing the Source Vein and producing spirit Qi is not out of the range of possibilities." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu thought over it and found it to be reasonable. The Garden of Karma was basically an enigma, and there were new things he got to learn every time he came here.

"I guess this will benefit me anyway." Lin Mu accepted it in the end.

~huu~

He took a deep breath and sucked the spirit Qi in, realizing that the concentration of spirit Qi in the Sleepscape was pretty much the same as that in the real world.

"Hmm, I should have expected that there would be some reduction after transplantation." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Still, he did not mind and was fine with the source vein being used like this. He still had plenty of spirit stones with him, and he needed to sort them out. Lin Mu spent about two days sorting out all the spirit stones and cleaning them.

He also got some more surprises with them, as there were a few treasured materials stuck with the spirit stones too. They must have gotten mixed in with the rocks and soil and thus came with the stones.

Lin Mu separated them out too and stored them back in the ring.

## **Chapter 594 - Hidden Improvements**

The next thing Lin Mu wanted to do was to finally complete the thousand armament blade Scripture.

He had reached about seventy five percent completion in it and had learned quite a lot of weapons. He reckoned now that he had this opportunity, he may as well do it. It would only help him a lot as it would be increasing his personal strength.

Plus, he had gotten the new weapons from the vaults of the Tri Cauldron peony sect so this would be a good opportunity to get used to them.

*~shing~*

Lin Mu took out a long scythe and observed it. This was one of the weapons he had gotten from the vaults and was suitable for the Thousand Armament Blade Scripture. The scythe's blade was a meter long while the pole itself was a bit over two meters long.

Its blade curved evenly for about three quarters of the way before it hooked down. The blade was a smooth silver in color while the pole of the scythe was covered in black leather and had runes imprinted on it.

This scythe was one of the high grade spirit weapons that Lin Mu had managed to get from the vault of the Sect patriarch. Since it was kept in the top vault, its value was bound to be the highest amount all of the other weapons.

"Hmm... I'll need to brand it." Lin Mu muttered as he released his spirit sense and branded the scythe with it.

With Lin Mu's cultivation at the Nascent Soul realm and his large stores of spirit Qi, it was easy for him to brand multiple high grade spirit weapons. He reckoned that even if he did ten of them, he would be fine in controlling them.

*~shua~*

*~shing~*

Lin Mu grasped the handle of the scythe and swung it with his full force. The power was enough to create an arc of energy that traveled for over ten meters before fading. One had to know, this was done with just his own physical strength and not spirit Qi.

But when Lin Mu looked at the glowing runes on the handle of the scythe, he was intrigued.

"This is a different spirit weapon... I didn't even use my spirit Qi." Lin Mu said.

"This scythe seems to be able to convert your physical attacks into energy." Xukong stated upon seeing the effect of the scythe.

Lin Mu used the scythe a few more times and realized that the more physical strength he used, the stronger the energy attack would be. This made him wonder what would happen if he used spirit Qi for the scythe instead.

*~hummm~*

Lin Mu started to pour spirit Qi into the handle as the runes started to light up again. But this time, different runes from before were activated. Lin Mu sensed the working of the scythe with his spirit sense and saw that the runes were channeling the spirit Qi through its internal channels and into the blade.

*~Weeng~*



A second later, the blade of the scythe started to vibrate at a high frequency. It looked to be trembling, and if Lin Mu observed his reflection on it, it looked blurry. It was quite unique for him to say the least.

'Time to test it out... but what would be suitable for this?' Lin Mu wondered.

After thinking for a moment, he took out a bunch of materials he had gathered. These included metals and ores as well as some armors. He reckoned these would be the best things to test the scythe with.

*~shua~*

Lin Mu swung the blade of the scythe at the first item, which was a rectangular ingot of metal.

*~DENG~*

*~DENG~*

Two sections of the ingot fell to the ground evenly as the scythe's blade passed through them like a hot knife through butter. He picked up the two pieces of the ingot and saw a mirror finish on the surface that had just been cut.

"Whoa! This is more powerful than I thought," Lin Mu exclaimed.

Feeling pleased with a new type of weapon that was now added to his arsenal, Lin Mu couldn't wait to start his practice.

