

Walker 771

[Chapter 771 - The Troll's Corpse](#)

Having heard Senior Xukong's suggestion, Lin Mu felt pleased and nodded his head.

It was something he wanted to do but knew that using techniques blinding can be very dangerous, especially once that was as volatile as the boulder collapsing first. Lin Mu had already taken a risk in practicing the nameless technique of the Lost immortal, which was something that was never actually practiced by anyone.

He had suffered its effects and knew just how debilitating they could be.

'If even two treasured organs are not enough... then I'll refine more. If not three, then four, if not four, then all five, I don't believe I can't resist the recoil damage.' Lin Mu thought to himself with determination.

~shua~

While he was thinking to himself, the sound of a gust could be heard and a red blur arrived next to him.

"THAT WAS AMAZING!" little Shrubby said.

"Oh?" Lin Mu was a bit confused, having been brought out of his thoughts abruptly.

"The attack! Its power was something I don't think evens I can escape from." Little Shrubby spoke.

"It was that fast?" Lin Mu questioned.

"VERY FAST!" Little Shrubby replied.

"Huh... guess I have something to use against if I'm up against someone with a speed faster than me." Lin Mu said, hearing this.

It was a bit unexpected to him since he was actually unable to see how the attack progressed. It was too bright and by the time he got to switching to his spirit sense, the attack had already been executed.

"Oh yeah, speaking of that... how's the troll now?" Lin Mu wondered and stood up, ensuring that his right hand wasn't strained for now.

Lin Mu and little Shrubby walked up to the standing corpse of the dead troll and saw the aftermath. Blood and goop spilled out of its eyes and dripped down slowly. The Troll's eyes had exploded due to the heat and whatever was left of his brain was coming out of them now.

The outside of the Troll's body was actually fine looking, since most of the damage was to the insides.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu exclaimed upon seeing the hole in the ground below the troll.

This was the place from where the flaming devastator had exited and entered the ground. There he could see a red hot tube that went rather deep. The glowing red color could be seen all the way down and its depth was hard to estimate. Though the width of the hole wasn't that much, being just five inches wide.

"Just how deep did it manage to go?" Lin Mu wondered and used his spirit sense.

Soon it went into the depths of the hole, and he got the depth of the hole.

"Five... five hundred... it's over five hundred meters." Lin Mu muttered.

"That is indeed impressive... for it to pierce through a strong defensive based demon beast like the troll and still have enough energy left over to melt over five hundred meters of soil and rocks. The power is certainly quite good." Xukong acknowledge.

"Mhmm... and this was with a low powered version... I can increase this even more." Lin Mu said.

"But that would probably end up with you losing your entire arm or more." Xukong replied.

"That is if I can even execute it, I don't think I can even go beyond thirty percent level. It would either explode inside my arm before that, or I would not be able to hold my position and be sent flying back instead.

The opposing force generated by the skill is way too much to resist normally." Lin Mu spoke.

"That's another few things you'll have to think of solving before you get started on the next level of the skill." Xukong added.

"Indeed." Lin Mu agreed.

The two of them talked for a bit more while Little Shrubby sniffed and looked at the Troll.

"I don't think we can eat this anymore." Little Shrubby said.

Lin Mu heard his voice and looked towards the Troll corpse. He used his spirit sense to check its insides and found them to be burnt beyond recognition. Only the tough outer skin and some bone were left intact for now.

"Yeah... doesn't seem like it." Lin Mu agreed, though he did feel a bit grossed out at eating an overly ugly beat like this.

"And there is no Nascent soul for me to eat either." Little Shrubby added.

"Oh? I almost forgot about that. It should have still been here though, right?" Lin Mu spoke.

"Do you really think a move as volatile as that would allow a spirit Qi construct like the Nascent soul to exist for more than an instant?" Xukong chuckled. "It was gone the moment you used it."

"Ah... of course." Lin Mu said.

He knew that in most cases, the Nascent soul of a cultivator could survive and escape. If it could find another suitable body it could possibly gain a second life. This had happened with many of the Nascent soul realm enemies that Lin Mu had killed.

Little Shrubby liked eating their Nascent Souls, so Lin Mu would keep them for him. But in case of strong attacks like the Flaming devastator or even the normal devastator, it was tough for a Nascent soul to survive.

It was the same as putting a candle in front of a seething storm; it would blow it out in the blink of an eye.

"Though... I think you can fashion a good armor out of the remains of the Troll beast." Xukong suggested.

"Oh? I can?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"Of course. Though processing might be a bit hard." Xukong replied.

"Hmm... guess Jing Luo will have another project to work on." Lin Mu said as he stored the corpse of the Troll Demon beast into his ring.

~phew~

"That was a long week... I want a bath.." Lin Mu said as he took a look at his body, which was covered with dirt and dust and blood and soot.

[Chapter 772 - A Relaxing Bath](#)

~SIZZLE~

Lin Mu laid in a large bronze tub as water boiled in it.

~FUUUU~FUUUU~

"Is this enough?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yeah, that's hot enough." Lin Mu said.

He then laid back and rested his head. Lin Mu had been fighting for about a week straight and even though he was not fully exhausted at the end, using the Flaming Devastator had certainly put some extra strain on his body.

Soaking in warm... or boiling water in his case was rather relaxing for Lin Mu. His body had reached a level of toughness that warm water did not even feel like anything. Only when it got to bubbling did it feel comfortable.

Fortunately for Lin Mu, there was little shrubby who could heat it up in a jiffy.

He scrubbed away the filth and dirt that had stained him and washed the blood on his body as well. The wound on his right hand was tingling, which was a sign that it was already on its way to healing soon.

Lin Mu spent about an hour soaking in the water and felt better after it. Feeling refreshed, he donned a new pair of dark blue robes with black designs. The robes he was wearing previously had been burned away during his breakthrough.

