

Walker 751

[Chapter 751 - The Volcano](#)

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby had a few battles during their travel to the volcano but were still unhurt. Though they were certainly tired. Normally such travel would not have exhausted them even if they traveled for over a month without stop.

But when one added battles against other Nascent soul realm beasts and core condensation realm beasts, it meant that their spirit Qi stores would be used up and slow them down.

They thus needed to take breaks from time to time to rest and recuperate before they could head on ahead. After all, if they tried to rush through without properly resting, they might be in greater danger than normal.

After all, the same attacks they faced could become deadly if they had no spirit Qi to defend with or deal with the situation appropriately. But on the plus side, this also gave them the opportunity to eat the beast corpses that they had obtained during this time.

Unlike the last time when they only had saw toothed Tuna and the Green tailed howler monkey chief to eat, they now had over four Nascent soul realm beasts to eat for each person.

They took full advantage of it and ate two beasts each that night.. Of course, the scent of the cooking meat attracted several more beasts but that was just more bonus for Lin Mu and Little Shrubby as they were basically serving themselves for later.

"So this is called a volcano?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"Yes." Lin Mu replied.

"I've never seen one before." Little Shrubby spoke.

"I haven't either. I've only read and heard about them." Lin Mu replied.

"Why are they so hot and what's the hot liquid coming out of it?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"Hmm... from what I've read, the hot liquid coming out of it is called lava. And that hot liquid is what exists deep within the earth. I've even heard that the inside of the world is a fireball that continues to burn. But I don't know if that is true or not." Lin Mu replied.

"A fireball? Like the sun?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Maybe." Lin Mu replied.

"You're half correct." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Oh? So what's the reality senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The lava does indeed come from deep within the earth. And the thing about a fireball burning within the world can be considered to be half correct. But it's not actually a fireball... rather it's a mass of different materials all being melted together and burning.

They form into a massive ball that is under a great pressure. The pressure is so much that it can't turn into liquid and neither can it become gas. Thus even at a great temperature, it continues to be in a solid state.

This is what constitutes as the 'core' of the world. It contains a great attraction force that keeps the world together. It also spins in the center of the world keeping the world stable.

If anything happens to it or if it stops, the entire world would be destroyed.

As for that lava you see, it is a mixture of molten rocks and many other minerals." Xukong explained.

"I understand senior." Lin Mu said, finding the information really interesting. He also explained this to little Shrubby who was intrigued.

The two of them got closer and close to the volcano, with Little Shrubby finding it to be rather comfortable. Lin Mu on the other hand didn't feel the heat due to the armor of the mortal strengthening scripture and freely walked.

"This place is really good!" Little Shrubby said while purring.

The heat made Little Shrubby's body glow slightly and his fur was also glowing slightly.

"This place is indeed suitable for you, the fire elemental spirit Qi is in high concentration here. Even more than the Hong Lin forest." Lin Mu spoke after sensing the air.

"It might do you two good to spend some time here. You can probably find some fire attribute herbs that only grow here. Little Shrubby can cultivate here and even you can try and see if you can further your five treasures realm cultivation.

And even if that doesn't work you can still absorb some fire attribute spirit Qi into your Dantian. You have more than enough space anyway." Xukong suggested.

"Alright senior. We'll do as you say. We can take a day's break here anyway." Lin Mu replied.

He then looked at Little Shrubby and said, "we'll stay here for a bit and cultivate."

"Yay~" Little Shrubby growled in pleasure. "I want to see what would happen if we grill meat on the lava!"

Hearing that idea Lin Mu raised his brows and wondered what would happen too. While the temperature was high enough to burn most things, Nascent soul realm beast meat was still tough enough to withstand it for a bit.

"Very well, let's try that out tonight. But first, we cultivate." Lin Mu said.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said.

The two of them found a suitable location that was near two flowing rivers of lava and sat down. The ground below them was actually quite smooth, almost looking like glass though it was a bit uneven in its shape.

The ground was warm too and it felt rather comfortable to sit on. Lin Mu took out a few large pillows for him and Little Shrubby and they sat down to cultivate.

Thirty minutes passed rather calmly before finally the fire attribute spirit Qi in the air started to flow. It swirled around the area before gathering over Little Shrubby and Lin Mu's bodies.

~shua~

A majority of the fire attribute spirit Qi was sucked into the body of Little Shrubby while about 5% of that was taken in by Lin Mu. Lin Mu was simply using the Embrace of Hong Lin to absorb the fire attribute spirit Qi into his body.

Even if he had no Qi skill that used the fire attribute spirit Qi, it could still be used by him for some attacks. He could use it in replacement for normal spirit Qi and add the fire element to that attack.

[Chapter 752 - Fire Attribute Spirit Qi](#)

At the volcano, fire attribute spirit Qi swirled around as it poured into the bodies of Lin Mu and Little Shrubby. The concentration of it had reached a point where it had almost become visible to the naked eye.

One could imagine that after a certain point, it may even start to condense and turn into liquid. Of course, something like that needed a lot of power to happen and it had only occurred when Lin Mu had broken through to the Nascent Soul realm.

But this time, it was actually Little Shrubby who was driving the fire attribute spirit Qi to gather. After all, he had two bloodlines that had a great affinity to the fire element, the Flash Fire Liger Bloodline and the Scorch Claw Tiger bloodline.

His other bloodlines had different affinities, such as the Fume Wood Panther that had the affinity to the wood element, the Thunderbolt Cheetah that had the affinity to the lightning element, and then the Midnight Lynx that had an affinity with the Darkness element.

As for the Brood Mane Lion and the Hundred Mirror Leopard, those didn't really have a particular element that they had an affinity with, but rather innate techniques and skills that were unique to them.

But for now, the fire element was the strongest for Little Shrubby, and thus he was taking full advantage of it. Not just him, but the Fire attribute spirit Qi itself seemed like it wanted to be part of Little Shrubby and was being naturally attracted to him..

Little Shrubby was also at the Adolescence Soul stage of the Nascent Soul realm like Lin Mu, and was slightly below his level. But with the speed at which he was absorbing it his cultivation would soon catch up with Lin Mu it seemed like.

Lin Mu on the other hand, was focusing on getting a feel for the fire attribute spirit Qi instead. He knew that he didn't really use a cultivation technique and just used his own sense when he absorbed spirit Qi.