"Let's get to it!" Lin Mu uttered before busying himself in practicing the Thousand Armament Blade scripture.

Lin Mu practiced for a week nonstop, testing the limits of his body. Yet even after all this, he realized that he could go on. Lin Mu had learned enough to know that any Nascent Soul realm cultivator at the Infant soul stage would have been exhausted if he did the same as he had.

This left him with only one reason.

'The effects of the Body cultivation are even more profound the more I explore...'  
Lin Mu thought to himself.

By now he had completed the Thousand Armament blade scripture by another five percent, leaving only twenty percent left. If he was able to keep up the same rate of progress, he would be able to complete it in one more month, but Lin Mu could already feel a bottleneck approaching.

He just hoped that it was a soft bottleneck and he would be able to overcome it quickly. If not, things would become difficult for him. In this time, Lin Mu was also keeping an eye on his body, or more specifically his Dantian.

He wanted to ensure that the Well of Slumber was working normally and there were no abnormalities. While Lin Mu found himself unable to wake himself up right now, he could tell that his control over the bloodline ability was increasing slightly.

"Though it should automatically stop once there was no more spirit Qi left in the environment." Lin Mu reckoned.

Lin Mu returned to his practice and took some breaks in between as well. In these breaks, he either learned more Dao Script from Senior Xukong or read the memoirs of the Lost Immortal. At first, he could still feel the passage of time, but after a month, it started to get blurry and Lin Mu himself entered a haze of cultivation.

### **Chapter 595 - The Neglected Egg**

About two months had passed since Lin Mu had appeared in the Sleepscape. His practice was going quite well and he had finally finished the entire Thousand Armament Blade scripture.

While he wouldn't say he was fully proficient in all of the weapons from the scripture, he could very well say that he was able to use them all. And was also proficient in about ten percent of them.

It could not be helped, as the total number of weapons in the Thousand Armament Blade scripture was over three hundred. Lin Mu being able to become proficient in even ten percent of them was quite a lot.

Lin Mu had also furthered his understanding of the Dao Script during his lessons with Senior Xukong and could read far more characters than before. He also read more from the memoirs of the Lost immortal and gained some wisdom from them.

Overall, it was a rather productive two months and Lin Mu's strength had become more refined than before.

"My cultivation base has also increased but quite a lot..." Lin Mu muttered.

"How far along are you?" Xukong who was calmly floating on the side, asked.

"I should be close to breaking through to the Child Stage of the Nascent Soul realm soon." Lin Mu replied.

"That's good, hopefully the spirit Qi in the Minor plane has also started to reduce by now." Xukong stated.

"I can't really tell that accurately right now. But if I correlate it with the increase in my cultivation base, I would say it is at the same rate as it was about a month ago." Lin Mu spoke.

"Yes, but that is in addition to the spirit Qi you were constantly using as well. If you were just absorbing spirit Qi during this time, I reckon you would have already broken through to the Child Soul Stage of the Nascent Soul realm." Xukong estimated.

"That's true, but doing that would have made my foundation unstable. At least this way I have a steady increase and my body gets used to it as well. Plus, I'm still improving my strength in other ways." Lin Mu said in an understanding tone.

Xukong nodded in appreciation. He was feeling content with how far along Lin Mu had come and how his understanding of cultivation had also increased. He did not doubt himself as much as before either, and had gained confidence.

But while thinking of all this, Xukong was suddenly reminded of a certain thing that had been lying near a certain glowing altar.

"Have you checked up on that egg yet?" Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Egg?" Lin Mu repeated before his eyes went wide.

"THE GREY EGG OF THE SNAKES!" Lin Mu remembered and hurriedly withdrew the egg from his ring.

The egg appeared in his hand and he looked at it closely, examining all of its sections, ensuring that it was fine. He then scanned it with his spirit sense and except for it being a bit too calm, there did not seem to be anything wrong with them.

*~pew~*

"It seems to be alive." Lin Mu said, feeling a bit relieved.

He felt like it would be a shame if the egg died just because he had forgotten about it and neglected it for the most part. Ever since he had gotten the egg, he had only taken it out twice, and that was when he was in the Minor plane with Little Shrubby and Jing Luo.