Thankfully Lin Mu had no lack of clothes now. He had enough that they would probably last a hundred years. That is of course... if he didn't end up destroying them every day.

Thinking of the clothes, Lin Mu had a thought.

'Wonder what Jing Luo would be able to do with the corpse of the Troll Demon beast. It certainly has some different properties, maybe I'll get to see something new.' Lin Mu thought.

"What should we do now?" Little Shrubby questioned, bringing Lin Mu out of his thoughts.

"Oh? Yeah... our main mission that we came here for is pretty much complete now. And thinking of the time... I think we have just a little under a month left here." Lin Mu spoke.

"Then... do we go back?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Do you want to go back?" Lin Mu asked for his opinion.

"Hmmm... I'm fine with either option. But the things here are good too. We can find lots of food and herbs we don't find other places." Little Shrubby said.

"Hmm... that's true." Lin Mu agreed.

"You can look around the remaining time. See if you can find things or treasures to further your cultivation base. I'm sure you should be able to find herbs and other treasures that can help your body cultivation as well." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Oh yeah, that's true as well. Coming back to this place later will be difficult. And I don't think we'll have the opportunity again anytime soon. At least not before Gu Yao is dealt with." Lin Mu said, as a glint appeared in his eyes.

He was now even more confident of killing Gu Yao. He had managed to kill two Dao Shell realm creatures one of which was even a Shell Genesis stage Dao Shell realm demon beast Troll, thus he felt like he could do a lot more.

After thinking for a bit, Lin Mu made up his mind.

"Alright, we'll stay here for a while more. I'll try to reach the Adult Stage of the Nascent soul realm as well in the meantime." Lin Mu said.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby agreed.

With that said and done, Lin Mu and Little shrubby began their journey again. The place they were heading to was none other than the Billion Flower Meadow. The location that the former Adviser Chu had left from was nearby from there and Lin Mu wanted to see how it actually was.

Even though he knew that he could leave at any time, he still wanted to be assured of it. It would be very unfortunate if he was late and the mission he came for was failed. He did not want to give up on a strong allow as the Noon Grass sect.

Even though they were the lowest ranked of all the Top sects, they were still a top sect. Not to mention they had a lot of strong cultivators among them, even if they were low key most of the time.

Plus, if he managed to get the Noon grass sect on his side, convincing the Long Cloud alliance with them would be far easier. After all, even if Lin Mu was strong, it was a different thing if there was another Top ten sect in the conversation.

So far, Lin Mu had gathered only a handful of allies and he didn't know if they would be enough for the battle that would be coming. He knew that even if he got very strong, the quantitative factor was hard to ignore.

The Northern Tribes were still the unknown factor, and Lin Mu did not know how they would be acting. Plus, Lin Mu now knew that they had three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators as well along with several Dao Treading realm cultivators.

This only made him more anxious. After all, Lin Mu did not know if he would be able to get the top three sects on his side. They were the only ones that had Immortal Ascension realm cultivators among them.

Not to mention, Lin Mu was technically a wanted criminal among the sects and the kingdoms. There was little to think if they would prefer to attack him first rather than listen to him.

With the scheme Gu Yao had hatched, it was quite likely that they would choose the former. That's why Lin Mu knew that he needed to have power and allies on his side. Only then would he be on talking terms with the sects.

Time was running out, and Gu Yao was spreading his net. With each passing day, Lin Mu felt more anxious, but he knew that was not good. All he could do for now was keep a strong mind and soldier on.

As these thoughts went through his mind, Lin Mu ended up reaching the meadow.

[Chapter 773 - Brood Mane Lion And Hundred Mirror Leopard Bloodlines](#)

"Ahh~ this place is good!" Little Shrubby said as he laid and rolled in the flowers.

Lin Mu smiled seeing it and sat down for a bit as well. The wood attribute spirit Qi was quite high in the area and he could feel himself absorbing it as well.

'I wonder if the other types of elemental spirit Qi will have the same effect as that of the fire elemental spirit Qi, when using it with the boulder collapsing fist.' Lin Mu wondered to himself.

"With how flexible the technique is, I won't be surprised if it really does work. Why don't you try it out." Xukong suggested.

"Hmm... I guess I can try that after I'm healed up. In the meantime, I may as well try absorbing some Wood Attribute spirit Qi here." Lin Mu said.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby ended up spending about three days in the meadow and absorbed the wood attribute spirit Qi here. Little Shrubby gained the most of course, and his Fume Wood Panther Bloodline was getting a bit stronger as well.

Lin Mu gave him beast Qi specifically for the Fume Wood Panther Bloodline, so it was steadily increasing Little Shrubby's affinity with the Fume Wood Panther Bloodline. Though for now, there were no specific changes that had occurred in his body.

The only characteristic that Little Shrubby had right now were those of the Flash Fire Liger and Scorch Claw Tiger. Each of Little Shrubby's seven bloodlines was powerful on its own and could increase his power greatly.

Though which ones will show the most effects and which ones will give him new abilities were still a mystery. Lin Mu had a hunch that other than the affinity with the different elements each bloodline had, there might be some innate skills Little Shrubby might gain.

In the case of elemental affinity, there was fire, wood, lightning, and Darkness. Having an affinity to two of the Four Heavenly elements was considered rather outstanding already, not to mention some other unique abilities that the Brood Mane Lion and the Hundred Mirror Leopard had.

Lin Mu was currently studying a bit more about those beasts and learned some new things.

"Oh? The Brood Mane Lion is good at controlling and directing beasts of its Pride. They are known to be able to use their Innate skill, 'Call of the Brood' to increase the power of the beasts subordinate to it.

I wonder just how much of an increase it can bring. If I do get more beasts in the future, it might come in handy." Lin Mu learned.

"Hmm... I don't think I've heard of Brood Mane Lions that much. While they are indeed strong, they aren't that astounding either. I guess you can consider this bloodline to be the lowest ranked one amongst Little Shrubby's seven." Xukong spoke.

