

Walker 741

[Chapter 741 - Increased Might!](#)

Hearing King Hong's words, Lin Mu was pleased.

"Very well, we should take our leave now though..." Lin Mu said as he looked around the bare mountain.

The formation arrays that Jing Luo had made earlier had been broken and only a few of them had managed to survive until now. But even those that survived did not seem like they would last long.

"I never expected the tribulation to reach this level," Hua San commented.

"Indeed. It was no normal tribulation, of course. That was the Aqua Wisp Tribulation lightning." Lin Mu replied.

"I don't think I've heard of it before.." Hua Wu said before taking a look at King Hong. "But what's happened to you King Hong... you're different."

King Hong took a look at his hands and chuckled.

"Even I don't know exactly. All I know is when I was just about to die, something deep within me awakened and pushed through, saving me and transforming my body." King Hong said.

"Oh? You don't know the name of your physique?" Lin Mu asked.

"This is a physique?!" Adviser Liu was stunned.

"Yes... this is also the reason why your clan was 'cursed' this is not a physique that should appear in a world of this level. But now that it has, and you have survived, I do not know what changes will happen." Lin Mu spoke.

"Not of this word... huh..." King Hong muttered.

"Do you know what its name is?" King Hong asked next.

"It is called as the Dauntless Ember Physique. As for the abilities, I believe you should know them far better than me." Lin Mu replied.

King Hong looked at his hand and clenched his fist. A red flow appeared on it as the red lines glowed like flowing magma. The spirit Qi fluctuations coming from his body also became apparent, giving them another shock.

"The Child Soul Stage Of the Nascent soul realm?!" Adviser Liu was stunned.

King Hong was confused and looked within his Dantian only to be greeted by what looked like a child version of himself. His Nascent soul looked like him when he was ten years old and had red glowing lines on his body as well.

One could tell that the Nascent soul was a unique nascent soul due to the virtue of his physique as well.

"Looks like I managed to break through all the way to the Child Soul stage..." King Hong said.

"That is expected with your physique. It won't be long before you gain full control of it and your cultivator base will soar. From what I know, the previous owner of the physique was a great emperor who conquered an entire world.

But you have an advantage over him such that you can still have heirs unlike him, who was cursed." Lin Mu explained, shocking them completely.

King Hong was also stunned, wondering how his clan ended up with a physique like this.

"You mean to say... my children will also have this physique?" King Hong asked.

"Well, your first born will. As for the rest, now that you have awakened your physique, I can't tell what changes they will have. But one thing is for sure, the talent of your children will be far higher than most cultivators in this world." Lin Mu replied.

"I see..." King Hong replied.

"Ahahaha!" Adviser Liu suddenly started laughing.

"King Hong can finally get married! Hundreds of women are dying to join you!" Adviser Liu said out loud.

"Uncle that..." King Hong was a bit embarrassed.

"Now you have no excuse to deny their offers. You shall have hundreds of children!" Adviser Liu declared as if there was no other option.

Lin Mu simply chuckled on the side, and so did Hua San and Hua Wu.

"Well, that can come later, for now, we have more important things to get to." King Hong spoke trying to divert the topic.

"Of course," Adviser Liu said with a smirk.

King Hong knew that his uncle would not waver and that he would have to deal with an extra headache in a few months.

"Hmm... now that King Hong has successfully broken though, all he needs to do is to focus on cultivating. In the meantime, I'll wait till Little Shrubby finds the location of the Wandering sinkhole.

We have saved you, but we still need to save the supreme elder of the Noon Grass sect." Lin Mu stated.

"Indeed. If you need anything senior, just ask." King Hong replied.

Lin Mu nodded and all of them then left the mountain, which was now bare of all trees. It looked rather strange as there were no ashes left behind by the trees, either. Lin Mu wondered about it, as he found it to be rather different.

The area of about five kilometers around the mountain had turned empty as all of the Hong Lin trees had been burned away. Only the grass and other plants that were not Hong Lin trees were present there.

If they were not there, the area would certainly look a lot more eerie. Soon, the four of them reached the capital city, where everyone was talking about the appearance of the red light pillar.

"Hmm... we'll need to do an official announcement later." King Hong spoke.

"Or, rather than that, we can just keep it a secret." Lin Mu spoke.

"Oh?" King Hong was intrigued.

"I think it is better for us that your breakthrough and physique are kept a secret for now. If it gets out, it will definitely cause a commotion which may bring Gu Yao's interest. Though you do have an advantage against him now... he can't control you with the human controlling blood curse." Lin Mu replied.

"He can't!?" King Hong was surprised.

"Yes. Those that have bloodlines and physique can be affected by the curse, but only up to a certain extent. Even if they are, they can still break out of it. But with your physique, I don't think the curse will even work at all." Lin Mu stated.

[Chapter 742 - Appearance Of The Wandering Sinkhole](#)

Having gotten the confirmation from Lin Mu, King Hong certainly felt better than before. He just hoped that it would never come to the point where Gu Yao would act before them and they would be left as sitting ducks.

"That's good then. We have one less thing to worry about." Adviser Liu said in a relieved tone.

"We can't get complacent though. If Gu Yao finds something he's unable to control something, he would rather have it eliminated permanently. You will have to watch out for that.

Though for now, the best would be to stay hidden and get stronger. Those that have already taken the oath will keep the secret, thus King Hong can still run his kingdom while here.

The only thing you mustn't do is appearing in front of the public.. Your appearance... well, it's more than enough to catch a lot of attention. Plus, your vitality... you need to learn how to control it." Lin Mu stated.

"My vitality?" King Hong questioned and looked at himself.

"Indeed, King Hong... your vitality is quite oppressive." Hua San spoke.

King Hong closed his eyes and focused on his body. After about a minute, the pressure exuded by him reduced considerably.

~pew~

"That was slightly more difficult than I had expected." King Hong muttered.