Lin Mu had even shown Jing Luo the egg and had questioned him what he thought about it, or if he could tell what kind of a beast would come out of it. Jing Luo simply answered he didn't know. He stated that his expertise in spirit beasts was quite less and that Lin Mu definitely knew a lot more than him.

The only beasts that Jing Luo knew well enough about were those that he used as ingredients for Weapon refinement and formations. As for the others, he did not really care for them as much.

Lin Mu could only sigh to himself at that time and let time reveal the identity of the spirit beast that was in this egg. The strange thing was that even if Lin Mu tried to scan it with his spirit sense, he could not tell much.

Observing the egg using spirit sense was like looking at something through a white sheet. The image was hardly visible and the details could not be made out. All that could be told was that there was something in the egg.

"I still can't see anything in the egg though." Lin Mu stated.

"Hmm... It is probably too early for you to see anything in it. The embryo should still be forming and thus the beast would only look like a mass of fluid right now." Xukong explained.

"Ah, I see. Though how long would this beast take to hatch?" Lin Mu questioned.

From what Lin Mu had read in the beast records, the eggs of the Black Water Snake took about two months to hatch, while the eggs of the Fire Fang Snake took a little over three months to hatch.

If he compared the time since he got the egg, it had been nearly four months. Even taking the hatching time of Fire Fang snake, which was the longest, the egg should have already hatched. But since he could not see an embryo in it, he didn't know what could be the problem.

"Seeing as the beast is a mix of two snakes and has also absorbed Beast Qi from the mother, it is hard to tell. The most likely thing is that it is also mutating and its bloodline has yet to adapt. Once the bloodline is stabilized, the embryo should start developing." Xukong explained.

"I see..." Lin Mu muttered.

He looked at the egg for a while more when he suddenly got an idea.

"Since the egg is still adapting the bloodline which is probably mutating... what will happen if I give it Beast Qi?" Lin Mu wondered.

### **Chapter 596 - Raising An Egg?**

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Xukong was also intrigued now.

"I actually can't tell. Beast Qi in itself is something that is hard to find and seldom exists in free form like you use. Most of the Beast Qi that the beasts obtain is by eating other beasts and is thus present in their bodies.

Since eggs can't eat, they can't really absorb beast Qi like it would be possible for other beasts who are viviparous." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu heard senior Xukong's words and wondered what would truly happen. It was indeed a strange situation and he doubted many people got to see something like this ever in their lives.

Even the sects and cultivators who specially raised beasts for taming did not use beast Qi on them. As it was simply not viable. Thus for Lin Mu or most of the people in the world, this was uncharted territory.

"Will it be safe to give the egg Beast Qi?" Lin Mu asked.

"Since the Egg successfully absorbed Beast Qi before it was laid, and it has still not started developing giving it Beast Qi should be relatively fine. It may even boost its growth rate. You won't know until you try it." Xukong advised.

Lin Mu thought over it and came to the conclusion that it was worth a try.

Putting the egg down on the grass, Lin Mu chanted the Nurturing heart sutra.

*~shua~*

The spirit Qi within his Dantian started to convert into Beast Qi and then flowed out to his hand. Lin Mu placed his hand on the egg and channeled the Beast Qi into the egg. Lin Mu had expected something to happen, but nothing really did.

"Hmm, did it not work?" Lin Mu wondered.

*~tremble~*

The egg suddenly trembled for a moment, which Lin Mu could feel. But just as he was about to observe it with his spirit sense, the egg calmed down. Now, except for feeling a bit warm, Lin Mu did not sense any difference in it.

"The aura coming from it is stable, so it is still alive. Looks like giving it Beast Qi did not harm it at the very least." Lin Mu stated.

"Giving it beast Qi regularly may have some unexpected effect that we will probably only know when the egg fully hatches. If you want to you can keep on supplying it with beast Qi.

Who knows when the beast hatches, you may have another helper with you." Xukong suggested.

Lin Mu thought over it and found his words to be correct. Little Shrubby who was his tamed beast and friend was a powerful companion had now part of his own strength. Lin Mu understood how much another beast could help him.

One of the most difficult parts of taming beasts was controlling them, which could be solved by taking care of them since birth. But then this brought a secondary problem which was providing them with resources.