He was using the primordial path and was not going to switch around now. It was also due to that because of which he could absorb any elemental Qi as he wanted. The only difference being that the efficiency would be slower.

Right now he was using the Embrace of Hong Lin, which was a fire attribute cultivation technique. It had two parts to it, the body cultivation and the Qi cultivation paths. Lin Mu hadn't really used the Qi cultivation path of it and was just using the body cultivation one till now to further the five treasures realm cultivation.

But even then, just using the body cultivation part made it so that his natural affinity to fire attribute spirit Qi increased and allowed him to absorb more of it naturally. Lin Mu's spirit Qi stores were increasing bit by bit and his Dantian was now gaining another color.

So far, it only had two kinds of spirit Qi in it. The first being the attribute less spirit Qi or the non elemental spirit Qi and the Earth elemental spirit Qi. The attribute less spirit Qi just appeared like water while the Earth elemental spirit Qi looked brown in color.

White and brown were the two colors in his Dantian as of now. But now a third color, red was being added to it bit by bit. There was already some fire attribute spirit Qi that Lin Mu had absorbed back when he first reached the capital of the Hong Lin kingdom, but all of that had been directly taken in by his Nascent soul.

That was the difference between the Nascent soul and Dantian. The spirit Qi that was taken in by the Nascent soul would increase his overall cultivation base, while the one being stored in his Dantian would allow him to do things like use spirit weapons, Qi skills, control formations, and many such things.

Of course, spirit Qi that was stored in the Nascent soul could also be used, but doing that meant that one would be decreasing their cultivation base in exchange. Lin Mu's Dantian had been continuously expanding as his cultivation base grew and at this point, even he did not know what his max capacity was.

This was due to the fact that his Dantian never reached full capacity. When it reached the eight percent mark, the excess spirit Qi beyond that mark would be absorbed by his Nascent soul.

One could imagine this setup to be like a donut shaped container. Its outer and inner walls were open and if one filled water in it, it would fill up. The difference was that the walls of the inner circle were lower than that of the outer circle.

Thus, when the water reached a certain point, it would fall into the inner circle. Comparing this to Lin Mu's body, the container itself was Lin Mu's Dantian, while the bottomless inner circle was his Nascent soul.

Calling his Nascent soul bottomless was accurate since it had increased its capacity at an exponential rate as compared with normal spirit Qi cultivators. For example, if one had thousand drops worth of spirit Qi core when they broke through to the Nascent Soul realm, to reach the Child Soul stage they would need at least twice that amount.

But in Lin Mu's case, that number was more than just twice. And with each increase in the stage it multiples over and over again. This was also why it was difficult for him to breakthrough as the amount of spirit Qi needed by him was simply too much.

In fact, there was a chance that Lin Mu might complete the second treasured organ of the Five Treasures realm before he even reached the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm.

At that point, just his own body would be comparable to that of an Adult Soul Stage Nascent soul realm cultivator. Lin Mu simply hoped that he found the solution here, and that was his wish... for now.

[Chapter 753 - Drained Of Spirit Qi? Finding Herbs](#)

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby ended up staying at the volcano for about five days. After that point, the fire attribute spirit Qi in the air dramatically decreased.

~shua~

The vortex that was spinning above them stopped and faded away, prompting Lin Mu and Little Shrubby to wake up.

"Huh?" Lin Mu looked around.

"What happened to the spirit Qi?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"What do you think happened? You two drained all of the spirit Qi in the area." Xukong chuckled.

"Ah! Never thought that would happen..." Lin Mu felt a bit awkward.

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"Aww, I was liking that." Little Shrubby spoke.

"We'll find some other place. I'm sure the place where the Thousand Year old Hong Lin trees grow should also have more fire attribute spirit Qi there." Lin Mu consoled.

"Okay..." Little Shrubby replied before standing up.

Lin Mu spread his spirit sense around and could really tell that the concentration of fire attribute spirit Qi in the air had considerably fallen. It was even lower than the Xiaofan world.

Even the Northern town had a greater concentration of spirit Qi than what was present here right now.

"How long will it take for spirit Qi to be replenished here Senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Well, that depends on several factors and the kind of spirit Qi you are talking about. The normal attribute spirit Qi will soon spread here from the surrounding areas, but the fire attribute spirit Qi will take a while to be produced.

The way the fire attribute spirit Qi is produced is in two ways. The first is that the volcano emits fire attribute spirit Qi naturally, and this comes from the depths of the earth. Then there is the lava and heat itself which can slowly turn normal spirit Qi into fire attribute spirit Qi after long periods of contacts." Xukong answered.

"I see... so I'm guessing it will take several weeks?" Lin Mu asked.

"If it is fast enough, yes... but may take several months instead. You shouldn't forget the fact that you two aren't the only ones who are absorbing spirit Qi here. There should be several beasts and spirit herbs too that need it.

The beasts should have already moved out due to Little Shrubby's presence, but the spirit herbs should still be here." Xukong replied.

"Oh yeah! The spirit herbs! I almost forgot about them. I should go and get them too." Lin Mu spoke.

"Yes, they will help you too." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu looked at little Shrubby and said, "let's get the spirit herbs that are around here."

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied and the two of them flew up.

The area directly close to the mouth of the volcano was very hot, so much so that even the armor of the Mortal Strengthening scripture was unable to prevent the heat from affecting Lin Mu.

As for Little Shrubby, it was still possible for him to stay there, but he certainly would not be able to get close to the lava and it would hurt him as well. But this was only for the lava that was in the mouth of the volcano.

The lava that was flowing out from the sides and had formed into the streams was cool enough that both Little Shrubby and Lin Mu could touch them without many problems. This was certainly not normal and any common cultivator at the same level as them would lose their hands if they did the same.

This point was important, since there were some herbs that were growing directly in the middle of those streams and lava pools.

"There's one," Lin Mu said as he spotted an orange bell like flower growing in the center of a lava pool. Half of its stem was soaking in the lava while the top petals were above the lava.

"That's the Fire Drip Bell Flower, I remember it is used in high grade pill." Lin Mu spoke.

"I found something, too!" Little Shrubby said in his mind.

"What is it?" Lin Mu asked.

"It looked like a rock like fruit, it stuck in the side of a cliff." Little Shrubby spoke.