"I see... still, having it will be better than nothing." Lin Mu replied.

Lin Mu continued reading a bit more about the Brood Mane Lion and was soon done. In the end, he came to the same conclusion as senior Xukong, while the beast was strong, it was nothing too special.

"Oh yeah senior, what do you know about the Hundred Mirror Leopards?" Lin Mu asked, since he was unable to find much about it in the records he had.

"Hmm... they live in strange worlds called as Mirror worlds and there are very few of them left. Their abilities are strange and sometimes even terrifying to people. They can mimic different Qi skills and techniques while also being able to create clones of themselves.

Not much is known about them because of the worlds they live in. Mirror worlds are hard to access and ones that do manage to enter one are unable to return." Xukong answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu was very interested. He had not expected this bloodline to have such aspects. He was also curious about the mirror worlds that Xukong had talked about.

"Tell me more about the mirror world's senior." Lin Mu asked.

"Mirror worlds are in a way replicas of the other worlds. While they are fully functional, they are also Dependant on the other world. They come into existence in mysterious ways, and we still don't know the exact reason behind it.

Usually, if a world has a mirror world attached to it, nothing unusual happens. But when the borders between the worlds get closer or the beasts in the mirror world get stronger, they may start to cross over to the main worlds.

The Hundred Mirror Leopard is one such beast that has been noted to be like that. It can appear out of mirrored surfaces and snatch away humans and other beasts. It is a predator that is hard to catch or even notice.

Many unusual disappearances of people are often attributed to the existence of a mirror world and the Hundred Mirror Leopards.

The Mirror worlds are also rather strange and can exhibit unusual phenomena. These are largely unstudied and only a handful of scholars have actually managed to return from such worlds." Xukong explained.

Hearing all this, Lin Mu felt amazed. He had not expected that there would be something as unique as mirror worlds as well. The more he learned about the universe, the more he understood that what he understood was just a grain of sand in an endless ocean.

This only fueled him to learn more and more while also making him want to see all of those with his own eyes.

"Ah, this should be enough." Lin Mu said as he stood up.

He stretched a bit before looking towards little Shrubby.

"Let's go." He said.

~roll~

Little Shrubby turned on the ground and stood up as well. Both of them had gained a bit while staying here and their cultivation bases had progressed as well. Lin Mu was inching closer and closer to the Adult Stage of the nascent soul realm.

Plus, he now had an additional pool of spirit Qi in his Dantian and this one was green in color.

[Chapter 774 - The Eight Hill](#)

The pool of wood attribute spirit Qi in Lin Mu's Dantian was not as big as that of the fire elemental or the earth elemental pool, but it was still relatively big considering that the total capacity of Lin Mu's Dantian was ever expanding.

Cultivation in the Nascent soul realm didn't depend on how much spirit Qi one had their Dantian directly but instead depended on how grown the Nascent soul realm was. For most people, their Dantian capacity would not change after a certain point.

But Lin Mu was a big exception to that and had yet to see any sign of it stopping. He was at a point where he reckoned even if he was getting close to the full capacity of his Dantian, just as he was about to reach it, it would just expand even more to accommodate the spirit Qi.

Thus, even if the Wood attribute spirit Qi in his Dantian was just 3% of the total spirit Qi that he had, it might be equal to all the spirit Qi, a newly broken though Infant Soul stage Nascent soul realm cultivator might have.

Although Lin Mu's High Dantian capacity was also countered by his skills and techniques that used up a large amount of spirit Qi. While Flicker, Blink, and Phase were relatively light use for Lin Mu now and he could use them tens of thousands of times, it was not the same for Fade and Meld.

Fade consumed 1% of Lin Mu's total spirit Qi regardless of how much he had at this point. This was a complex point he only understood as a cost related to how his cultivation base grew and the equivalent energy needed to enter the parallel world.

As for Meld, its consumption was relative to how long and how much of an area Lin Mu controlled. If he controlled it for too long or too large of an area, the consumption would increase exponentially.

Though Senior Xukong had told him that if he could better his proficiency with the skill, he would be able to reduce the consumption even more.

Then there were was the Boulder Collapsing Fist. Each form of it used either Vital energy or spirit Qi. And the quantity used could be varied as needed by Lin Mu. But the minimum number was still 1% of his total capacity.

As such, Lin Mu knew he had to keep these skills as his trumps cards. Even if his cultivation base grew, he couldn't just keep on using them blindly and expect to be fine. He would need to diversify his skills, and that was exactly why he was focused on bettering his body.

If just his body was strong enough to take all the hits and deal enough damage without even needing the spirit Qi, Lin Mu would be far more powerful. Thus, furthering his body cultivation was key to this.

The way he thought of it was that his Five Treasures realm cultivation base was now for general fights and long term sustained fights, while his spirit Qi cultivation would be for the specific situations where he could not deal with it using his body.

With his new path decided, Lin Mu now knew how to proceed. Before, he was moving a bit blindly on the path of cultivation. He knew that he had to defeat Gu Yao, but did not know how he would be fighting.

But now he knew it very well. All he needed to do was to keep on progressing and he'll be able to take the man down.

While pondering on all this, Lin Mu reached the six pointed lake with the cloud crowned banyan tree in the center of it.

"Here we are... the Eight Hill should be close from here now." Lin Mu said as he took a look around.

No matter how many times he looked, the lake certainly looked rather peculiar and so was the large tree in the center of it. Lin Mu spread his spirit sense around and checked the area in detail, just to ensure that everything was fine and safe.

~pew~

"Nothing different so far. That's a good sign." Lin Mu said and nodded his head.

"That's where the hill is, right?" Little Shrubby asked and pointed towards an area where three rows of hills could be seen.

"Yup, that's the one. Let's head on to there." Lin Mu replied.