One must know that a beast was still a cultivator in a way and needed resources to become powerful. Even a beast with a good bloodline would need some resources to help in its growth. The stronger the beast got, the more resources it would require and sometimes it would also get harder to control them.

That was the reason why a lot of cultivators who dabbled in beast taming, preferred to tame already grown beasts. But doing that brought them to the very first problem, which was actually getting to tame them.

Failed attempts at taming would end up agitating the beasts and they may even end up harming the cultivator. This was IF the beast was even docile, for most beasts though the first part was to get them conformable with you.

But in Lin Mu's case, he did not have either of these problems. The beast would be born from the egg and thus he would be raising it since it was a baby. As for the part about resource? Lin Mu had enough resources that he would make a lot of the sects jealous.

In addition to this, he had one of the best resources a beast could desire... Beast Qi. And he had it in an almost endless quantity too. As long as Lin Mu had spirit Qi he could keep on refining more Beast Qi.

Having thought of all this, Lin Mu finally decided that he would be taming this beast that was yet to be born. With this in mind, Lin Mu returned to his routine, which was now a bit modified.

Since Lin Mu was now finished with the Thousand Armament Blade Scripture and could not improve in it directly, he decided to switch to something else. There was a plethora of study material Lin Mu had obtained from the Tri Cauldron Peony sect that he could learn from.

One part of those materials was about Alchemy and Alchemical pills, and the second part that he obtained was about formations. While the Tri caldron's peony sect did not have anyone that was considered to be a genius in formations, they still had enough manuals and records to make someone who had talent in it a formation master.

Plus in addition to this, Lin Mu had also received a copy of the formations that Jing Luo knew. He had given this to Lin Mu beforehand since he knew that escaping from this Minor world was not a surety.

Jing Luo had learned and researched quite a few formations in the fifty years he had spent here and had progressed in them. He did not want all this knowledge to go to waste and thus had passed it to Lin Mu in the form of a jade slip.

He wanted him to give this to Jing Wei and Duan Ke, in case he did not make it. But even if they did succeed to get back to the real world, Jing Luo still wanted Lin Mu to keep all the knowledge for helping him.

Had it not been for Lin Mu, perhaps Jing Luo would have been trapped here forever.

### **Chapter 597 - Formations And Runes**

Time passed bit by bit, and Lin Mu had already been in the Sleepscape for about four months now. His progress with the formations had also increased during this time, and he was proficient in more of them.

The compilation of all the knowledge that Jing Luo had gathered had helped Lin Mu quite a lot in it along with the information he had gained from the Tri Cauldron peony sect. He was happy that he was finally getting to learn more.

Xukong also assisted him in this and gave him pointers where ever needed. He did not directly teach him though, as he wanted Lin Mu to learn by himself. Only by attempting it himself and making mistakes would he gain a better understanding of the formations.

Another thing that prevented Lin Mu from practicing formation was the lack of resources needed for it. But now he had plenty of them to use during practice. He spent this time in making a few formation flags, talismans, and formation plates that may help him later.

Still, he was not as proficient at making them as he was at directly modifying existing formations. The part where Lin Mu was particularly having trouble in making them was the actual inscription of the runes.

The runes needed to make formation could be inscribed in multiple different ways and there were many methods for it. The most common methods were to either using spirit sense to inscribe the runes and use treasured materials to make ink, which would then be used to write the runes.

The first method was used for things such as spirit weapons, spirit tools and formation plates and the runes would not be normally visible on them unless they were activated.

The second method of using ink was often used for making formation flags and talismans. On these, the runes were easily visible and one could tell what the function of the formation was simply by reading the runes written on it.

Of course, it was not this simple always and the more complex runes would make one confused in understating what the function of the formation was. This was the part where the common tongue and Dao Script greatly varied.

The written runes on talismans and formation flags were mostly written using the common tongue in this world and thus could even be read by commoners at times. But Lin Mu was not using that to make them. Rather, he was using Dao Script to write the runes.

This allowed him to write more complex formations with limited characters. Since the Characters of Dao Script could mean more than one thing and convey entire sentences in a single letter, making runes using them and expanding them into a formation was incredibly potent.

Plus, most people in this world could not read Dao Script and thus would become stumped at what the letters even were. In the higher worlds where Dao Script was used, not everyone knew all of the characters in the Dao Script.