The two of them had split up and were searching separately, thus could not see what each other did. Currently in front of Little Shrubby was a cliff, and embedded in it was what looked like a bulbous plant.

The bulb was embedded deep in the rocks of the cliff and looked almost the same as that of the rocks surrounding it. If it were not for the spirit Qi fluctuations coming from it, Little Shrubby would have missed it entirely.

"Okay, mark it and I'll come to get it later." Lin Mu replied.

Several herbs had different methods of harvesting that depended on their type. These harvesting methods were used so that the least amount of damage was caused to the spirit herb and most of its medicinal efficacy was preserved.

Of course, one could still rip it off directly, but then one would have to consume it right away. Little shrubby could use his prosthetic spirit tool hands, but since he did not know the right method, it was best to let Lin Mu handle it.

Having heard Lin Mu's words, he scratched and made marks near the bulb and flew away to find the others. Meanwhile, Lin Mu got to the Fire Drip Bell flower and got ready to harvest it.

Hot fumes were coming off the lava, but the brown armor of the mortal strengthening scripture was fully protecting Lin Mu. He very carefully sank his hands into the lava and felt around the plant to find its base.

The flower had a thick base from where it needed to be plucked so as to ensure that it won't leak out any spirit Qi and lose its efficacy.

"Found it!" Lin Mu exclaimed and gently broke off the flower from its stem.

Once that was done, a stalk and a flower were present in his hand. He nodded his head in approval and stored it in the ring before going to find more of the herbs.

[Chapter 754 - The Lake, The Island And The Tree](#)

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby ended up getting over fifty different kinds of herbs in and around the volcano. Most of them were low to mid grade herbs but a couple of them were at the high grade as well.

It took Lin Mu about a day to harvest all of the herbs simply because some of them were in hard to reach areas or were difficult to harvest without being damaged. But after he was done with all of them he was pleased with the end result.

~pew~

"Finally done," Lin Mu said as he wiped the sweat off the brow.

It was only later that he had realized staying in a low spirit Qi area would make him uncomfortable now. Little Shrubby also stood beside him and looked around at the area.

"I haven't found any more of the herbs here. I think we are all done." Little Shrubby replied.

"Very well, I guess it's time to go ahead." Lin Mu spoke.

"Let's go then," Little Shrubby replied.

The two of them flew away from the volcano and went to the next area that was beyond the volcano. This part of the area was something Lin Mu had not seen before. Even when he was falling from the sky, the volcano was the furthest place he could see at that time.

This meant that he had already come quite far and would need to search and learn about the rest of the areas on his own. This volcano was also not the one that was mentioned in the records Adviser Chu had given him thus he had to keep on searching.

Lin Mu and little Shrubby wandered for about a week, finding different beasts and plants. He fought several Nascent soul realm beasts as well as core condensation realm beasts.

He even came across two areas that definitely contained Dao Shell realm beasts. Lin Mu didn't get close to seeing what kind of a beast lived there and kept his distance to stay safe. After that week, he finally found the first sign of familiarity.

"Look! That lake!" Little Shrubby called out from the Sky.

Lin Mu was currently on the ground and was harvesting a couple of herbs he had stumbled across. They were mid grade herbs, but he was not letting them be left behind. He had done the same for most of the herbs he had come across and had built up a sizable store of them.

In fact, the number had reached almost half of what one of the warehouses in the Tri Cauldron Peony sect contained.

"Coming!" Lin Mu replied and flew up into the sky.

There he could see a very peculiar lake in the distance. It was shaped like a six pointed flower and had an island in the center of it. And on that island, a massive tree could be seen growing.

The tree was over three hundred meters tall, with its crown being five hundred meters wide. It was a strange ratio and the tree was spread wider than the island itself.

"So that's the Cloud Crowned Banyan Tree," Lin Mu identified.

Cloud Crowned Banyan trees were large trees that could grow almost indefinitely. It was said that they could grow by a hundred meters every thousand years and, seeing the size of this Cloud Crowned Banyan Tree, Lin Mu reckoned it was at least three thousand years old.

Various bird beasts and smaller animals could be seen living on the tree as well. There were small fig like fruits growing all over the tree that provided the food for the creatures living around it.

There were also light brown flowers growing in bunches on the tree and a few insect beasts could be seen going from one bunch to the other, pollinating them.

"A Six-pointed lake, an island in the center and the large tree... yup that's the one Adviser Chu marked on his map." Lin Mu confirmed.

This was one of the places that Adviser Chu had been to before and it was actually one of the farthest places he went to. Lin Mu landed at the island and took a look around. There were smaller plants growing as well, but no trees.

The Cloud Crowned Banyan Tree had taken up most of the space on the island thus it was obvious that the other trees would not grow there. In fact, the lake itself was slightly larger than a kilometer and the trees' crown was 500 meters wide, taking up half of the space.

It even extended over the water and provided shade to some of the fishes living in water. Lin Mu peeked into the water and could see several hundred if not thousands of fishes in the water.

"Adviser Chu mentioned that he this was one of the most remote places he had gone to when comparing the place he started from. He turned to the direction of the Eight hill from here and that is where he found the exit of the Sinkhole." Lin Mu muttered and looked for the Eight hill.

The reason why Adviser Chu called it eight hill was because it looked like the character 'Eight'. Its sides were curved smoothly and its top was flat, looking rather unique. Lin Mu wondered if he should go there first or go to the next destination that was given on the map.

"Hmm... let's go to the next destination, I can always come back anyway." Lin Mu decided and flew to the next destination, which was also the one that Adviser Chu reached before this lake.

This destination was about half a day away and was filled with forest in between.

"The number of beasts is really increasing here huh... I thought adviser Chu said the further he went from the starting location, the more beasts he found there." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Twelve hours and several beast fights later, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby reached the next destination.

"Whoa!" Little Shrubby exclaimed, seeing the surroundings.

"The Billion Flower Meadow... the name is perfect indeed.." Lin Mu said with a smile.

[Chapter 755 - Billion Flower Meadow](#)

Lin Mu was now in a meadow filled with multicolored flowers. The ground was sprawling with flowers that let out a scent that enamored everyone. Little shrubby walked for a few steps and rolled on the ground.

"Ah~ *this is sooooo good~*" Little Shrubby purred.