The two of them flew towards the three rows of hills and quickly found the one that was called as the Eight hill. It was in the shape of the Character 'Eight' and had a flat top with smoothly curving sides.

It was rather peculiar and Lin Mu guessed that it was actually made by someone to look like this.

"This is strange... there is no spirit Qi here." Little Shrubby said upon feeling the air.

"What?" Lin Mu asked.

Little Shrubby was slightly ahead of him, but the distance between them was not that much, being a mere 100 meters. The place where Lin Mu was standing was normal and had the same concentration of spirit Qi as the rest of the area, thus he was confused upon hearing Little Shrubby.

He moved towards Little Shrubby and at the 50 meter mark, he sensed the change. As if the place was in a vacuum, the spirit Qi in the area was dead zero. Lin Mu could feel no spirit Qi at all in this part which was rather strange.

"What is this?" Lin Mu looked around and let his spirit sense wander.

They were currently in the center of the top of the Eight hill and it was only this area that was void of spirit Qi. Since Lin Mu could not sense anything in the air, he let his spirit sense pierce through the ground.

It did manage to enter up to a depth of a hundred meters into the hill, but after that, he felt a strong tug at his spirit sense.

[Chapter 775 - Strong Suction Force](#)

Feeling the Tug, Lin Mu became alert.

He knew that if something could pull on his spirit sense even now, after being refined this much, there must be something strong behind it. Lin Mu very carefully let his spirit sense descend even more, but realized that the tugging force was getting even more strong.

"Damn, if I let it go further, it will just end up ripping my spirit sense." Lin Mu understood.

"What did you find?" Little Shrubby asked, seeing Lin Mu's reaction.

"I don't fully know either. But whatever it is... it can pull spirit Qi of any kind, it seems. Even if it is in the form of spirit sense it seems to be strong enough to pull it. I think that is also why there is no spirit Qi in the area." Lin Mu replied.

Little Shrubby tilted his head in confusion and looked towards the bottom. After a few seconds, he spat out a small ball of fire towards the bottom. Lin Mu and Little Shrubby then saw the ball of fire falling towards the surface of the hill.

The place where it fell was scorched a bit, but then the ball of fire started being sucked into the ground. Seeing this Lin Mu and Little Shrubby, both raised their brows. One must know that the ball of fire had enough spirit Qi to continue burning, even if it fell on the ground for at least a minute.

Thus, it was not just normal fire that would be extinguished like that. Instead, the ball was pulled into the ground easily. Lin Mu followed behind it with his spirit sense and saw that the ball was transformed into a drop of fire elemental spirit Qi and quickly pulled to the bottom of the hill.

The Eight hill was just over two hundred meters tall and thus the maximum depth that Lin Mu had reached with his spirit sense was just half of it.

"This is certainly very strange. What could be sucking all spirit Qi like that? Some beast, or some treasure perhaps?" Lin Mu wondered.

"The location from where the former adviser Chu left. Was it close to this place?" Xukong asked.

"Yes, senior. It's there," Lin Mu pointed towards a pair of hills.

The hills were very common looking and would hide very well in any background. But if one looked closer they would find a small black patch between them. This small black patch was actually a large boulder that was blocking the entrance to an underground cave.

"So that's where he hid the formation array, huh... I think this place and that might be linked." Xukong said.

"Huh? How so senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Why don't you go down to the bottom of the hill and see. Check what's hidden beneath the ground." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and agreed.

"Just wait here, I'll go take a look." Lin Mu said to Little Shrubby.

"Okay," Little Shrubby replied, and spread his spirit sense around.

He knew now to keep an eye on the surroundings seeing just how many beasts there were in this place. Even Dao Shell realm beasts could pop up at a moment's notice and thus it was better to keep alert.

Lin Mu then sank down into the hill using phase and kept on freely sinking. In just five seconds, he was at the hundred meter depth.

"This is where the suction force got stronger." Lin Mu said as he very carefully extended his spirit sense.

He made sure to not let it go beyond ten meters, as after that, his control over it would weaken under the suction force. Lin Mu certainly did not want his spirit sense to get torn here.

"Hmm... nothing here... need to go deeper." Lin Mu said and sank down further.

Soon he had reached the same level as that of the hill's base. He could be said to be at the ground level now.

"Damn, the suction force is even stronger." Lin Mu said and retracted his spirit sense to only a five meter range.

But even here, there was nothing for him to find. He wandered around in the hill searching for the source, but did not find it at this level.

"Do I really need to go deeper?" Lin Mu muttered.

Gritting his teeth, he sank down even more deep. This time, he slowed his speed and kept an eye on the suction force. The force kept on increasing more and more, and became the strongest at about fifty meters below ground.

At this point, Lin Mu could not release his spirit sense from his body at all, or it would get torn.

'Bah! May as well see what's even deeper.' Lin Mu thought to himself and went deeper.

But here was when the things changed. The suction force actually decreased here and by the time he was a hundred meters from the strongest suction point, it was completely gone, allowing Lin Mu to freely use his spirit sense.

"Huh... what the..." Lin Mu was now confused.

He had thought that something would be hidden beneath the area with the strongest suction force, but it was nothing here.

"See... I told you it might have something to do with the cave. Go back up and follow the area, it should now be moving in a horizontal manner instead." Xukong suggested.

Lin Mu did as was told and went back up and moved horizontally toward the direction of the cave.

"This is like a tunnel... but for spirit Qi." Lin Mu understood.

"Mmmhmm, it might actually be a formation array." Xukong said.

"Of course! With a suction force as strong as this, barely anyone would be able to prove it without hurting themselves. No wonder it could stay hidden so well." Lin Mu understood.

"This is one of the more complex methods of hiding a formation. But to more experienced masters, this is also the quickest way to find such formations." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and followed the 'tunnel' all the way to the cave where the former adviser had escaped the Sinkhole from.