Senior Xukong even told Lin Mu that there were more characters in Dao Script than there were stars in the night sky. Thus learning all of them was close to impossible and anyone who managed to do so may directly become a saint!

At least for the most things, only a limited amount of characters from Dao Script were needed. But if one were to expand in the field of formations and even the creation of different cultivation techniques and Qi skills, they would need a good understanding of Dao Script.

Along with learning formations, Lin Mu was also injecting beast Qi into the gray egg every day. While he still could not see any difference in its internals after two entire months, the aura of the egg was definitely getting stronger.

Even Xukong was stumped at this and wondered what kind of a bloodline did the egg manage to awaken. If it was needing such a large amount of beast Qi then he was afraid that it might turn out to be a beast that this world may not allow to exist.

Xukong did not mention this part to Lin Mu, as he did not want him to be worried about it. At least not when it was still unconfirmed. Regardless of that, the amount of beast Qi Lin Mu had injected into the gray egg was many times more than what he had given to Little Shrubby and the two snakes.

Had this amount been given to a common beast that was at the Body tempering realm, perhaps it had already increased its talent far enough to gain the potential to reach the Nascent Soul realm in the future.

*~hoo~*

Lin Mu let out a deep breath as he finished inscribing the last rune on a formation plate.

"Finally! It's done." Lin Mu exclaimed, but his joy was short lasting.

*~CRACK~*

The formation plate that he had just finished inscribing cracked, and all the runes on it collapsed.

*~Sigh~*

Lin Mu shook his head.

"Formations are truly difficult. I'm still having problems with formations that need a larger area to inscribe." Lin Mu said.

"You'll learn it, eventually. You were able to inscribe them on bigger surfaces before, you just need to learn how to make your runes smaller while also maintaining their shape." Xukong advised.

"I understand, senior..." Lin Mu replied and restarted his work.

Lin Mu was having the same problem that thousands of other formation masters had; reducing the size of the runes. Often times one needed to inscribe runes onto a smaller surface than was often used. This made the process difficult, as the formation master would be used to making runes of a specific size over the years.

Since runes were quite sensitive to irregularities, they could collapse if a mistake was made. They needed high precision to make or they would simply not work. Thus, when one had to reduce the size of them, the entire ordeal became multiple times difficult.

"Just have to keep on practicing..."

### **Chapter 598 - Ten Months**

Another month passed just like that, and Lin Mu finally felt a change in his body.

"It's time for the breakthrough..." Lin Mu muttered.

"Is the spirit Qi already at peak for you?" Xukong asked.

"Yes, my Nascent Soul is already ready for it." Lin Mu replied and sat down.

He closed his eyes and chanted the severing heart sutra before using his spirit sense to observe his Dantian.

In there, the spirit Qi was like a turbulent sea as it kept on swirling around the Nascent soul. More spirit Qi kept on pouring in from the walls of the Dantian while the Nascent Soul absorbed a majority from the Dantian.

A strange cycle was created like this, which balanced the input and consumption of spirit Qi in Lin Mu's Dantian.

'Despite using Spirit Qi all the time during these past five months, he still managed to reach the breakthrough. This pace is quite good and if he is able to keep it up, it will push him to the next stage soon as well.' Xukong thorough to himself.

The Infant like Nascent Soul in Lin Mu's Dantian kept on absorbing the spirit Qi till it started to finally grow. His arms grew thicker and his legs longer. His back grew taller and his head grew bigger too.

Soon the Nascent Soul changed from looking like an Infant to a Child that looked to be about five years old. This meant that Lin Mu had successfully broken through to the Child Stage of the Nascent Soul realm.

If one looked at the child soul in Lin Mu's Dantian, one would find a lot more similarities between it and Lin Mu. When it was still an infant, it was hard to tell that but now the similarities would only increase till they looked the same.

~huu~

Lin Mu let out a breath as he stabilized his spirit Qi. It didn't really take him much effort to break through this time as it was the Well Of Slumber doing the work. But Lin Mu knew this could not be done always.

For bigger breakthroughs like those into major realms, Lin Mu would need to be fully awake and in control. Those breakthroughs brought about qualitative changes and without having proper control, Lin Mu would most likely die.