"That's good. You'll get a better hold over it soon enough." Lin Mu spoke.

"Thank you for your help again Senior Lin Mu." King Hong said with gratitude.

"It's fine. We just need to focus on the upcoming events now." Lin Mu said before discussing some matters with everyone.

An hour later, the other members of the court appeared too and they were shocked to see King Hong to say the least. A cacophony of cheers was heard once they learned the fact that King Hong was a Nascent soul realm cultivator and even had a unique physique.

Every cultivator had heard of bloodlines and physiques and thus it was quite intriguing for them that their King had one as well. While they didn't speak of the details of his bloodline, King Hong did tell them that it was something that needed to be kept secret.

Everyone agreed instantly and even gave suggestions by which they could keep the public suspicion and external suspicion to the lowest. Quickly, solutions were given to hide the red pillar of light that had appeared when King Hong forcefully dissipated the heavenly tribulation clouds.

It was then decided that they would attribute it to the appearance of a natural treasure. The treasure was powerful enough that it wiped out the trees in a radius of five kilometers and thus that's why the area is barren now.

While it was bound to bring some attention to the kingdom from the sects, it was still far better than letting them think that someone broke through to the Nascent soul realm there.

To further solidify the claims, they would even send out searching squads to look for the said 'natural treasure' and allow other cultivators to come and search for them if they wanted to do so.

The suggestion got approval and was quickly approved. It was announced the very next hour, much to the excitement of the commoners. Even if they weren't cultivators, this was an exciting thing in their normal and mundane lives.

Cultivators on the other hand, were excited and wanted to go search for the natural treasure which was allowed by the kingdom. In fact, they even decided to announce a reward for whoever finds the natural treasure and an appropriate compensation if they so choose to sell it to the kingdom.

There was of course, no actual natural treasure, but this served to further solidify their claims. In the coming weeks, this proved to be useful, as the news had spread rather quickly to the nearby areas and then into the other kingdoms.

Two weeks after the breakthrough of King Hong, multiple cultivators from different sects arrived. Most of them were from unranked or low tier sects, with a couple from mid tier sects.

It was also during this week that Lin Mu finally revived the news that he had been waiting for.

"Master, I found it! I found the wandering sinkhole!" Little Shrubby sent out a message through their link.

Lin Mu who was deep in cultivation, woke up immediately as his aura spiked for a few seconds. He quickly controlled it and responded, "where?".

While Lin Mu could sense the approximate direction of Little Shrubby, it was still hard to pin point the exact location. Lin Mu could of course, fly in that vague direction till the link got stronger and he could find the exact position, but with the characteristics of the wandering sinkhole, there was a specific time period that they needed to keep up with.

"Two hundred kilometers to the south from where we met the weird herb." Little Shrubby answered.

"I'm coming!" Lin Mu said before flying out from the courtyard.

A gust of wind ran through the city as Lin Mu left at a very high speed. A lot of commoners complained about the strange winds that came from time to time, unaware that it was actually caused by a cultivator.

As for the cultivators, they could not see Lin Mu either as he would end up using blink in addition to flying. Plus, his speed was simply too fast for them to observe easily, anyway. While on the way there, Lin Mu informed King Hong and the rest that he was leaving and that the wandering sinkhole had appeared.

They had already been informed how he would be acting upon the appearance of the wanderer sinkhole due to the time limitation and were fine with him leaving without telling them before this.

Lin Mu also contacted Jing Luo, who was now on the western border setting up the formation array there.

"Little Shrubby found the Wandering sinkhole." Lin Mu informed.

"Excellent! Keep an eye out for some other useful resources and be careful about the dangers. I hope you can come back as soon as possible." Jing Luo replied.

[Chapter 743 - New Phenomena, Into The Sinkhole!](#)

Lin Mu continued flying towards the direction Little Shrubby had pointed out at full speed. He used blink in addition to flying and covered large tracts of the area at once. Little Shrubby was also heading towards him so that he could meet him mid way.

This way, they would be able to reach the wandering sinkhole quicker. In about twenty minutes, Lin Mu saw Little Shrubby appearing from the distance. He was running at his maximum speed and started to break when he saw Lin Mu.

~crack~crack~crack~

~thud~thud~thud~

.

Unfortunately, his breaking was still not enough and several trees had to sacrifice themselves in order to reduce his momentum. Little Shrubby having gotten used to it already, quickly turned around and the harness appeared on his back.

"Let's go!" Little Shrubby said with excitement.

He had not seen Lin Mu for a while now and was feeling pleased seeing his master again and spend time with him.

"Mmhhh, run at full speed!" Lin Mu said as he strapped into the harness.

~shua~

Little Shrubby's paws dug into the ground and he shot forward like a cannonball.?

~whoosh~

The nearby trees were forcibly bent and broken due to the wind generated by Little Shrubby running, and a path was carved out. They kept on running for about five minutes, after which they reached the location of the wandering sinkhole.

Seeing the sinkhole, Lin Mu couldn't help but take in a breath of air.

"Damn... it's far bigger than I expedited." Lin Mu muttered.

The sinkhole was over ten kilometers wide and had an uneven edge. The strange thing was that around its edges, some trees had disappeared half way. It was like they were sliced clean in different ratios, but even then, they seemed to be still alive.

"Use your spatial perception, I think you may have just come across one of the rarer phenomena." Xukong's voice was heard.

"Oh?" Lin Mu responded before using spatial perception.

The moment he did this, the scene in front of him changed vastly. Instead of the forest and the open sinkhole, Lin Mu saw two different layers of spatial fabric overlapping. It was as if someone had cut out a hole in one sheet and then placed it over the other one.

Lin Mu also saw that the hole was not stationary and was actually moving around very subtly. Its boundaries also seemed to stutter every so often, making him think that the current situation was not very stable.

"Hmm... just as I thought, this is an example of plane overlapping," Xukong spoke.