Lin Mu also couldn't help but sit down and take it all in. It was a pleasant sight that gave peace to his mind and heart, washing away his worries for a bit. The aroma of the flowers was also really nice.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and let the scent of the flowers spread in his lungs. But just as he did this, his eyes went wide.

"Wood attribute spirit Qi?!" Lin Mu could tell that there was a different elemental spirit Qi in the air and the most obvious answer was wood.

Lin Mu spread his spirit sense around to his full extent and observed the area.

"There's wood elemental spirit Qi here... even though it is not in as high concentration as that of the volcano, it's still higher than normal air." Lin Mu spoke.

"That makes sense, wood element is something that plants favor of course, so if an area has a higher concentrator of it, plants would grow rather vibrantly there," Xukong replied.

"Hmm... that does seem like it senior." Lin Mu nodded his head.

Lin Mu now desired to cultivate here but knew that he should probably fulfill his mission first. As long as he got the thousand Year old Hong Lin trees, he would also be able to breakthrough and complete the second treasured organ.

"We'll return here later, definitely. Now that we know this place's value we will make use of it." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He then looked towards little Shrubby who was rolling around on the flowers and spoke, "come on now, we have work to do. We'll come here later after we're done."

"Mmmh, okay..." Little Shrubby said with some unwillingness.

The master and beast then continued onwards and traversed the Billion Flower meadow. Lin Mu realized that the area was far larger than was mentioned in the records of Adviser Chu. And not only that there were also thousands of beasts wandering around here.

Though what was strange was they wouldn't fight, but rather just come here and lay around similar to what little Shrubby was doing. Lin Mu also saw several of them cultivating in peace.

Even beasts that would normally have the relationship of predator and prey were doing the same thing.

"This is quite strange... I've never seen something like this before. Don't beasts usually have battles for territories when they like one?" Lin Mu questioned.

"They do usually, but this is a rather unique location. You must know about watering holes right?" Xukong questioned.

"Yeah, the place where beasts come to drink regardless of their position in the predator chain and they don't fight either." Lin Mu answered.

"Exactly. Think of this place like a watering hole, but for spirit Qi and cultivating. There are many such areas around the world where beasts may reach a harmony and reside in peace.

These areas aren't too valuable either so stronger beasts like Dao Shell realm beasts won't occupy it as a territory either. As for the other beasts like nascent soul realm beasts, they have a high enough intelligence that they won't fight unless someone else offends them first in an area like this." Xukong explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu was intrigued and had not expected for there to be something like this in the nature. And now that he thought of it, the area wasn't that concentrated in spirit Qi either, its main point was that it contained wood attribute spirit Qi.

"I reckon it is the beasts with an affinity with the wood element that come here." Lin Mu said before looking at little Shrubby. "And little Shrubby has the bloodline of the Fume Wood Panther as well which means he has some affinity with wood too. No wonder he liked the place so much."

Having learned this, Lin Mu continued onwards but the flowers would just not end, prompting him to think of something.

'Is the meadow perhaps expanding? It was definitely not this big according to adviser Chu's records and neither did he mention the peculiarity with the beasts.' Lin Mu thought.

Taking note of this point in his mind, Lin Mu kept an eye out for anything that may have been causing this to happen. For an area like this to expand by over seven times in size in two hundred times meant that there was certainly something catalyzing it.

While Lin Mu did have a desire to find out about the cause, his luck was just not with him and he didn't see anything. He finally reached the end of the area and it took him over a day for this as well.

Another dense forest had now started but the trees in it were filled with broad leaves. The floor was covered densely with dried and dead leaves and fallen logs could also be seen. Low beast cries echoed around the area and winds rustled the trees.

Stepping into the forest, Lin Mu could straight away feel a dangerous aura in the area.

~gulp~

"This area is just as how Adviser Chu described... I'll have to be careful." Lin Mu muttered.

Little Shrubby narrowed his eyes and fluffed his fur as well.

"There are a lot of beasts here... strong beasts... I can feel them..." Little Shrubby spoke his voice slightly strained.

"Indeed... this is also where Adviser Chu got injured the most. It took him over a year to escape this forest." Lin Mu added.

~HOWL~

A loud howl spread across the forest silencing all of the beast's cries and chirps that could be heard till now.

"And speak of the devil..." Lin Mu said before withdrawing the short sword and the Iron Thorn Spear.

~Grrr~

Little Shrubby bared his fangs and growled towards the front sensing a beast approaching.

[Chapter 756 - Bronze Tribe Wolf](#)

~Crack~

~THUD~

~RUSTLE~

The sounds of trees moving and wood cracking could be heard coming from the front. Lin Mu narrowed his eyes as he could tell that whatever was approaching was a rather large beast.

His spirit sense was already spread around, but the beast was not within its range, meaning that all of these sounds were coming despite the distance between them.

"Can you tell what beast it is from its scent?" Lin Mu questioned Little Shrubby.

"No... It's something I haven't seen before. But it's stronger than me." Little Shrubby answered.

"Stronger than you, huh?" Lin Mu furrowed his brows and tightened his grip on the weapons.

~HOWL~

The moment the next howl came, Lin Mu felt the beast entering his spirit sense range. The beast sensed him as well with its own spirit sense and now knew about each other. Lin Mu's eyes went wide as the beast rushed forward at a great speed.

~HOWL~

The beast let out a loud howl while running and broke all of the trees that were on its way. To the beast, all the trees were like brittle toothpicks, easy to snap. The ground shook with each of its steps, showing just how heavy and bit it was.

Lin Mu decided to act first and gestured with his left hand, pointing his middle and index finger towards the beast.

~shua~

The short sword hummed lightly and flew towards the beast at a great speed. Anything that was in its way was cut immediately and the moment it reached the beast, a loud clang was heard.

~CLANG~

~WHOOSH~

Little Shrubby joined the fray and spat out flames that burned everything that touched. The hardened wood trees of the forest were unable to withstand it and lit up in red flames. As Little Shrubby ran, the flames spread around with him.

"Iron Thorn Bloom!" Lin Mu chanted and thrust the Iron Thorn spear.

~Shing~shing~shing~

Tens of black blades made out of energy shot out of the spear and attacked the beast that was approaching. The beast had not even made its full appearance and was already facing three attacks at the same time.

~BARK!~

An angry bark was heard coming as the trees finally broke apart under the force of the sound.