One could only imagine what would happen if Lin Mu was asleep when the heavenly tribulation arrived. While the Mortal strengthening scripture might be able to protect him for a while, if he was not in full control, there were still many problems that could appear.

At least for now, Lin Mu did not need to worry about it.

"How's the difference in spirit Qi of the minor plane now?" Xukong questioned.

This was the main reason why they were doing this and needed for the minor plane's spirit Qi to fully deplete. Only once that was done would they be able to leave this world by letting it fully collapse.

"Hmm, the concentration had fallen by about thirty percent I suppose." Lin Mu spoke.

"Thirty percent... it should only speed up from now. The higher the cultivation base gets the faster the depletion rate will get." Xukong replied.

"How long do you think it will take, senior? From what I can estimate it seems like five more months." Lin Mu spoke.

"Yes, that should be the right time." Xukong agreed.

Lin Mu nodded his head and looked around at all the mess in the Sleepscape. There were materials for formations lying around everywhere, along with broken or incomplete formations. There were even a few formations that Lin Mu had laid on the ground.

Because of the Source Vein of spirit stone mine which was now part of the Sleepscape, it was continually producing its own spirit Qi. While this amount was less than that of the real world, it was still enough for him to practice making some formations.

These were the formations that could operate continually without needing any additional spirit stones as they would absorb spirit Qi from the environment. Had it not been for the change in the Sleepscape, Lin Mu would have been unable to practice these.

Currently about a quarter of the Sleepscape was filled with these formations and materials, making it look like a scrapyard. The poor Spirit apple tree was stuck in the middle while being surrounded by a couple of 'hills' of broken or defective formation flags.

Such was the life Lin Mu had adapted for now, and he was content with it. Though he knew this was temporary and that he would need to leave it as soon as the next step of the plan started. He continued this routine while improving his proficiency in formations and injecting the Grey egg with beast Qi for more time.

And just as Lin Mu had estimated, five more months passed before the concentration of spirit Qi in the air fell by a great amount. Right now it was barely five percent of what it was originally and it was still decreasing.

But it was just one part of it, as Lin Mu was now close to another breakthrough!

Lin Mu was sitting cross legged while letting the spirit Qi flow into his body freely. He didn't even need to use severing heart sutra this time to peer into his Dantian and could do it freely due to the continued practice in this time.

Making formations needed a lot of spirit sense use. This led to him becoming better and better at controlling it. And now, he could use it much more easily and did not need the assistance of the severing heart sutra.

Lin Mu watched on as his Nascent Soul started to grow once more. This time the growth was much slower than before. Its limbs started to grow and its torso became bigger. About an hour passed before Lin Mu's Nascent Soul was finally done growing.

And with this Lin Mu had broken through once again and had reached the Adolescence Soul Stage of the Nascent Soul realm. If one looked at Lin Mu's Nascent Soul now, one would find that it looked the same as him when he was fifteen years old.

### **Chapter 599 - Fall In Spirit Qi**

Lin Mu's breakthrough had brought profound changes to the Minor plane that he was currently unaware of.

In the mountain residence of Jing Luo, the man was working on several sets of spirit weapons. Sweat was visible on his forehead as he etched the formations on the spirit weapons.

But just as he was about to put the last rune on the spirit weapon, a tremor shook the entire place.

*~Boom~*

"DAMMIT! What the hell is it this time?" Jing Luo cursed.

The past few weeks have been getting tiring for him since the amount of spirit Qi was getting lesser and lesser with time. Jing Luo knew that this meant their plan was working, but he still couldn't help but feel uncomfortable.

He was also doing some extra preparation on his own by making several items that they may need later. That was why he was slogging off right now. But now the tremor had basically wasted a couple of hours of his work in less than a second.

He stepped out of the residence and flew up to get a measure of the area.

"Huh? It's everywhere?" Jing Luo said upon seeing the entire plane trembling.

He was unaware that Lin Mu had another breakthrough and was simply estimating the progress by checking the concentration of the spirit Qi in the air. He looked up at the sky and saw the spirit Qi swirling in the air.

All of the spirit Qi in the minor plane was heading towards the top of the mountain right now. When Lin Mu broke through to the Child Soul Stage of the Nascent Soul realm, this kind of reaction was not present as the concentration of spirit Qi was still quite high.