"Plane overlapping? What's that senior? Is it like the mountains I saw when I was in the ripple mist sect?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, that was different. Back then, you were seeing a tethered fragment of a minor plane. This time... this is a complete minor plane and is actively linked to this world. The only difference is the kind of 'anchor' it has.

The fragment of the minor plane in the ripple mist sect could be described as floating in a 'sea' and in that sea this world was also floating. But in the case of this sinkhole, the 'sea' is the Xiaofan world and the wandering sinkhole is a floating boat on it.

The anchor is affixed to this forest and it can move about in the area just as how an anchored boat can move around due to the waves." Xukong explained.

Lin Mu pondered over the explanation and understood it rather quickly.

"I get it now, senior. So what are the differences that I need to watch out for?" Lin Mu questioned.

While he had already gotten enough information from the former adviser Chu, what Lin Mu wanted information on was the spatial characteristics of this world.

"Well, I would say that you are in good luck. With your skills, leaving this minor plane will be easy, so you don't need to worry about that aspect. Though reentry would not be possible unless you find the location of this place again." Xukong answered.

Seeing this, Lin Mu's eyes lit up, and he felt excited. He looked into the sinkhole and saw that it was pitch black.

"Just as Adviser Chu described. It looks dark, but once you go deep enough, the appearance would change." Lin Mu muttered.

~HONG~?

Just as he was observing, a faint spatial fluctuation spread around the area.

"No time to wait, let's head inside." Lin Mu said.

"Okay!" Little Shrubby responded, and they jumped into the wandering sinkhole.

To any normal human or even many cultivators, jumping into such a hole would be really terrifying. They couldn't see inside, and neither did they know just how deep it was. They couldn't even tell if they would survive or not.

But for Lin Mu, it was not a problem since both he and Little Shrubby could just fly. The two of them descended at a relatively stable pace while observing the changes around them.

They kept this up for about two minutes, during which everything was the same. Lin Mu could see the normally blue sky above him that kept on getting small. It was as if the boundaries of the sinkhole were closing upon him.

But at a certain point, Lin Mu felt a change in gravity and they started to fall uncontrollably.

"Huh? WHAT THE HELL!?" Lin Mu and Little Shrubby both were surprised by this phenomenon.

"Senior, what is happening?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It's normal. You are transitioning between two planes and this is just the vacuum effect. You've seen this before." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu was reminded of the many black cracks he had opened up before and nodded his head.

The two of them kept on falling at a great speed and soon the sky above them had turned completely dark.

It was like the shutter of a camera closing in a circular manner. It reached the point of complete darkness and then opened back up as a new blue sky appeared above him.

[Chapter 744 - A Vast Plane](#)

Lin Mu could see the sky changing and the area changing as well. The sky turned blue but without a sun in it. There were a few clouds dispersed around the sky, but they were relatively small.

Below him, he could see different kinds of areas. There were swamps, marshes, forests, lakes, rivers, dry lands, mountains, hills and even a volcano. Over all, the area was quite varied and was far larger than the fragment of the minor plane that Lin Mu had been to before.

The ground was expanding at a rapid pace as Lin Mu got closer and closer to it. Lin Mu could already match several of the areas with the map that the former Adviser Chu had given him, but there were also some differences that could be seen in it.

~shua~

At one point, the force that Lin Mu and Little Shrubby were feeling faded away, and they could fly on their own again.

~pew~

"Finally... even though I wouldn't necessarily get hurt by falling, I still don't want to feel that..." Lin Mu muttered.

~Growl~?

Little Shrubby growled in response and reduced their speed of falling. They slowly landed on the ground and Lin Mu spread his spirit sense around the area as far as possible. Everything that was within it came under his observation, and he noted some interesting parts.

The area that Lin Mu had landed in was between a few hills and a forest. There were several small ponds nearby as well, and some flowers grew within them. These flowers exuded a peculiar fragrance that was quite nice but at the same time made one feel a bit dizzy.

"What is that?" Lin Mu wondered as he got closer.

Little Shrubby followed behind him, and the two of them soon reached the ponds. Looking at the ponds, one would realize that they looked like they were made from craters. There were several of them, and the boundaries definitely looked like they were created due to something falling.

"Hmm... this is rather strange..." Lin Mu said and looked around.

There were no spirit beasts here other than a few insect beasts, but they weren't really strong. Lin Mu approached one of the flowers that were a bit closer to him and took a closer look at it.

The flower was white but had yellow streaks at the base of its twenty petals. At the base of its petals, leaves spread around like flat spoons and long stems could be seen going into the water.

The water itself was clear, but its color was a deep blue. Lin Mu could not recognize the flower and wondered what it was. He checked the records he had and found them after a while.

"Adviser Chu mentioned that he saw some flowers like these but never approached them because there were strong beasts nearby. But now that I'm seeing this, the area is completely empty?" Lin Mu said.

The flower had no name and was only mentioned in the records that Adviser Chu himself had made.

"Do you know what this is, senior Xukong?" Lin Mu asked.

"I don't know either. It could be something that has specifically been born in this minor plane itself and is unique to it." Xukong replied.

"Is that something that often happens in minor planes?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes. Minor planes are complete and stable habitats that can give birth to a myriad of forms of life. That is also why they are considered to be so valuable to cultivators regardless of their professions.

Each minor plane could have resources that are unique to it and couldn't be found anywhere itself. Many alchemists spend decades and centuries of their lives researching and learning about the spirit herbs and plants that are found in the minor planes.

That's why whenever a minor plane is discovered, the value of exploring it is considered to be very high." Xukong explained.

"I see... I guess I'll take a few flowers just in case." Lin Mu said before plucking the said flowers.

There were easily hundreds of flowers in the multiple ponds and they gently swayed with the wind in water. But just as Lin Mu was done plucking the flowers, his gaze went to the depths of the water.