~clang~

The short sword seemed to have hit something and was deflected.

~DENG~DENG~DENG~

The black blades made by the iron thorn spear seemed to have made contact with the beast as well, and multiple collision sounds were heard. But hearing the sounds, Lin Mu didn't really feel good, as he knew that they had been blocked.

"Not going to be easy this time... a True Dao Shell realm beast," Lin Mu muttered.

~GRRR~

The beast finally made its true appearance and it could be seen fully now. It was a large Wolf beast with Bronze colored fur that looked tough. Its fur was like steel wires that would not break and provided it with great defense.

Its eyes were a deep green in color while its tail was bushy but could hit like a whip if the beast chose to use it like that. The wolf's canines were also about a foot long and the rest of its teeth were no less fierce.

Its claws were like hooked knives that would easily tear apart the flesh of anything that dared to go against it. And the beast was as big as a house, being the biggest beast that Lin Mu had seen till now that wasn't Senior Xukong.

But Lin Mu was also able to recognize the beast and had actually read about it before.

"Bronze Tribe Wolf, a variant of the Steel Back wolves that is many times stronger than it and can cultivate all the way to the Dao Shell realm. They live in large packs, and the leader of the pack is the strongest one of them.

This is definitely the pack leader." Lin Mu identified.

While he had understood what the beast was, he now needed to know just how strong the beast was.

He could tell that the beast was at the Dao Shell realm, but what stage? That was the question.

If the beast was in the Shena Genesis stage or above, Lin Mu would escape right away. A beast of that level was not something he or Little Shrubby would be able to deal with. But if it was at the Shell Initiation stage, he would still have a chance.

And thus, Lin Mu's spirit sense probed the wolf beast, without caring about its feeling and drilled directly into its Dantian. This of course, angered the beast even more, but Lin Mu got what he wanted.

"Haha, at the Shell Initiation stage I see..." Lin Mu said with a smile.

He could see a faint outline of a sphere in the beast's Dantian. It was floating above its nascent soul and looked somewhat like a bubble. Lin Mu had already learned that it was the outline of a Dao Shell and that was what the initial Dao Shell would be looking like.

~GRRR!~

"You dare ignore me?" Little Shrubby's growl came from the back.

The flames that little Shrubby had spat out were meant as a visual distraction, as the beast couldn't see around easily with the flames hiding everything behind them. As for its spirit sense, the wolf was focused on Lin Mu.

Little Shrubby took advantage of this and had circled around to attack it from the behind.

~BOOM~

He quickly sped up, and a sonic boom could be heard.

~KACHA~KACHA~KACHA~

~SPARK~

The sound of metal being grinded could be heard as numerous sparks shot out of the Bronze Tribe Wolf's back. Lin Mu took a look and smirked.

"Of course, Little Shrubby would be able to damage even if he has a lower cultivation base... those bloodlines are not for nothing." Lin Mu muttered.

'Time for me to join in as well..' Lin Mu thought as a fierce expression appeared on his face and the spear was raised.

[Chapter 757 - LIGHT UP THE SKY!](#)

~WHOOSH~

Lin Mu shot forward as well and thrust the Iron Thorn Spear at the head of the Bronze Tribe wolf.

~CLANG~

The wolf raised its front paw and used its claws to block the attack. More sprats were let out from the contact, but the force of the impact was enough to strain the wolf as well. Its paw was slightly pushed to the back and Lin Mu noted it.

"So that's now it is, huh?" Lin Mu learned.

~BARK~

The wolf barked in anger and swiped his claw at Lin Mu, who just blinked away. It then shook its body, knocking away Little Shrubby, who was clawing its back.

"Haha! Its defense is not as strong as it seems." Lin Mu laughed from the top.

He could see that the steel wire like fur was torn apart like some common yarn. Little Shrubby flew back as well, but not before spitting out more flames that irritated the wolf.

Lin Mu blinked again and grasped the short sword before thrusting it down at the back of the wolf's neck.

~CLANG~

Another grating sound was heard as the sword sank a bit into the wolf's body. Its fur was dense and was several inches in thickness. Lin Mu could tell that he had not even touched its skin yet.

~BARK~

The wolf was now furious and whipped its tail from the back. It moved like a steel cable snapping and ripping through the air. Its speed was quite fast as well and Lin Mu could not move in time due to the Short sword being stuck in the dense fur of the wolf.

Flicker!

The tail of the wolf passed through him as if he was air and reflected back. The wolf couldn't feel anything being hit and was confused. It frantically kept on whipping, but that one second delay was enough for Lin Mu to blink away again.

~SHING~ SHUA~

Little Shrubby's claws extended and started to heat up. Soon they turned red hot, with the centers being a blinding white in color. It was hard to even look at them, which showed just how hot the claws were.

"TAKE THIS!" Little Shrubby roared.

~RIP~

His claws sank into the beast's thick fur as if it was paper before being ripped apart. The heat of the claws softened the bronze fur and the sharpeners of the claws made it easy to cleave it apart.

~BWEEEEEEEE~

The Bronze Tribe Wolf whimpered in pain as blood was spilled for the first time. Little Shrubby's claws had torn open a wound in the wolf's back.

'So fire is the weakness of this beast, huh.' Lin Mu thought.

It was now that Xukong's voice appeared in Lin Mu's mind.

"Remember how the elements work against and with each other!" Xukong reminded.

Memories appeared in Lin Mu's mind, and he recalled the weaknesses and strengths of each element. The Bronze Tribe Wolf obviously had an affinity to the metal element, as could be seen from its metallic bronze fur and thus its weakness was none other than fire that little shrubby was using.

Wood could fuel the fire and thus increase its power. Lin Mu looked around and smiled.

~ROAR!~

Little Shrubby didn't even need to hear Lin Mu's idea, and flames appeared on its body. Soon they became larger and larger, and it now looked like he was completely made out of fire. With Lin Mu and Little Shrubby's connection, words were not even necessary, and he knew what to do.

Little Shrubby hadn't used the Seven Beasts' burst but was simply using the fire attribute Qi to coat his body and amplify his flames now. It was one of the abilities that came to him naturally, but he didn't use it as much, since it was almost never needed. But now that was exactly what was required.

~SHUA~

Little Shrubby leaped away from the Bronze Tribe Wolf and started to run. But he wasn't running away or toward the wolf, but around it.