[Chapter 776 - A Formation Nexus](#)

The distance to the cave where the Former Adviser Chu built the teleportation formation array to escape the wandering sinkhole was about a kilometer away. Lin Mu could feel the suction force getting a bit turbulent the closer he got to it.

He also realized that the 'Tunnel' was slightly below the cave. Lin Mu reached it after about ten minutes and saw what looked like a vortex below it. There was not just one, but eighteen such tunnels joining it.

"So many... does this spread all across the plane?" Lin Mu said upon seeing it.

The vortex spun at a constant pace and the spirit Qi from the tunnels kept on getting condensed within it. Lin Mu did not know how this was formed, but he was sure that it was certainly not natural.

Lin Mu then rose up and appeared on the surface. He looked around and saw that there were a few glowing crystals in the cave that illuminated it. The light was dim, but for Lin Mu, it was still enough to see everything clearly.

There was a lot to process here, and there were many things in the cave.

"This... just how many formation arrays is this even controlling?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... this looks like a rudimentary formation Nexus... it's basically an artificial version of a world nexus." Xukong answered.

"Huh? So this controls this entire Minor plane?" Lin Mu asked.

"Possibly... or perhaps it was supposed to. Looking at it, this seems to be incomplete." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and decided to take a look around. The cave itself was rather large, being at least a hundred meters tall and around five hundred meters wide. Though Lin Mu doubted if this was just one of the rooms or if there were more.

There were old ruins and structures in the cave, on which many runes were carved. It was certain that they were part of an array, but they were either damaged or just incomplete.

Lin Mu continued to look around and soon found what looked like a stone door disguised as a wall at the side.

"Hmm... this is certainly suspicious..." Lin Mu muttered and pushed it.

~RUMBLE~

As if the door had gained a life of itself, it moved and revealed a passageway. It was dark, unlike the hall, and Lin Mu lit up a flame on his hand to provide some light. With the fire elemental spirit Qi he had, it was a piece of cake for him to do something like this.

He walked through the passage while being alert and careful. He did not know if there were any traps set here or not. Soon, he reached the other end of the passage and appeared in another room.

"This should be the actual entrance of the cave." Lin Mu said.

He looked to the side and soon found what looked like ten stone pillars that were carved with old runes written in Dao script. The pillars were thin and were only five inches in thickness. But they were about three meters tall in height.

Inside the center of the ten pillars, Lin Mu could see the formation that was inscribed on the ground. There was also a small altar set up made out of some kind of a metal that seemed familiar to Lin Mu.

"Isn't this... made from Void Star metal?" Lin Mu identified.

"It actually is, yes." Xukong agreed.

Lin Mu got closer and checked the altar with his spirit sense. He could sense the remnants of spatial Qi inside the void star metal, but most of it had been depleted. Lin Mu read the inscriptions on the altar and could tell that it was a teleportation formation.

"This must be the formation that Adviser Chu made to escape the sinkhole." Lin Mu spoke.

"I doubt that," Xukong suddenly said.

"Huh? But he said that himself." Lin Mu replied.

"Not that part about the formation itself, but rather that he made it." Xukong explained.

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

"Look at the stone pillars and the altar as well. Those runes look far older than just two hundred years." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu got closer and touched the inscriptions, observing them in detail. The inscriptions certainly seemed far more aged than just two hundred years to him.

"Hmm... that's strange. But why would adviser Chu lie?" Lin Mu stated.

"Rather than lying, I think it was more of him just forgetting it." Xukong replied.

"Him forgetting? Would that be possible?" Lin Mu asked.

"More than possible. Don't forget that you managing to awaken him was already enough of a miracle. I wouldn't be shocked if his memories were still muddled. And with his condition, he would not even be able to tell that they were mixed up." Xukong answered.

"Then what could be that actually happened." Lin Mu wondered.

"From his other stories and what we've seen so far, it seems like this formation wasn't actually made by him, but some of its components were gathered by him. For example, the runes written on the ground seem newer and are probably made by him.

But the pillars and the altar were certainly made by someone else. They are far more complex than the other runes. They were definitely made by someone that had a mastery in formations and runes.

It would need someone on the level of Jing Luo or Jing Wei to make something like this. I doubt a man who became a Nascent soul realm cultivator just because of luck would be able to do something like this." Xukong explained.

"Hmm... perhaps it really is like that. He did mention that there were other people that get lost here and made their attempts to escape. Perhaps this place is the combined effort of all those people." Lin Mu stated.

"That could be it. But the inner hall you appeared in... that place cannot be made by anyone that came here. A formation nexus like that is... something that would need an Immortal Ascension realm cultivator to make.." Xukong revealed.

[Chapter 777 - Jackpot](#)

Hearing the words of Senior Xukong, Lin Mu didn't know what to think of. If it really was an Immortal Ascension realm cultivator who had made this place, it meant that it would have had to have been made several thousand years ago.

"That is a lot to take in." Lin Mu muttered.

"I think this place was intended to be something else and became something completely different in the end." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu nodded his head and decided to search around a bit more. But before that, he recalled something.

'Oh, I should call Little Shrubby now.' Lin Mu thought.

He sent a message through their link and in less than thirty seconds, Little shrubby was at the entrance of the cave.

"What is this place?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"This is where the Former Adviser escaped from, but there seem to be more secrets to it. Can you look around and see if you find any clue or if something is unusual?" Lin Mu asked.

"Okay," Little Shrubby said, and looked around the area.

Lin Mu did the same and checked all of the walls first. He had a hunch that there was more space in here than was apparent. He thought so even more because the walls were actually preventing his spirit sense from going in.

~knock~ knock~

After looking around for about two hours, Lin Mu discovered something in one of the walls that was to the opposite of the teleportation formation.

"Hmm... the thickness is certainly different." Lin Mu muttered.

Phase!

Lin Mu passed through the wall directly and walked. After about ten seconds, he ended up in another passage.