He narrowed his eyes and extended his spirit sense into it. It kept on going deeper and deeper, until it reached a depth of over a hundred meters.

"This pond is far deeper than it looks." Lin Mu said.

He peered into it and felt like he saw something glow beneath it all.

"What was that?" Lin Mu questioned.

He looked toward Little Shrubby and spoke, "did you see that too?"

Little Shrubby was hovering over the water, ensuring that his feet did not touch the water.

"Yup, looked like a spark." Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu thought for a bit before saying, "should I take a look?"

"You're going into the water?" Little Shrubby asked with reluctance.

"If I want to get it then yes, I have to go into the water." Lin Mu replied.

"I'm not touching water." He stated right away.

"*Ahah*~ okay, I'll go alone." Lin Mu said, not minding it.

He had already checked the area with his spirit sense, and there wasn't really anything dangerous within the pond or around it. Lin Mu stimulated the Mortal Strengthening scripture and let the armor appear on his body.

He then descended into the water with the armor protecting his body. Not only did it keep him dry, but it would also protect him from anything that may have been mixed into the water.

Even if he had checked it all, he didn't know if there was something unknown that his spirit sense could not detect in the water. It was better for him to be cautious and this was a fact that he had internalized a long time ago.

Lin Mu continued his descent and found that the water only got colder and colder the deeper he went.

"This is strange... I shouldn't feel cold due to the armor."

[Chapter 745 - Glacial Snail Shell And A Roar](#)

Lin Mu was rather surprised due to this discovery and wondered if there was really something problematic about the water.

~shua~

Suddenly he saw the glow again, and this time he could somewhat see the appearance of the object. It looked like a snail shell and was gently glowing in a blue light. From the surface of the water, it looked like a spark, but here he could see it better.

"A snail? But I didn't detect any life here." Lin Mu said.

He finally reached the bottom of the pond and went closer to the shell. It had dimmed down again and was hidden in the darkness. But for Lin Mu's spirit sense, it was no problem seeing the shell.

Lin Mu accurately picked it up and found it to be cold to the touch.. As he was holding it in his hand, he found the shell to suddenly become ice cold. It was then that it glowed again and let out the blue light.

Lin Mu was mesmerized by its appearance. The shell was a pale white and blue line went along the spiral on it. The shell was empty and it was evident that the snail that it belonged to had died.

He took another look around the bottom of the pond, but did not find anything else here. Lin Mu returned to the surface and let the water drip off the armor.

"Did you find it?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"I did," Lin Mu replied, and showed him the small shell in his right hand.

The shell was barely an inch in size, yet the cold it could exude was enough to make Lin Mu feel cold despite the armor of the mortal strengthening scripture.

"This is certainly not anything common if it can bypass the defenses of the armor." Lin Mu spoke.

"That might be the shell of a Glacial Snail." Xukong spoke.

"Oh? What's that senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It's a spirit beast as well but it's not really the same as normal spirit beasts. It can have a high cultivation base and yet not have a similar level of intelligence. They live in icy cold glaciers and can be found in its depths." Xukong answered.

"I see, wonder how this shell got here though." Lin Mu said.

He had not seen any cold areas when he was falling from the sky and even adviser Chu had said that there were no cold areas in the minor plane. Even on the tall mountains, there was no snow.

"It could have been brought in by some other cultivator that fell into the sinkhole, perhaps. Glacial snails aren't really that uncommon. They are hard to find just because they live beneath the thick glaciers.

But once you get to the right place, you will find enough of them." Xukong spoke.

"But how can it affect my armor? I'm not supposed to be able to feel temperature easily." Lin Mu asked.

"Hmm... it could be due to its inherent properties. The Glacial Snail is a beast of the extreme Yin Water attribute. Its body naturally contains the traces of the Dao and thus it can bypass the defenses of the armor." Xukong answered.

"That's rather strong. Isn't that only possible for Dao Treading realm cultivators and beasts?" Lin Mu said.

"Usually yes. But some beasts are just unique in that way. They don't need to be at the Dao Treading realm and can still contain the traces of Dao in their body." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and wondered if he could make use of this shell.

"I guess I can use this for the five treasures realm cultivation maybe." Lin Mu said.

"That might not be the best choice. Even though this shell is of the water element, it's not the normal water but rather Extreme Yin water. It may conflict with your body, thus it's best not to use it for that." Xukong suggested.

"I understand senior." Lin Mu agreed.

If senior Xukong said something was not right, it was best not to do it. So far, Lin Mu had avoided many problems due to senior Xukong's advice and wasn't intending to go against it for no reason.

Lin Mu put the shell away in the ring and went to explore the rest of the areas with little Shrubby.

"We should first try to find the place where the thousand year old Hong Lin trees grow." Lin Mu said.

"Do you want me to search at a fast speed?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"No, not now. There are some strong beasts hidden in this place and they might be far stronger than us. It is better to be careful for now." Lin Mu answered.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied.

Lin mu nodded his head and took out the map that the former adviser had given him.

"Hmm... now let's see which part matches what..." Lin Mu said as he looked at the details on the map.

The area they were in didn't really match the place and so he headed ahead, trying to get to an area that was actually mentioned on the map so that he could find a reference point.

~ROAR!~

While doing this, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby could hear the roar of a beast coming from the distance.

Little Shrubby's hair stood on its end, and so did Lin Mu's.

"It's a very strong beast. I can sense it..." Little Shrubby spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head, "looks like Adviser Chu was right... there are Dao Shell realm beasts in this minor plane."

The roar had come from about two kilometers away, and Lin Mu definitely did not want to get close to that area. This also made him realize something else.

"No wonder the area was empty of beasts... no beast would dare to come near the place where a Dao shell realm beast lives." Lin Mu muttered.

The two of them quickly went as far as possible from the earlier location and reached one of the many forests that Lin Mu had seen from the sky.