~shua~shua~shua~

Second, after second, Little Shrubby picked up speed and started to make circles around the wolf. The wolf was of course, irked and tried to attack Little Shrubby.

~DENG~

"Not so fast," Lin Mu said as he sank his fist into the side of the beast's neck.

~Whimper~

While it was not enough to spill blood, Lin Mu's fist was enough to create imprints on the fur of the beast. The punch had forcefully pulled the wolf's attention towards him.

~GRR!~

It growled at Lin Mu but he simply smiled at that he even put away the spear and the sword as he knew what he needed to do. At his current strength, using weapons to fight it was a bit inefficient.

Rather than that, he had a better method now, and his part in the plan was to hold the beast in one place.

The wolf bared its fangs and bit at Lin Mu, who blinked to the side before punching again.

~clang~

His fist hit the head and slightly moved the wolf.

~BARK~

The wolf bit towards Lin Mu again, but he blinked away again.

~DENG~

Another punch hit the beast, making it grunt in pain. But this was just the start.

~DENG~DENG~DENG~DENG~

Lin Mu's fists were like a hammer hitting the gong as he kept on punching while dodging with a blink. The wolf did its best to bite him, but was unable to do so due to Lin Mu's blink.

To catch up with the speed of blink was not easy and it would need for the attack to be faster than Lin Mu's reaction speed. As he simply could not be stopped once the skill had been activated.

And while this was happening, Little Shrubby continued to run circles around them, spread the fire everywhere. But due to the speed at which he was running, the flames were now rising up.

Lin Mu smiled at seeing this and finally spoke.

"Little Shrubby... LIGHT UP THE SKY!" Lin Mu shouted.

[Chapter 758 - Bronze Roasted Wolf!](#)

With Lin Mu's call, a strong gust of energy emanated from Little Shrubby's body. The vortex of fire that had been made by him running in a circle started to rise up like a water spout in the ocean.

~GRRR~

The Bronze Tribe Wolf was certainly anxious and knew that he was not in a good situation. All this time, he had thought that while he had come across some tough prey, it didn't occur to him just how tough.

But now that he had realized it, the time had passed, and it was too late.

~CLANG~

The Bronze Tribe Wolf swatted at Lin Mu in anger and Lin Mu blocked it directly. The brown armor of the mortal strengthening scripture appeared on his arms, absorbing the damage easily without cracking.

Lin Mu had borne the full brunt of a variant tribulation lighting twice before, thus this physical attack was still easy for him to bear. But this time, Lin Mu did not resist and held his ground.

Rather, he let himself be knocked away. The Wolf felt pleased that he had finally managed to hit Lin Mu and was happy at seeing him get injured. Lin Mu was flying towards the ground at a very fast speed and if he slammed into it, he would probably get quite injured.

Unfortunately, what the Bronze Tribe wolf was expecting didn't happen. Instead, Lin Mu sank into the ground as if it was water and the entire time he had a smile on his face. And just as he disappeared into the ground, a large explosion happened.

~KABOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMM!!!!!!~

Red flames swirled into a pillar that pierced the sky. The night sky was lit up and now it looked like it was the time for sunset instead. The heat of the flames ignited the trees that were further away from it.

Already a lot of trees had been burned by Little Shrubby, and now more of them were burning. This further fueled the pillar of spinning fire and increased its power. This was exactly the wood fueling the flames, according to the strengthening of the elements.

While Lin Mu and Little Shrubby could not use wood attribute spirit Qi as of now, they used a different method of powering up the fire. They used the naturally present wood elemental spirit Qi in the plants and trees and let Little Shrubby's fire burn them.

The synergistic reaction caused due to this was the main reason behind the current situation. Lin Mu had picked the right moment to escape as the flames were something that would injure even himself.

The temperature of the flames had already reached the level of the magma that was present in the mouth of the volcano that Lin Mu and Little Shrubby had reached. It was enough to decimate his Mortal strengthening scripture's defenses in just a couple of seconds.

But while Lin Mu had escaped into the ground, he didn't stop there. He continued to get further and further away, as even the soil was heating up at a rapid pace.

~woong~woong~woong~

The flame vortex continued to spin and burn for about a minute as Little Shrubby kept on running. The flames were made by him, thus it was harmless for him. And even if they were not, he still had a high enough resistance to fire anyway.

~Shua~

A mass shot out of the flame vortex after a minute, looking like a meteor descending from the sky.

~THUD~

~CRASH~

Several trees were destroyed in its descent and a deep gully was carved into the ground. Of course, more fires were caused by it and even the ground was scorched. Lin Mu blinked out from the ground and went to check.

"Little Shrubby, are you okay?" Lin Mu asked.

The meteor that had just crashed was none other than Little Shrubby.

~puff~?

The flames went out and Little Shrubby jumped out of the crater that he had just made.

~huff~huff~huff~

He was panting, but seems to be doing fine.

"I'm good..." he replied.

Lin Mu still probed him and saw that over eighty percent of his spirit Qi had been consumed.

'Hmm... that's understandable. He just managed to greatly damage if not kill a Dao Shell realm beast.'
Lin Mu thought to himself.

He looked back to the flame vortex and saw that it was still raging on. The spinning of the vortex sucked more air towards itself, which further fueled it. This also created a low pressure area, further pulling in more air.

The flame vortex continued for about five minutes, after which it finally faded away. The initial spirit Qi that Little shrubby had used for it had been used and just the infusion of air was no longer enough for it to continue to burn.

The trees around it had also been reduced to cinders a long time ago and thus there was no fuel for it anyways.

~shua~

The heat waves finally stopped and Lin Mu and Little shrubby took a closer look. Previously they could not do so as even their spirit senses were being stopped. Lin Mu's was being stopped due to the volatile burning Qi in the air, while Little Shrubby's was being pushed away due to the spinning of the vortex.

~thud~ thud~

The two of them landed at the edge of the now dissipated vortex and saw its aftermath. There was molten soil and rocks present there now. It looked like a pool of lava that Lin Mu had seen at the volcano, except it was far less bright.

Lin Mu's spirit sense once again rose from his body and checked the area for the signs of the Bronze Tribe wolf.

"Oh? THERE IT IS!" Lin Mu spotted a dark mass at the bottom of the lava pool.

"I'll take it out," Little Shrubby said as the five prosthetic hands that were spirit tools arrived.