"Just as I thought." Lin Mu said upon discovering this.

He turned around and saw what looked like broken hinges and other mechanisms that would work to move a door.

"So that's why it doesn't work. It has been broken for a long time." Lin Mu understood.

He checked the area with his spirit sense just to be sure of everything and thought of a plan. This part of the area was not blocking his spirit sense and he could use it freely.

"So only the initial cave has that restrictive layer built into it and not the other parts." Lin Mu understood.

He then extended his hand towards the wall, which was also a door, and spread it apart like a claw.

~CRACK~CRACK~CRACK~

Lin Mu's fingers dug into the solid stone door and grasped it tightly.

~RUMBLE~

Lin Mu then pushed on the door and it started to move.

~DENG~

Finally, the door was fully open and Little Shrubby could be seen standing behind it.

"Another secret passage?" He asked.

"Yup, seems like it." Lin Mu replied.

With the door open, Little Shrubby could enter it now as well. The master and beast continued through the passage finally reached another door.

"Hmm... this place is deeper than the previous cave." Lin Mu could tell from the angle that they had walked.

"Let's see what's behind this." Little Shrubby said.

"Mmhm." Lin Mu hummed in response and placed his hand on the door before pushing.

~RUMBLE~

Dust fell from the door as it finally swung open slowly. Behind it, Lin Mu could see what was basically a mountain of gold.

"What in the name of heavens!!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

He walked in and looked around the entire hall, finding more gold and many other treasures. There were literal mountains of gold made from ingots that were stacked up in the front and behind them, he could see several other such mountains but of different metals.

Lin Mu could identify some of them, but many of them were unidentifiable to him. There were other things such as calligraphy scrolls and paintings here as well, but Lin Mu could tell that they were actually components of formations as well.

Then there were several pieces of furniture, along with what looked like a bedroom.

"There should be something more there." Lin Mu said before walking towards the bedroom.

There he saw a large portrait that was hanging on the wall. It was made from the finest of canvas and the paint was made from spirit herb dyes. A strong aura could be felt coming from the portrait and the person in it was starting towards Lin Mu.

"This is so lifelike... whomever made it must have been very talented." Lin Mu said.

"That... is not just lifelike... that is an actual life portrait." Xukong suddenly said.

"What?!" Lin Mu was stunned.

He had heard about Life Portraits before and had also read about them in the memoirs of the Lost Immortal. They were basically a medium that the cultivators used to pass on information after their death.

These life portraits were very hard to make and could only be made by a person who was a 'Spirit Painter'. It was one of the more uncommon occupations of a cultivator and not many actually practiced it.

The spirit painters could make a portrait of a cultivator and then use a wisp of their soul to imbue life into it. Once this was done, the portrait could actually animate itself and start to speak.

But the thing about this was that... not just any spirit painter would be able to do something like this. It was a very high level skill among the spirit painters and one that was at the Immortal Ascension realm might not even come close to being able to do it.

"If it really is that, then... why is it not speaking?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It must have gone dormant. Life Portraits don't have an indefinite existence, they can actually be aged over time and the soul wisp in them would fade away after a certain item period.

To prevent this, they will enter a dormant state if there is no need for them to be active. This is possibly the case for this as well." Xukong answered.

"Hmm... then there is only one way to confirm that.." Lin Mu said and approached the painting.

[Chapter 778 - Kong Hutao](#)

Lin Mu's hand extended and touched the frame of the Spirit painting.

~shua~

The moment he did so, a wave of spirit Qi emanated from the portrait. Then in the next second, the painting moved and blinked. Lin Mu stepped back and stared at the portrait for a few seconds.

The person in the portrait seemed to be doing the same thing, and it was evident that it was trying to figure out what was happening. Just like a person who had woken up from a deep sleep, the person in the portrait was a bit disoriented.

He looked around and then back at Lin Mu, who was staring at him.

"So it is finally the time..." The man in the portrait spoke.

"Huh?" Lin Mu was a bit confused by the choice of the man's words.

"After ask these years... no wait, how long has it even been?" The man in the portrait questioned.

"I... don't know how long it has been for you either." Lin Mu replied.

"What year is it?" The man in the painting asked.

"Umm... three hundred and sixteenth year after the advent of the third Zhou Emperor?" Lin Mu said, recalling the date.

"Zhou Emperor? Who the hell is that?" The Man in the portrait said.

"The emperor of the Great Zhou Empire and the Great Zhou Continent." Lin Mu replied.

"Great Zhou Continent? What? This does not seem right... am I even in the right world?" The man in the portrait questioned.

Hearing this Lin Mu was now sure that whoever the painting belonged to probably existed long before the Great Zhou Empire and the continent were formed.

"Are you from the Central continent? Or the other four ones?" Lin Mu questioned.

The man in the portrait seemed to have understood something and looked at Lin Mu.

"Did... the continents manage to unify finally?" The man asked doubtfully.

"Yes they did... they did so over nine thousand years ago." Lin Mu answered.

"N-nine thousand years... this... am I too late?" The man in the portrait questioned himself.

Lin Mu knew that there was a lot of confusion and wanted to know who the man was.

"Who are you and what is this place?" Lin Mu questioned.

The man's brows furrowed upon hearing Lin Mu and he looked at Lin Mu strangely.

"How do you not know me? If you don't know me how did you even enter this place?" The man questioned.

Lin Mu was now even more confused and didn't know what the man was talking about.

"I just entered from the cave entrance at the top." Lin Mu answered, not telling the man about his 'real' method of entry yet.

"Impossible! Without the key, you cannot even find the cave not to mention enter." The man said. "And if you found the key you would very clearly know who I am."

Lin Mu now understood what the problem was.

'So there was a key to this place that was probably in a different place. Obtaining that key would probably tell more about this person and also give one the entry to his cave. This place is definitely and inheritance ground then.' Lin Mu thought.

