

Walker 781

[Chapter 781 - A Turtle](#)

With a new idea in his mind, Lin Mu had better hope of finding the turtle.

"So... even then, how do we find him? Should I go run around?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"Yeah, you do that. I'll try to search the depths, perhaps it is sleeping down there or something." Lin Mu answered.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said before flying away.

~SHUA~

A few seconds later, he picked up speed and started running on water. Little Shrubby ignited flames on its paws so as to make sure that water did not touch him. He was already fast enough that he could run on water, but didn't forget to take an extra precaution.

Lin Mu picked the opposite direction and flew towards it as well. His spirit sense extended and went straight to the bottom of the sea.

"Oh, it's not that deep. That will be easier." Lin Mu said, finding the sea to only be 300 meters deep.

And thus Lin Mu and Little Shrubby spent about three days searching for Kong Hutao's turtle Bao... or its remnants.

Kong Hutao had said that even if his turtle died, its shell should have still stayed intact. It was a strong shell and could not be damaged even by Dao Shell realm beasts, so it should be a good way for Lin Mu to track it down.

Alas, even after three days, there were no signs of the turtle. Little Shrubby had already made several trips around the entire sea with his speed and was still unable to find the said turtle.

Lin Mu had barely covered ten percent of the sea in this time and was lost about it as well.

~Sigh~

"This won't work, will it? If I keep on doing this, the time for me to return will be very close." Lin Mu said.

~crackle~crackle~crackle~

~huu~

"We can try for some time more and the return, I guess." Little Shrubby replied as he blew some flames onto a large bronze cauldron that was boiling. A delicious aroma was emanating from the cauldron, and it was evident that some spirit beast was currently part of it.

~stirr~stir~stir~

Little Shrubby's prosthetic hands slowly stirred the stew in the cauldron at a steady pace and it gently bubbled.

"Yeah, I guess that's the only option now." Lin Mu nodded his head.

He and Little Shrubby were currently resting on one of the islands in the middle of the sea. They had decided to take a little break since it was not really working out for him and food was the only thing that would motivate them a bit.

Plus, they had accumulated plenty of Nascent soul realm beasts corpses, and spirit herbs, so it was the perfect time to use them. According to Little shrubby, this was also cultivating in a way and was certainly not a waste of time.

Lin Mu laid on the rocky ground and looked around. The sea was rather still and empty. This was another surprising thing he had learned. In the entire sea, while there were normal aquatic animals, there were no spirit beasts.

Usually, this would point to there being a Dao Shell realm beast living here, but Lin Mu and Little Shrubby had already established that there were none by now. Besides, if there really was one, the beast in question would have probably been agitated by now.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby had already seen about ten Dao Shell realm beast territories by now and had learned enough about them and their behavior. Unless they were overtly aggressive, they usually won't come out of their territory.

Unless of course, they were hungry and came to hunt.

~Sigh~

"Bao... Bao... Bao... where are you?" Lin Mu said out loud.

~RUMBLE~

Suddenly the ground started shaking and the stew that was boiling in the cauldron started to spill out.

"MY STEW!!!!" Little Shrubby yelled, and the five hands flew to clasp the cauldron immediately.

Lin Mu became alert and spread his spirit sense around.

"An earthquake?" Lin Mu questioned.

He could see ripples spreading in the sea everywhere, and waves were rising up as well.

~whoosh~

A few seconds later, Lin Mu saw the water at the side of the island shift and create a lot of noise. Bubbles started coming out of the water, alarming Lin Mu. His spirit sense checked the area and he found something to be rushing up from the bottom.

"What is this?" Lin Mu wondered.

He entered a defensive stance just in case and was ready to escape at a moment's notice.

~shua~

Finally, the water parted and a large pillar rose up from it. It kept on rising up and after a certain point, Lin Mu realized that it was actually curved and seemed to be attached to the side of the island.

"What the..." Lin Mu said in shock as the pillar rotated.

Once it had turned 180 degrees, Lin Mu saw a pair of eyes and a large mouth on it. It was a head of some creature and seemed familiar to Lin Mu.

"Bao...?" Lin Mu questioned.

~FUUUSH~

A spray of water shot out straight up from the nostrils of the creature as it looked at Lin Mu.

"How do you know that name?" An old and deep voice rang in Lin Mu's mind.

The voice had no direction and Lin Mu felt a bit of a headache from its intensity.

"Ugh... too loud." Lin Mu muttered.

He forcefully calmed himself down and looked at the beast.

"I am looking for a turtle named Bao." Lin Mu replied.

"And why are you doing that?" The voice questioned again.

"I am sent by Kong Hutao to find him and his tomb." Lin Mu honestly answered.

"Hmm... is that so?... Very well. I shall take you to him." The voice said again.

"Are you Bao, or do you know where he is?" Lin Mu questioned the beast, who he was certain was a turtle as well now.