But now that it had fallen to about five percent of the original, a spirit Qi infusion caused by a breakthrough caused the spirit Qi of the entire minor plane to rush towards Lin Mu. This was a warning in a way and showed that the minor plane was about to run out of spirit Qi soon.

"No way could it be?" Jing Luo muttered in disbelief.

He finally guessed that this must have been caused due to a breakthrough and all the spirit Qi was now rushing towards Lin Mu, who was at the top of the mountain. Jing Luo had never gone where Lin Mu was since the start, as he had been asked by Lin Mu to not be disturbed.

He did actually know that Lin Mu was simply going to sleep there and instead thought that he would be in seclusion while actively cultivating. Jing Luo knew that it was best for one to be undisturbed during secluded cultivation and easily accepted Lin Mu's request.

*~shua~*

But then another change happened, which shocked Jing Luo.

"The spirit Qi is decreasing at a rapid pace! If this keeps up the minor plane will run out of spirit Qi in a short while." Jing Luo said, feeling both anxious and excited at the same time.

He was anxious as he did not know if the plan would truly work or not and he was excited as this would be his chance at leaving this place where he had been trapped for over fifty years now.

'Grandfather, Duan Ke... I'll meet you soon now.' Jing Luo thought to himself.

*~Roar~*

A thunderous roar was heard coming from the forest, and Jing Luo snapped back to look at it. One could see a reddish blur moving at a great speed. But that was not all as there were six more blurs following it which were in different colors.

The blur approached the area where Jing Luo was and then flew up to come to stand beside him. Once the blur came to a stop, one could see that it was none other than Little Shrubby. He had changed in the past ten months as well.

His size was at least thirty percent bigger than before, and his fur now had additional patterns on them. Small flaming sparks appeared on his fur from time to time as his body exuded a powerful beastly aura.

If one looked at his back though, they would see five more beasts there. But the difference was that these beasts were not alive and were just corpses. Some of them were crushed to death, while some were burned.

The one thing in common was that each of these beasts was being held up by metallic hands. One of these hands was the prosthetic spirit tool that Lin Mu had gotten Little Shrubby a long time ago, while the others had slightly different designs from that.

But one could tell that the newer hands were of a better quality than the one Lin Mu had bought for Little Shrubby.

"You're here too? Did you sense something with your master?" Jing Luo questioned.

Over the months he had spent quite some time with Little Shrubby and had gotten to observe the beast. He understood that the beast was almost the same as a human and had even better intelligence than most.

In addition to that, the beast was incredibly fast and strong such that even he could not defeat it, despite the multiple attempts in the past ten months.

*~Grrr~*

Little Shrubby growled in a low voice and nodded his head.

"So it really is him... looks like our time to leave this place will be near. We best get ready." Jing Luo said as he looked at the five beasts Little Shrubby was carrying with the prosthetic hands.

"Are these the last of the beasts?" Jing Luo questioned.

Little Shrubby nodded his head once again in reply.

"Perfect, just in time. Put them in the cold room for now. I've already finished processing the remaining corpses that you brought." Jing Luo said.

*~Grrr~*

Little Shrubby growled in a low voice, before flying away to the mountain residence to do the task he had been given by his master. He had faithfully completed them, and his master was also about to wake up soon.

### **Chapter 600 - The Collapse Begins**

The Spirit Qi soon turned into a storm as it rushed at the mountain peak. It influenced the weather of the minor plane and soon dark clouds started to form and strong winds started to blow.

*~Rumble~*

A few minutes later, the sky was hidden in the dark clouds and the sound of thunder could be heard. Flashes of lightning could also be seen from time to time as it arced across the clouds.

At the mountain peak, spirit Qi kept on pouring into the boulder where Lin Mu was sleeping. If one looked at the boulder now, one would see that multiple small holes had been created all over it.

These were all created due to the continued movement of spirit Qi through the boulder. Even though Lin Mu had made a large entrance in the boulder, it had still ended up like this due to the enormous amount of spirit Qi that was rushing in all the time.

The spirit Qi entered Lin Mu's body through his nose as he breathed it in and also through his pores. His robes had long since become tattered due to the same effect as that on the boulder.