"No I did not find any key. The entrance to the cave was already open when I came. Plus... I'm not the only one that came here. There have been many before me. Perhaps one of them had the key and opened the cave." Lin Mu stated.

"That is impossible. If the cave was ever opened, I would have known." The man said.

~Sigh~

'We'll just keep on going in circles like this...' Lin Mu thought.

"Seems like I need to tell you about the current situation then," Lin Mu stated.

The man in the portrait furrowed his brows and then nodded.

"Go on then..." The man in the portrait said.

Lin Mu then went on to explain everything that he had learned about this place and all that he had seen. He told the man about the current name of the minor plane, about it being called as the wandering sinkhole, and how hundreds if not thousands of people had been lost in here.

It took Lin Mu about two hours to finish explaining everything, during which the man in the portrait listened silently.

"And that's about it all." Lin Mu finished his explanation.

~Sigh~

The man in the painting sighed to himself and rubbed his forehead as if a headache had assaulted him.

"Never thought this would end up happening to my clan's inheritance ground... the fates are cruel and unkind." The man said in a sorrowful tone.

"This... is your clan's inheritance ground? What clan are you from?" Lin Mu asked.

~Sigh~

The man sighed to himself and looked at Lin Mu.

"Since you have managed to come this far, you may as well be the inheritor now. Although you will still need the key to become the true owner." The man in the portrait said, much to Lin Mu's shock.

"Me? The inheritor?" Lin Mu said feeling shocked.

"I am Kong Hutao, the last ancestor of the Kong Clan of the Western continent." The man revealed.

Hearing the name, Lin Mu felt like a bell was struck. He immediately recalled information about the Kong clan.

"The Kong Clan? The number one clan of the western continent?" Lin Mu inquired.

"Indeed... I am the last ancestor of that clan... or was." Kong Hutao replied.

"I thought... the Kong clan was exterminated and everyone from it died." Lin Mu said.

"We were indeed... I managed to escape at the expense of my clansmen who chose to sacrifice themselves to forcefully teleport me to the Central continent. They wanted me to take revenge for the clan... for the continent and all those that had died." Kong Hutao replied.

Lin Mu's brows furrowed and he felt like several of the events did not match up.

"What exactly happened? Can you tell me in detail?" Lin Mu questioned.

~Sigh~

"Fine... this will take a bit.." Kong Hutao replied.

[Chapter 779 - The Kong Clan's Fate](#)

Kong Hutao took a deep breath as if he was still a real human and started to speak.

"As you already know, I am or was the Last ancestor of the Kong clan. My clan was exterminated by the invaders during the great invasion. The alliance of the three continents had chosen to unite them and had laid down a great plan.

Unfortunately, before the plan could be fully completed, the Yao clan managed to summon a great beast in the Pseudo immortal realm. This beast destroyed and killed all the people of the continent and only a few that were already on their way to escape managed to survive.

I tried to fight the Beast, along with several other sect patriarchs and the clan heads of the Western continent. All of them died but did manage to injure the beast fatally. But then the beast decided to detonate itself in its blind rage.

Many of my clansmen and others had already died, but they did not want me to die as well. They wanted vengeance and thus they... forcefully... against my wishes... teleported me away to the central continent.

They also passed on the anchoring formation plate of our Sacred grounds to me and then the beast finally detonated. Unfortunately, despite their best wishes, I was already injured and my life was running out.

Knowing that I would not have long to live and take vengeance, I decided to enact a different plan. It was also during this time that some of the invaders managed to detect my presence and chased me down.

I ran and ran since I was in no condition to fight. Finally, I decided to take a radical decision. I unleashed the anchor of the sacred grounds and pulled all of the invaders that were chasing me inside it.

Then using the powers of the formation, I killed them all inside there. But now that the sacred grounds had been unleashed again, they could not be moved anymore. And without the right location, they would not be able to exist for long without being broken.

Thus, I did what I had to. Using myself as the base, I changed the entire formation array of the sacred grounds. I turned it into a minor plane and attached it to the world. But this time I made some other changes.

The sacred grounds would not have a fixed location so as to prevent the invaders from finding it and if they did so, they would be trapped inside it. Only those that are natives of this world would be able to escape it.

But that was just one half of my plan. I also wanted vengeance against the invaders. Thus, I chose to allow the sacred grounds to choose anyone as long as they were of this world and worthy enough to become the inheritor.

They would have to fulfill one condition though... they would have to exterminate the Yao clan and the northern alliance along with all the invaders." Kong Hutao explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu was stunned. He had not expected there to be such a story behind this place.

"I guess I have some good news for you and some bad news as well." Lin Mu spoke.

"What is it?" Kong Hutao questioned.

"The Northern alliance was exterminated a long time ago along with the Yao clan." Lin Mu answered.

"And what's the bad news?" Kong Hutao asked, his brows furrowed.

"They have made a comeback in the recent years... they even managed to call another invader from a different world." Lin Mu replied.

"CURSED FATES! Has this world been forsaken by the heavens?" Kong Hutao said in frustration.

"There is more..." Lin Mu said and explained all that Gu Yao had done and gave him a bit more information about the invader and how it could control beings.

Hearing this, Kong Hutao was stunned.

"This... this is even worse..." Kong Hutao said in a helpless tone.

"I know... and that's why I along with a few more allies, are looking to stop them." Lin Mu replied.

~Sigh~

"If it really is as you say, then it is impossible for your cultivation base. Even Immortal Ascension realm cultivators have perished, not to mention Nascent soul realm cultivators like you. They have perished in the six digits." Kong Hutao stated.

It seemed like he had already given up hope and had suffered a lot.

"NO! I will defeat them! They took my parents from me, and they killed a lot of people that were my friends. I shall not let them do whatever they want.

As for the invader... it shall perish too!" Lin Mu said with determination.