[Chapter 746 - Stronger Beasts And A Vantage Point](#)

Having confirmed the existence of Dao Shell realm beasts, Lin Mu decided to stay clear of such areas, at least until he was confident of taking them on. He was still in the Adolescent Soul stage of the Nascent Soul realm and needed to reach the Adult stage at the very least before he would be able to have some confidence in battling Dao Shell realms beings.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby continued their search through the forest and observed the flora and fauna around. There were a variety of plants and animals that Lin Mu had not seen before.

There were also plenty of spirit herbs that were unknown to him here.

"May as well take some of everything, just in case." Lin Mu said to himself.

Thus he picked whatever herbs he could while walking around and stored them in the ring. He didn't know if they would ever come in handy later, but he reckoned it was better to have it than not need it than need it and not have it.

~Growl~

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Lin Mu was about to pick another spirit herb that looked like a cross between an orchid and a lily when he heard a growl from the back. His spirit sense extended immediately and caught the beast midway.

~WHOOSH~

~Boom~

But before he could even do anything, a fire ball hit the beast and it was knocked to the side.

~thud~

Little Shrubby was the one who had attacked of course and he was now standing just at the head of the beast that had just tried to attack them. He bared his fangs at the beast and pressed upon its head with his paw.

"Oh? It's a Nascent soul realm beast?" Lin Mu was surprised.

He was surprised because the beast had let out no spirit Qi fluctuations and had a rather fast speed. Normally his spirit sense would have detected anything way faster than they could get to him.

Still, Little Shrubby was way faster and reacted before he could. Looking at the beast, Lin Mu found it to be rather different. It had the head of a Jackal, body of a bull, tail of a wolf, and broad hooves like that of a horse.

It had no horns but it did have bumps on his head that looked similar to them.

"A Wood Trampler beast?" Lin Mu recognized after a few seconds.

He had read about such beasts before and knew that they lived in dense forests. They could be found on the Xiaofan worlds as well but were only seen in the great southern forest.

"It's at the Infant Soul stage and yet it's quite fast, didn't expect them to be this good." Lin Mu said as he stabbed the short sword into the neck of the beast, killing it.

"This will serve a good meal," Little Shrubby said feeling pleased.

"Indeed," Lin Mu replied.

It was now that an idea struck him.

"Hang on... if there is an abundance of Nascent soul realm beast here, then... we may as well kill as many as we can and stockpile for later!" Lin Mu stated.

"YES! We should do that!" Little Shrubby agreed as well.

"Mmmhmm, first we'll get the lay of the land and then decided which beasts are safe to attack. Though I also think that we should get the Thousand year old Hong Lin trees first since that may be a bit time sensitive.

Hua San said that his supreme elder might have three more months at most but won't be able to hang on for any more." Lin Mu said.

"We'll try to find the Thousand Year Old Hong Lin tree first then and mark the interesting locations along the way. We can come to them later once we are done." Little Shrubby spoke.

"That seems perfect," Lin Mu agreed.

He felt pleased with the smartness of Little Shrubby which was no less than that of a human now. It could even be said to be higher than a lot of humans, considering some had the IQ of non cultivating pigs.

One couldn't even say someone was as dumb as a donkey in the cultivation world since a donkey could very well start cultivating and gain far better intelligence than you. Who knows, one day you may even have to call it ancestor.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby continued their search and gathered spirit herbs and whatever interesting materials that they could find. They were attacked by some beasts during that time to but managed to kill them with ease.

They also found two more areas that were considered to be the territories of Dao Shell realm beasts. Lin Mu had not seen them himself and neither had Little Shrubby felt their presence, but the eerie absence of beasts in that area was a telltale sign that there was a strong beast living there.

With that in mind, Lin Mu simply marked it on his map and continued onwards.

'Hmm... Adviser Chu had said that there were a total of five beasts that he had suspected to be at the Dao Shell back when he was here. Two of them were wolf beasts, one was a snake beast, one was a turtle beast and one was a squirrel beast.

Wonder if they are still here or not. He did say that there were conflicts among the beasts as well and seeing as it has been over two hundred years since he left the sinkhole, there are chances that some of them may have perished.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

About thirty six hours had passed since they had arrived in the sinkhole and they had yet to get out of the forest.

"Hmm... are we going in the right direction?" Lin Mu wondered.

He flew up and checked the area finding that he was now at the edge of the forest.

"Ah! Finally, we're out." Lin Mu said as he gazed in the distance and spotted something familiar.

"That should be a decent vantage point."

[Chapter 747 - A Tall Mountain And Dagger Beak Birds](#)

The location that Lin Mu had just seen was a mountain that was one of the tallest ones in the sinkhole. He had seen it while falling down and it was the tallest object in his view. This plane was far bigger than the one at the Ripple Mist sect and at this point, Lin Mu was sure that it was possibly bigger than the entire Shuang Qian kingdom in size.

"Even Adviser Chu didn't know just how big this place truly was and had barely scratched the surface of it when he explored it. My estimate might not even be close enough." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

"Minor planes like these can be up to ten percent the size of the world they are anchored to." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Huh? What!? TEN PERCENT!" Lin Mu was shocked to hear that.

"Yes, ten percent. Of course, that is the maximum estimation that I can give you, it is likely to be smaller than that.." Xukong replied.

"Ah... if it really is ten percent then... I don't even know if a year would be enough for us to find it." Lin Mu said.

One must know that the entire Great Zhou Continent along with the Northern Tribe's territory was barely thirty percent the size of the entire Xiaofan world the remaining seventy percent of the world was covered with water and was inhabitable for humans at least.

If the minor plane was really ten percent in size, it meant that it was one third the size of the entire Great Zhou continent. One must know that it had taken Lin Mu nearly six months to travel half way across the continent and this was at his full speed.

If it really came to searching on his own, it would be close to impossible for him to do so in the given time constraints.

"The mountain is really tall... I don't think I've seen one this tall before." Little Shrubby spoke.