Each of them was a high grade spirit tool and could easily handle such high temperature. The prosthetic hands sank into the molten ground and swam to the bottom before grasping onto the dark mass.

~splatter~

The molten liquid parted as the dark mass was pulled out by the five hands. Lin Mu and Little Shrubby could finally see its appearance. It looked like an elongated bronze mass. It was vaguely in the shape of a wolf and seemed like a deformed bronze statue instead.

~DENG~

The hands dropped the bronze mass on the ground with a loud sound as it sank into it a bit.

The mass was still very hot, but to Lin Mu and Little Shrubby, it was still handleable.

"Huh? What happened to the wolf?" Lin Mu was a bit confused until he probed the bronze mass.

Upon doing this, he finally readable the reality.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

The metallic fur of the Bronze Tribe wolf had completely melted and formed a coating over it while the bones inside its body had been heated up to a very high temperature. But the most surprising thing was that to Lin Mu its flesh seemed to be perfectly cooked.

"This may be really good," Lin Mu said as he pulled out a hammer from his ring.

This was one of the many weapons he had and was a war hammer. It was over two meters long and had a hammer head that was at least three hundred kilograms in weight. It was made of a mixed iron allow and was quite tough.

Lin Mu raised it with both his hands into the air, making it stir a bit.

~HUU~

He took a breath before slamming the hammer into the bronze mass with full force.

~DENG~

As if a bronze bell had been struck, a loud humming sound was released by it that spread in the surroundings. But that was just the start, as another sound could soon be heard.

~Crack~

It started very lightly, but the new sound increased in intensity.

~crack~crack~crack~

Cracks started to appear all over the bronze mass before finally...

~KACHA~

~SHATTER~

The outer bronze layer shattered like an eggshell, revealing the tender meat within. The aroma of the meat spread in the air like a tsunami and drowned Lin Mu and Little Shrubby's olfactory receptors.

In the next moment, saliva filled their mouths, and they couldn't help but gulp.

~slurp~

Lin Mu walked forward and used his short sword like a knife cutting out a chunk of flesh. It was incredibly tender and Lin Mu felt like he would be able to cut it with a blunt stick if it came to it.

"This looks soooooo good!" Little Shrubby said out loud.

The Bronze Tribe wolf's meat was like that of Clay Roasted Fish!

But the clay used was its own bronze like metallic fur and the oven was the flame vortex made by little shrubby. Its own bones acted like internal heating prods that cooked the meat very evenly.

The Dao Shell realm beast's tough red meat was now a pleasantly soft brown. Lin Mu passed a chunk to Little Shrubby while he took some for himself.

~huh~

Both of them took a deep breath and inhaled the tantalizing and meaty aroma before biting into the meat.

~NOM~

After the very first bite, an intense and gamy flavor spread throughout their mouths. After chewing a couple of times they swallowed the meat and their eyes lit up.

"THIS IS AMAZING!" Lin Mu let out a loud proclamation.

"INDEED!" Little Shrubby agreed.

Then both of them pounced on the 'Bronze Roasted Wolf' and started to devour it like beasts... well, one of them was really a beast while the other acted like a beast.

[Chapter 759 - Little Shrubby's Breakthrough To The Adult Soul Stage](#)

~BURP~

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby lounged around on the ground after having devoured the meat of the Bronze Tribe wolf in its entirety. The spirit Qi they had exhausted in the battles was easily replenished and not only that, but they had also gotten a nice boost over that.

"Ahh~ that was really good." Lin Mu said as he rubbed his bulging stomach.

The Bronze Tribe Wolf was the size of a house and the meat in it was enough to feed a thousand men easily. Yet Lin Mu and Little Shrubby had devoured it all alone. Over seventy percent was of course, eaten by Lin Mu since Little Shrubby could just not eat that much.

Even with the higher appetite as a beast, Little Shrubby still could not compare to that of the nameless technique of the Lost immortal. Lin Mu was on a different level like that and even now didn't know what was the limit of this technique... if there even was.

The Lost immortal did state that it would allow one to eat as much as they could, but Lin Mu wanted to know if it really was true. After all, the Lost immortal never actually got to test the technique before and it had several additional effects that were simply not known of.

Lin Mu's stomach had already changed its qualities many times over and was no longer that of a human. Even he himself could not tell what the changes were exactly as when he used spirit sense to observe it. His stomach was impenetrable to it.

It was as if there was a sheet covering it that was protecting it and no spirit sense could go through it. Even senior Xukong was at a loss and didn't know just what it was that made it like that.

Though the technique did bring about many benefits, such as the fact that it increased the rate at which Lin Mu digested food and absorbed the spirit Qi and vital energy within it. It was also one of the reasons why he was able to speed through cultivation.

As long as Lin Mu had the support of the beast meat or other such energy rich foods, he would be able to continue cultivating at a rapid pace. Little Shrubby was in the same state and had gained a lot after eating the Bronze Tribe Wolf's meat.

In fact, Little Shrubby was almost at the border of the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent Soul realm and might reach it before Lin Mu.

"Now I don't know if the other beast meat we got will taste better or not." Little Shrubby commented.

"Hmm... we'll only know if we eat it later. For now, this is enough," Lin Mu replied.

If it was up to them, they probably would not have eaten the meat of the Bronze Tribe Wolf and would have chosen to keep it for later. But since it was already cooked and the aroma was so tempting, there was little they could do to inhibit their desires.

"Ah," Lin Mu grunted and forced himself to sit cross legged.

He started to assimilate all of the vital energy and spirit Qi from the meat actively. There was a massive amount of it in the meat, thus it actually took Lin Mu and Little Shrubby an entire day to finish assimilating it entirely.

And when the next day arrived, it happened...

~SHUA~

Little Shrubby's aura suddenly spiked as spirit Qi in the air started stirring. A vortex started to form over his body as the spirit Qi started to pour into his body.

Lin Mu opened his eyes upon noticing this and was surprised.

"Spirit Qi infusion? He already broke through?!" Lin Mu said in excrement.

His spirit sense probed Little Shrubby's Dantian and there he saw his Nascent soul frantically sucking in all of the spirit Qi. Little Shrubby's Dantian itself was empty since the nascent soul had taken it all in, but the spirit Qi infusion due to the breakthrough was actively replacing it.