~shua~

The moment he did so, a character appeared on his forehead and let out a glow. Kong Hutao saw the character and was stunned.

"Ordained... YOU ARE ORDAINED?!" Kong Hutao said out loud.

"I am indeed. I became ordained by the world's will when I accepted its mission to exterminate the invaders and the traitors of this world." Lin Mu replied.

~pew~

"So all hope is not lost. If you are an ordained, then this is fate finally favoring us. You will be the right person to inherit this then... inherit the vengeance of my clan." Kong Hutao said in a serious tone.

"I will avenge all that have suffered due to the invaders and the northern tribes." Lin Mu said with determination.

"Good!" Kong Hutao said out loud and nodded his head.

His expression seemed to be far better than before and his complexion had improved too, which made Lin Mu wonder about the techniques used to make the portrait. For it to have such varied changes, Lin Mu wondered just what kind of materials and skills were needed for it.

"While it seems like the formations and security is set beforehand has gone a bit haywire, the inheritance formation should still be intact. But before you can inherit this officially, you will need to get the key." Kong Hutao stated.

"Where do I find that?" Lin Mu questioned.

"You need to find a turtle."

[Chapter 780 - From A Lake To A Sea](#)

Hearing this, Lin Mu was surprised and confused at the same time.

"A turtle?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes, a turtle... my turtle Bao." Kong Hutao replied.

"You have a tamed beast?" Lin Mu guessed.

"Indeed. I have one.. Or I do... I think. It's been several thousand years. I don't think Bao's alive anymore." Kong Hutao replied.

"If he's dead, then how do I find him?" Lin Mu questioned. "And why do I need to find him again?" he added.

"Before I died, I gave some instructions to my turtle. He was the one that was supposed to take care of my dead body. My grave should be where the turtle is." Kong Hutao replied.

"I see... and where is this turtle?" Lin Mu asked.

"Go to the south from this cave. If you travel for about half a day, you should find a large lake. I left him there. I'm sure if you were able to figure out how to get into this minor plane you can find that turtle too." Kong Hutao said.

"Umm... south? This place has no directions, there is no sun." Lin Mu replied.

"No sun? What do you mean no sun?" Kong Hutao asked, feeling confused as well.

"There is no sun out there, just a blue sky." Lin Mu replied.

"That's weird. I know there can't be a sun in this place, but I still let the formations represent the position of the sun in the real world here." Kong Hutao explained.

"Perhaps that formation broke down too?" Lin Mu suggested.

"Maybe... guess you'll need another way to find the direction. Hmm... how do we find it..." Kong Hutao was perplexed.

"You can... point me in the direction using one of the spirit Qi channels that are linked to the Formation nexus?" Lin Mu suggested.

"Ah yes! That will work!" Kong Hutao nodded his head.

Kong Hutao then instructed Lin Mu about the different channels that were used to absorb spirit Qi. Lin Mu asked a few more questions and learned that they were spread all across the minor plane.

In fact, the ones that he saw linking to this location actually split in several more junctions all over the plane. The spirit Qi they absorbed was used to then function the rest of the formation array.

That was also the reason why Former Adviser Chu and the other survivors, ended up making the teleportation formation here. They could tell that the spirit Qi concentration here was higher and thus it would be the best to make the formation work.

In other places, there was no way they would be able to power it on their own and also keep it stable at the same time. Any formation that had anything to deal with the space was not to be messed with.

One small mistake and you could be split into several fragments or sent into the void... probably in pieces as well. There were plenty of cultivators who had made this mistake and there were a lot of warnings in all kinds of records and documents.

With the new information added to his repertoire, Lin Mu was ready to leave. He left the cave and followed the direction of the spirit Qi channel. The direction that south was in was slight to the left from where the Eight Hill was.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby reached there in about twelve hours, just as Kong Hutao had said. But upon reaching it he was a bit surprised, because what he saw was far more than a lake.

"Is this... a sea?" Lin Mu said, feeling stunned.

In front of Lin Mu, a vast blue sea extended all the way into the horizon. He couldn't see anything past it and there were just a few islands scattered inside it. But looking at them closely, one would realize that they were actually mountain peaks.

"Hmm... the changes are certainly a bit more than expected." Xukong commented.

"Ugh... more water." Little Shrubby muttered.

Lin Mu got closer and landed on the seashore. The seashore was rocky and several shells could be seen scattered on it. Now Lin Mu was in a dilemma and didn't know what to do exactly.

"It's one thing to search for a turtle in a lake and the land around it, and a completely different one searching for it in an entire sea!" Lin Mu said out loud.

"Hmm... perhaps we can narrow down the search. We know that the turtle that Kong Hutao had was in the nascent soul realm, so it should be relatively big. It's rather unlikely that it would have lived even now unless it managed to progress its cultivation base without stop.

Certain beasts like turtle and tortoise have naturally long lifespans, and even some Qi refining realm turtle beasts can live up to a thousand years. If the turtle that Kong Hutao was one of them and managed to reach the Dao Shell realm, there is a slim chance it is still alive.

Though if it's in the Dao Treading realm, then it's certainly possible for it to be alive." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head and looked around. It was now that a thought appeared in his mind and he furrowed his brows.

"Senior... is there a chance perhaps that this sea... was made by that turtle?" Lin Mu questioned.

"That may be possible if the Dao embryo it made had the grasp over the Dao of water." Xukong answered.

"Exactly. I've heard of some beasts doing this before. I remember reading a record about a beast called as the Aquadream Lotus. It's a plant like beast and lives in water bodies. I've heard that when it reached the Dao Treading realm, it becomes an Aquadream Sea Lotus and the power it has can make seas.

In one of the legends, I even read that one such Aquadream Sea Lotus fought against a strong fire elemental beast. Fire and water raged and in the end, two areas were created. One was a sea and one was a flaming Marsh.." Lin Mu replied.