"Indeed. I think mountains this tall are only in the northern mountain range back home." Lin Mu agreed.

The two of them flew to the mountain while keeping an eye on the surroundings.

~Piiii~

Their vigilance turned out to be correct as several bird beasts came to attack them.

"Bah! Annoying," Lin Mu said as he sent out the short sword to deal with the bird beasts.

~Piiii~

Six of the bird beasts were killed rather quickly, but the cry they let out attracted more of the bird beasts. This time the cry that came was stronger than before. Lin Mu's spirit sense detected the presence of several Nascent soul realm beasts approaching them.

~Sigh~

"More enemies are coming," Lin Mu spoke.

"No, food... more food is coming." Little Shrubby replied while eyeing the corpse of the bird beasts that were dripping with blood.

Lin Mu could only chuckle and get ready for the first. The spirit Qi fluctuations he had detected were at the Infant soul stage thus they weren't much of a problem for him or Little Shrubby.

The bird beasts that had attacked him were at the Core condensation realm and were called as Dagger Beak Birds. As their name said, their beaks were sharp like daggers and they would kill their prey by stabbing them with it.

They would dive from the sky and pin the beast that was targeted on the ground. Lin Mu noticed the ground and saw that there were multiple holes in it as well. The more concerning thing was that the ground was mostly rock.

'Those holes are definitely caused by these Dagger Beak birds, will need to be careful with sneak attacks.' Lin Mu thought and changed the form of his spirit sense.

From the normal single tendril form, it changed to a net that spread around him equally. While this did reduce the overall range of his spirit sense it did allow him to sense everything within a five hundred meter radius.

~PIIIII~

The cry of the Dagger beak birds was heard again and Lin Mu spotted them approaching him from one of the cliffs.

'That must be their nests.' Lin Mu took note.

Lin Mu waved his hand and several spirit weapons appeared in front of him. The short sword floated at his side and he held the Iron Thorn Spear in his right hand. Several smaller daggers floated above him as well along with a hatchet.

~ROAR~

Little Shrubby let out a thundering roar and was the first to act.

~WHOOSH~

Only a red streak was seen as he crashed head first with the first Infant Soul stage Nascent soul realm Dagger Beak bird. There were six in total and the strongest of them was actually at the Child Soul stage.

"Hmm, let's take out the leader first." Lin Mu said as he moved as well.

~Shua~shua~shua~

The spirit daggers were all launched at the same time and they flew towards the incoming Dagger Beak bird. The ones that were at the Infant soul stage flew to the side to dodge them, but that was exactly what Lin Mu wanted.

Now the Child Soul stage Dagger Beak beast was alone with another Dagger beak beast that was weaker than him and Lin Mu could attack it freely.

"Iron thorn Bloom!" Lin Mu chanted as the ability of the Iron Thorn spear activated.

~HONG~

The Spear lit up with a dark light as tens of dark blades burst out from its tip. The blades moved like deadly scythes through the air and hit the two Dagger Beak beasts.

~PIIIII~

The Child Soul stage Dagger Beak beast flapped his wings and created a barrier of Qi. The Qi was arranged in the shape of feathers and it was evident that this was a Qi skill it had learned itself or was innate to its kind.

~CLANG~

A few of the the black blades clashed with the barrier and were blocked but the rest hit the second dagger beak bird that was with it.

~KIYAAAA~

The Infant Soul stage Dagger Beak bird cried as it fell from the sky after having its wings injured.

[Chapter 748 - Scared Nascent Souls?](#)

"One down, five more to go." Lin Mu said as he accelerated towards the Child Soul stage Dagger Beak bird.

~DENG~

The Iron thorn spear hit the barrier that the Dagger Beak bird had created and vibrated due to the impact.

"Oh? That's rather strong," Lin Mu said, finding the technique used by the beast better than a lot of defensive Qi skills that he had seen till now.

"But not enough," Lin Mu added as he cocked back his fist.

Spirit Qi swirled within his right fist as an imposing aura emanated from him.

~Kiiii~

The Dagger Bird Bird let out a wary cry as it flapped its wings to distance itself from Lin Mu as fast as possible. It could tell that the attack Lin Mu was charging up was nothing weak..

"Too late," Lin Mu spoke.

Boulder Collapsing Fist: Second Form- Piercer!

~Shua~

The needle like condensed spirit Qi shot out of his hand and traveled at a speed hard to see.

~Crack~

It pierced through the barrier easily and entered the body of the Dagger Beak Bird.

~Splat~

The very next moment, the head of the Dagger Beak Bird exploded like a watermelon, splashing brains and blood everywhere. It couldn't even let out a cry before it died. But then a pale light could be seen from its corpse that was falling.

~whoosh~

Lin Mu saw the Nascent Soul of the beast trying to run away.

"Not so fast!" Lin Mu blinked and reached the Nascent soul instantly.

Both of his fists clamped around the Nascent soul like a vice.

~KIIIIII~

The Nascent soul tried to struggle, but under the power of Lin Mu's fingers, it was all for naught.

"Little Shrubby will like this," Lin Mu said as he stored the Nascent soul in his ring.

He had already learned that Little Shrubby liked the taste of Nascent souls, and since it helped his cultivation as well, he didn't mind capturing them additionally.

~PIIIII~

The remaining four Dagger Beak Birds that saw their leader die were shocked and angry. They let out loud cries and rushed towards Lin Mu in a mindless rage. Lin Mu didn't really mind them and passed through their charge using Flicker.

The beasts were confused when they saw that nothing had happened to Lin Mu despite the fact that they had pierced him with their beaks. Their powerful beaks that had killed thousands of beasts had failed today.

~Whoosh~

Unfortunately for them, their confusion was short lasting as the short sword flew in from the top. It had been hiding in the canopy of the trees and Lin Mu had just been waiting for the right opportunity to use it.