The robes Lin Mu wore were just normal clothes and were not made from any spirit materials nor were they spirit clothes. Since the robes of the Ripple Mist disciple that Lin Mu was wearing before were destroyed in the battle with Jing Luo early on, Lin Mu had switched to the other set of robes he had in the ring.

The more spirit Qi that poured into Lin Mu's body, the stronger his aura became. The process lasted for about thirty minutes during which the concentration of spirit Qi in the environment kept on falling until it reached a devastatingly low level.

The moment this happened, the spirit Qi infusion stopped and Lin Mu's eyes opened.

*~SHUA~*

Massive waves of spirit Qi were released from his body as the entire boulder that he was in trembled.

*~Crumble~*

The boulder was unable to maintain its structural integrity anymore and finally broken apart under the effect of the spirit Qi waves. But the fragments of the boulder did not fall upon Lin Mu, rather they were all sent flying out due to the continually emitting spirit Qi.

Lin Mu rose up from the bed as he stretched his slightly stiff neck. In reality, his body was in top notch condition and would not become stiff or sore like that. This was just a psychological compulsion that Lin Mu still had.

But as he stood up from the bed, his robes fell apart.

*~Sigh~*

"Another pair of good robes gone..." Lin Mu muttered before taking out another set of robes and wearing them.

He then stored the Soft white bolster and the bed in his ring before looking around and the destroyed boulder.

"Looks like this place changed a lot in this time... why did this boulder break apart like this, though?" Lin Mu wondered, but then pushed it to the back of his mind when he heard the sound of something moving fast.

*~WHOOSH~*

Strong winds blew as a red blur appeared in front of Lin Mu.

"Little Shrubby!" Lin Mu called out with joy.

*~purr~*

Little Shrubby immediately switched to his gentle mode as he nuzzled Lin Mu as he got some head rubs and head pats.

"You woke up." Little Shrubby said.

"Yes. Seems like we can leave soon now." Lin Mu replied as he looked up at the sky.

His eyes narrowed and his perception extended beyond the dark clouds that covered the sky. He could see the spatial fluctuations that were arising there.

"The border of the minor place is close to its limit." Lin Mu spoke.

"You should gather the things that are still left here quick. This world will collapse any moment now." Xukong urged.

"Right," Lin Mu replied before flying down the mountain with Little Shrubby following behind him.

The two of them soon saw a man floating right near the entrance of the residence.

"You really did breakthrough to the Child stage of the Nascent Soul realm... no wait, the Adolescent Stage!?" Jing Luo said, finding it hard to believe.

"Yes, I did." Lin Mu responded as he took a look at Jing Luo.

"And it seems like it's not just me who did, you are in the Adolescent stage of the Nascent Soul realm now too." Lin Mu stated.

"Ahaha, yeah. I broke through six months ago by luck." Jing Luo replied.

Lin Mu nodded in acknowledgment and spread his spirit sense around.

"Is everything ready now? We'll need to leave at any moment." Lin Mu asked.

"Of course! The moment I felt the spirit Qi falling, I gathered everything in one place. Now you just need to store them. Little Shrubby also fished hunting down all of the beasts of the forest and I'm done with all materials too." Jing Luo answered.

"Perfect." Lin Mu shortly said before rushing into the residence.

There he saw that it had changed its look now. There were no more tables and things strewn about and instead a large pile of items was lying in the center. The items ranged from metal ingots, ores, crystals, gems, rocks, formation plates, weapons, armors, spirit tools, beast meat, and beast materials.

Lin Mu nodded his head and quickly stored everything in the ring. And just as he did, he felt the residence quake.

*~Rumble~*

"It's happening again," Jing Luo spoke.

"Hmm, the minor plane is already collapsing from the bottom. We should see it in the sky soon as well." Lin Mu informed.

He had already learned from senior Xukong about what would most likely happen to the Minor plane. If the minor plane started to quake first, then it meant that it was collapsing from the ground.

Lin Mu would need to wait till the sky started to tear apart before being able to leave. That was the point when the borders of the minor plane were weak enough to escape it. Plus, this also meant that the minor plane was getting closer to the Sacred Grounds of the Ripple mist sect.