Little by little, the Nascent soul that looked like Little Shrubby when he was at the core condensation realm started to grow. About ten minutes later, it had fully grown and looked just how Little Shrubby looked right now.

~SHUA~

Little Shrubby opened his eyes as they glowed in a red light. An oppressive presence exuded from his body and a Bloodline Aura shot out. Lin Mu felt it clearly as well and knew that it was far more powerful than any beast he had met till now. The Great Slumber Bear and Senior Xukong were the exceptions, of course.

"Congratulations!" Lin Mu said, a smile appearing on his face.

"I broke though! I can now protect master better and help him!" Little Shrubby replied.

~pat~pat~

"That you will, of course," Lin Mu said as he rubbed Little Shrubby.

It was a bit awkward since Little Shrubby was now the same height as that of Lin Mu himself. His size was quite big but still not as big compared to the Bronze Tribe Wolf. Lin Mu could tell that Little Shrubby was still growing, even now.

The only difference was that the speed was slow. He wondered if he would keep on doing so and just how big would he become in the future.

"With the Beast Qi you are feeding him every so often, I won't be shocked if he never actually stops growing." Xukong suddenly said.

"Really senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes... Beast Qi is something each beast desires, and it is hard to find. That Bronze Tribe Wolf you killed might have only made about half the amount of Beast Qi you have given to Little Shrubby till now in his entire life of probably a thousand years." Xukong answered.

"Damn... that's not a lot." Lin Mu replied.

"Mmmhmm... that is exactly why it is so absurd seeing how you can make the beast Qi with the nurturing heart sutra.. It is certainly not normal..." Xukong commented.

[Chapter 760 - Beasts And Beast Qi](#)

Lin Mu talked with Senior Xukong for a couple more minutes before celebrating Little Shrubby's breakthrough. The reward was of course, more Beast Qi and was quickly taken by Little Shrubby as if it would run away at any moment.

Lin Mu could only chuckle at this and wait for Little Shrubby to assimilate it. While doing this, a thought came to him.

'If Little Shrubby has had this much growth and difference after getting Beasts Qi when he had already matured a bit, what would be happening to a beast that has been fed Beast Qi since birth?' Lin Mu thought. 'Or perhaps... before birth?' he recalled the Grey Egg.

The Fire Fang snake and Black Water Snake's egg had been sitting in the Ring for most of the time. Lin Mu only took it out to inject Beast Qi into it every day for a couple of minutes.

It had become routine to him, just like eating and drinking, and he would do it without even thinking much of it. He had done it when he was riding Little Shrubby too, and would simply pull the egg out before injecting the Beast Qi for a minute before putting it back into the ring.

It had stayed mostly the same ever since then and Lin Mu wondered when it would be hatching. Senior Xukong also didn't know when it would do, since the egg had certainly gone on a completely different path after having been given Beast Qi.

If it were a normal egg, it would have possibly hatched by now, or would soon. But in the case of the Grey egg, it was showing no such signs.

"I think it's time we leave now and head on forward," Lin Mu said after an hour.

Little Shrubby opened his eyes and looked around before nodding. The forest had become really quiet ever since the battle and Lin Mu attributed it to the strong aura of a Dao Shell realm beast and perhaps its blood as well.

In addition to that, Little Shrubby's Bloodline had also become stronger, and the aura exuding from him was also suppressive for other beasts and would make them think several times before coming close.

And this was the case for beasts who would be at the same cultivation base as Little Shrubby, which was the Adult Soul Stage of the Nascent Soul realm. The ones that were weaker would run away with their tails between their legs.

Just a mere wisp of the aura was enough to terrify them more than enough.

~thud~ shua~

Little Shrubby and Lin Mu continued on ahead and traversed the deep forest. Their travel was easy at the start, but after about three days, they started to meet beasts again. The strange thing was that they would still attack them from time to time, which was strange considering Little Shrubby.

"Isn't this not supposed to happen? The beasts earlier were afraid of coming close." Lin Mu said.

"This might actually be more of a territory thing. You two are passing through the territories of thousands of beasts who already fight a lot amongst themselves. There are already other Dao Shell realm beasts here that they cannot provoke.

Even if they are scared and want to escape, they can't really go to other areas as they may be the places where Dao Shell realm beasts live. So their only choices become either fighting a Dao Shell realm beast by intruding on its territory or to fight you two who are at the Nascent Soul realm.

And the choice must be obvious here." Xukong explained.

"I see..." Lin Mu understood. "But then, doesn't this also mean... there are Dao Shell realm beasts nearby?" he added.

"Indeed. You can take this as a sign. If a beast attacks you despite not being provoked and seeing you two, then it's quite likely there are Dao Shell realm beasts living nearby. Of course, there is always a chance that the beast is just stupid and fights anything.

There are often many examples of such beasts. Then there are also those that don't really have a good enough spirit sense and thus can't judge very well who they are fighting against." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu could only nod and pity the beasts that would be coming to fight them. But it also made him alert about the Dao Shell realm beasts.

While he had indeed fought and won a battle against the Bronze Tribe Wolf earlier, Lin Mu knew that the same would not be the same for other Dao Shell realm beasts. Little Shrubby and he were simply lucky that their match up was favorable.

Plus, the Bronze Tribe Wolf was at the Shell Initiation stage. Lin Mu didn't have the same confidence in dealing with one that was at the Shell Genesis stage. After all, only after a Dao Shell was created would the true powers of the Dao Shell realm be visible.

The Dao Shell had many more functions than to just protect the Dao Embryo. It could also be used for offense and defense. One must know that a Dao Shell was quite tough, in fact, many Dao Shell realm cultivator's bodies were weaker than their Dao Shell.

Thus, they would often use their Dao Shell to defend against attacks that they could not bear with their own bodies. Then on the other hand, since the Dao Shell was so hard, it could be used as a direct weapon by using it as a smasher.

One just had to slam it onto their enemies and turn them into a pancake. Lin Mu was doubtful if he would be able to take on the toughness of a Dao Shell at this moment and thought that perhaps only the Third Form of the Boulder Collapsing Fist might have any luck at causing it damage.

While the second form piercer was focused on piercing barriers and defenses, it was still limited, depending on the opponent's cultivation base.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby continued their journey and one week after Little Shrubby's breakthrough, they finally found their mission's destination.