~PIIIII~

Two of the Dagger Beak Birds were killed instantly and their Nascent souls tried to escape. Lin Mu quickly got to catch them while the other two tried to escape.

~ROAR~

~BOOM~

But just as they tried to run away, a red streak hit them and a fiery explosion was heard. Both of the Dagger Beak Birds were killed in an instant as Little Shrubby crushed their heads.

"Ah, there you are." Lin Mu said as he saw Little Shrubby grabbing the Nascent souls of the two Dagger Beak Birds that he had just killed.

~nom~

Little Shrubby quickly ate the two Nascent souls while they cried out in horror.

"They always taste so good~" Little Shrubby said in pleasure.

"I got three more," Lin Mu said as he withdrew the three Nascent souls he had put in the ring.

But when he pulled them out, he saw a rather strange reaction.

"Huh? What's up with them?" Lin Mu was surprised.

Little Shrubby looked at him too and saw the three Nascent souls in Lin Mu's hands. Two of them looked like small featherless baby birds, while one of them was like a feathered bird that had yet to learn to fly.

"Why are they not trying to run and are shivering?" Lin Mu looked at the three Nascent souls that were frozen in one place.

Little Shrubby came closer and gazed at them as well before speaking.

"They are scared of something." Little Shrubby spoke.

"Huh? They are scared?" Lin Mu said in confusion.

It was now that a voice was heard in his mind.

"Those three were noisy, so I made them shut up." Xukong stated.

"Ah... haha, no wonder." Lin Mu chuckled.

Xukong's aura was something that even human cultivators would be scared of, not to mention actual beasts. Lin Mu could imagine the three Nascent souls going crazy in the ring's space.

Finding oneself in a completely different space was often disorienting as well as confusing. Unfortunately for them, there was someone far more dominating in the space of the ring.

"Well... at least it makes it easier." Lin Mu said as he passed the Nascent souls to Little Shrubby.

~nom~

He quickly ate them and let out a pleased purr. He then looked at Lin Mu and spoke.

"What was that aura on them, master? There was an extra aura on the Nascent souls." Little Shrubby asked.

"Extra Aura? Oh, that must have been Senior Xukong." Lin Mu replied.

"Senior Xukong is a beast?!" Little Shrubby was shocked.

Little Shrubby had long since known that Lin Mu had a master and that he was inside the ring Lin Mu had. Lin Mu didn't know that little Shrubby could see the mysterious ring too, but reckoned that it was due to the soul link that both of them had.

What Little Shrubby didn't know was that Lin Mu's master was actually a beast.

"Huh? I never told you that?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No," Little Shrubby replied.

"Hmm, yes I don't think you ever did," Xukong added.

"Ah, I see. Well yeah, he is a beast... a very strong beast." Lin Mu spoke.

"Can I see him?" Little Shrubby questioned.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows upon hearing this.

"I don't know actually... can he senior?" Lin Mu said in a confused tone.

[Chapter 749 - Biting Plants And Strong Winds](#)

Xukong had not expected a question like that, but didn't mind answering it.

"Well he can, just not in this world. You would either have to be in a world which can accommodate my presence or... in a place where the rules don't apply." Xukong spoke.

"I see... guess we'll have to wait." Lin Mu said and then looked at Little Shrubby. "Perhaps you'll get to see him in the future,"

"Okay~ I'll wait." Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and collected the corpses of the Dagger Beak birds. These were going to serve as some good food for the two of them. Plus Lin Mu was going to benefit from their vital energy too since he was looking to increase his Body cultivation..

While Lin Mu did not have the cultivation techniques for the other three elements, he could still use the basic method of just absorbing more and more vital energy. A fraction of it would still be processed and be used to further the progress of the Five Treasures realm cultivation.

While the progress was rather minuscule, it was still something and better than nothing.

Having collected them, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby continued their journey to the top of the mountain. Their short battle had created enough spirit Qi waves that the rest of the beasts on the mountain had been silenced.

They had strong instincts and knew when to hide when there were strong beings around. From the previous lively atmosphere of the mountain, it was now far more calm and serene.

The mountain was far bigger than Lin Mu had expected when he actually got closer. Plus, the higher he got, the stronger the winds got.

~WOOOO~

"Damn, we can't fly like this." Lin Mu said as he retreated.

"Yeah, even I feel like I'll be blown away." Little Shrubby said.

The winds around the upper part of the mountain were the strongest and it could even prevent a Nascent soul realm cultivator from flying. Lin Mu knew that being knocked away by the winds would not really be a good thing as he may end up in an area that was far more dangerous.

"We should just walk from here," Lin Mu said and landed on the ground.

Little Shrubby did the same, and the two of them continued on foot. The trees at the top were a bit more sparse and were replaced by shorter ones. There were also a lot more shrubs there rather than actual trees.

"Oh? There are some different herbs," Lin Mu said, spotting a few herbs that had leaves that looked like a butterfly's wings.

~SNAP~

But the moment he tried to touch them, the leaves sprouted sharp thorns along the edges of the butterfly like leaves and snapped at Lin Mu's hand.

~Crack~

Of course, there was no damage done as the armor of the Mortal Strengthening scripture blocked it all with ease. Lin Mu was definitely surprised through.

"What plant is this? It can actually attack like this." Lin Mu spoke.

He checked through the records that Adviser Chu had given him but did not find anything in it. He then checked the rest of the records but didn't find anything in them either.

"Do you know anything about this senior?" Lin Mu decided to try his luck with Xukong.

Xukong observed the herb for a bit and spoke.

"Hmm... it looks to be a variant of the Fly Trap herbs. They bite into anything that comes close. This is how they eat their prey if they are unfortunate enough to get close. It's an omnivorous plant but mostly obtains its nutrition from other beasts." Xukong spoke.

"Oh, that's interesting." Lin Mu took note and probed the herb with his spirit sense.

He could tell that there was quite a bit of spirit Qi within the herb.

"What is this used for senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Well... it's used as pest control in herb gardens. Alchemists plant them there which prevents some pests which are spirit beasts from affecting the plants." Xukong answered.

"So... it's not used for making pills or anything?" Lin Mu asked doubtfully.

"Not really. Its medicinal content is relatively volatile and doesn't really match well with other ingredients, thus causing the formation of pills to fail. Well, if one really wants to, they can just eat it whole." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and thought he may as well take these spirit herbs. Lin Mu could see several of them spread around the area and they were quite common here.

"How do I keep them... let's see..." Lin Mu said as he looked around.

He then found a relatively large rock and cut it apart to make smaller rocks. He then carved out a container that looked like a flower pot from it and put the Fly Trap herb in it. He did the same for five more such plants and then stored them all in the ring close to some corpses of beasts.

"Now they'll have some food too." Lin Mu muttered.

They then continued onwards to the top and reached it in about half an hour.

~WOOOO~

The top of the mountain was rather bare, and strong chilly winds blew. Lin Mu's hair flapped back and Little Shrubby's fur fluttered under the strong winds.

"Finally... this is quite a dangerous location though." Lin Mu said after feeling the winds.

He looked at the areas around the mountain and the ones far from it. Lin Mu wanted to find the area that was either on the map that Adviser Chu had given him, or directly find the area with the thousand year old Hong Lin trees.

From the top of the mountain, Lin Mu could see more mountains and forests, along with some lakes. And in the very distance, he spotted the lone volcano as well. Red lava flowed down its mouth, looking like fiery rivers.

"Hmm... Adviser Chu did mention that there was a volcano here, so it could be this one. But considering the size of the minor plane, there might be more than that.

Still... better check it out." Lin Mu said.

[Chapter 750 - Planets And Space](#)

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby descended the mountain from the other side and went in the direction of the Volcano. The path down was a bit rougher than the climb but they still managed to reach the point from where they could fly.

"If it were not for those strong winds we would have an easier time." Lin Mu muttered.

"After you go beyond a certain elevation winds like those are common. The higher you go, the stronger the winds will become. This is the same in most of the worlds. That is also why there are limitations to how high one can fly.

Even An Immortal Ascension realm cultivator would not be able to fly above a certain point." Xukong informed.

"Oh? Is that so... but in the memoirs of the Lost immortal I've read about some tools that could be used to travel in the sky and even go beyond it into the space.." Lin Mu spoke.

"Indeed, there are tools like those. But the ones that can allow one to fly that high need to be at the pseudo Immortal grade at the very least. As for the ones that can allow one to leave the planet and enter the space, it needs to be an immortal tool.

Immortal cultivators can do it on their own as well." Xukong explained.

"No wonder it's hard for people to leave this world. If they can't fly out and head to the other worlds." Lin Mu spoke.

"Even if they do leave the planet and head to the vast expanse of the space, there aren't that many places they would be able to go to. Since this world is in the mortal realm there will be just more mortal worlds around it.

Exploring the space is quite dangerous too and one must not enter it without preparations. The space lacks air and even spirit Qi. The sources of spirit Qi in space are quite less, unless one can find some special resources floating around or such.

Besides, not all planets around the world are habitable, in fact over 99% of them will be inhospitable to all kinds of life. So while a strong cultivator might be able to go there, they won't find any native life there.

Though many still go to planets such as those since several precious resources can be found in those places." Xukong explained.

"I understand. Then does it mean that the oceanic world that senior was talking about might be close by to this world?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes, that is quite likely. We have already seen a fragment of it in the Lesser void, it should definitely be close by. In fact, it might be the very next planet next to the Xiaofan world." Xukong answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu's eyes lit up and he felt the desire to go to the space. He wanted to see everything with his own eyes and witness the truth of the world. More questions appeared in his mind as he thought ahead and he decided to ask senior Xukong more.

"Senior, if we compare traveling... which is more dangerous the void or the space?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The void definitely. It is not something that can be taken easily. Numerous cultivators have died in the void because they were careless. It didn't matter if they were peerless cultivators and owners of great powers, or measly itinerant cultivators, their fate was the same.

If one wants to traverse the void, one needs to be careful and strong. And one must not forget that it is the void that contains the space and not the other way around." Xukong answered.

"I get it now senior." Lin Mu nodded his head.

This was a good learning experience for Lin Mu as his understanding of the universe had increased by a little bit. And while he was conversing with senior Xukong, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby finally got to flying.

The directions in this minor plane were hard to deduce since something such as north, south, west, and east did not exist. There was no sun and neither was there a moon. There were no stars in this place either and thus the only way to find a place was with respect to other places.

Lin Mu and little Shrubby had to keep an eye on everything as if they missed a certain part, there was a chance they might get lost without even knowing it. The forests below them were thick and filled with tall trees that reached over a hundred meters in height.

Lin Mu had seen such tall trees only in the Northern mountains before. There was a bounty of wildlife here including various animals and beasts that could not be seen elsewhere.

Lin Mu was also taking some quick notes while flying. He held a jade slip in one of his hands and quickly recorded the appearance of the beast and whatever extra information he could get on them just from observing them.

With his spirit sense, it was a lightning fast task and could be done simultaneously. Of course, this kind of information might not compare to the carefully studied and recorded information in the many libraries and clan records, but it was still better than nothing.

As for why Lin Mu was doing this... he simply thought it was better to do something than to not.

But the more Lin Mu watched the place, the more confused he got. He realized that the minor plane was far too developed than even the actual Xiaofan world. The average strength of the beasts here was higher than that of the Xiaofan worlds.

He had already come across over twenty Nascent soul realm beasts in this time. And it had only been about four days since he had arrived here. One could imagine from this just how vast the difference was.

Lin Mu was also seeing several herbs which he recorded too, while taking a few samples. By the time he actually reached the volcano, two days had passed.