"I am not Bao... I am his son Xiaobao!" The beast stated.

[Chapter 782 - A Great Island Turtle](#)

Hearing the words of the beast, Lin Mu was surprised. He was even more surprised because he had been unable to tell that it was a beast or that there was a beast nearby. There were simply no signs of it nor the aura of a beast.

But for now, Lin Mu knew he needed to see where the beast was about to take him and how.

"So... you are gonna bring us to your father? He's alive?" Lin Mu questioned.

"He's not... he died about a thousand years ago." Xiaobao answered. "I'm gonna take you to his grave."

Lin Mu raised his brows upon hearing this.

'A thousand years ago? That's still almost... seven thousand years of lifespan. Isn't that... even more than an Immortal Ascension realm expert?' Lin Wu thought to himself.

"Like I said, some beasts have naturally long lifespans. Some physiques have that factor too, including some cultivation techniques. Even you Lin Mu... are like that." Xukong suddenly said.

"I am too? What do you mean, senior? I have a thousand years of lifespans right now." Lin Mu said.

"No, you don't. You have two thousand years of it... perhaps even a bit more." Xukong replied, much to Lin Mu's shock.

"What?!" Lin Mu internally exclaimed.

"Did you forget you are practicing both Qi cultivation and body cultivation?" Xukong said with a chuckle.

It finally struck Lin Mu.

"Of course... why would a cultivator want to practice both of the paths, when they would have to spend a long time and a lot of resources. Having twice the lifespan makes sense." Lin Mu understood.

"It is also the reason why many cultivators, when they reach the end of their lifespan and are unable to progress anymore, try to practice other paths of cultivation. Of course, this is often useless as one cannot simply do that as many issues can arise.

This is why one needs to cultivate from the start or completely destroy their cultivation base and start over again. But for people that are already at the end of their lifespan, that is not really an option." Xukong explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu was rather dazed now. Finding out that one had twice as long to live than they expected was, of course shocking. It was even more shocking, as it was over two thousand years.

"And I'm already close to breaking through... once I reach the Dao shell realm, how much more will I have?" Lin Mu said.

"Your longevity will simply be the sum of the normal lifespan of both paths, and a little bit added on top of that. The extra lifespan at the end is rather varied and hard to estimate. You've already seen the example of former adviser Chu. He spent nine extra months living and then you extended it by another month." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and knew that this was enough for him now. Having to not worry about enough time to live was a pleasurable thing and left one free to do a lot. Though Lin Mu also knew that he was lucky in this aspect till now.

He had been fortunate enough to progress very fast and have almost reached the Adult Stage of the Nascent Soul realm at the age of twenty years. In the Xiaofan world, it was already something that had not been seen ever before.

As for the higher worlds, Lin Mu did not know what the record was. But he did know that there were cultivators that were born immortals. He had read about them in the memoirs of the Lost Immortal and didn't know how that was possible or how that worked.

~FUUUSH~

While Lin Mu was in thoughts, he suddenly felt the island shake again and it then started to move.

"Huh? What?!" Lin Mu looked around. "What's happening?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I'm taking you to my father's grave, as I said," Xiaobao spoke.

"But... why's the island moving?" Lin Mu questioned.

"This is no island... this is my body," Xiaobao answered.

"What..." Lin Mu was now utterly shocked, taking another look at the island.

He was confused because he could not feel any spirit Qi or aura coming from it. It was as if this was a lifeless island.

"Little Shrubby should have also been able to smell him if that was so..." Lin Mu muttered.

He looked towards the head of Xiaobao and spoke, "what kind of a beast are you?" Lin Mu questioned.

He had not heard or read about a turtle beast as big as this before, and this was certainly the largest beast he had seen till now as well. And seeing as how he knew that his father died a thousand years ago, he was at least more than a thousand years old as well.

Lin Mu wondered what the beast truly was.

"According to my father, we are the Great Island Turtles. But I am bigger than my kind due to my mother, who was a Great Reef Turtle." Xiaobao answered.

"And what is your cultivation base... I can't really sense your presence. Which is strange..." Lin Mu replied.

He had understood by now that the beast was relatively friendly and did not seem to be as secretive.

"I am at the Nascent soul realm. As for why you can't sense me, that's simply because of my mother's bloodline. I do not know much about it as my mother died shortly after I and my siblings were born." Xiaobao asked.

"I... I'm sorry about your loss." Lin Mu said, not knowing what would be the right thing.

"It's fine. It wasn't you who killed them. I was told by my father that not all humans are the same. He said his master was kind and good. He took care of him when he was a small beast and injured.

It was also because of his master that he managed to live his life and he taught me the same.." Xiaobao revealed, making Lin Mu furrow his brows.

[Chapter 783 - Kong Hutao's Grave](#)

Lin Mu wondered what more had happened with Xiaobao and the turtle Bao in the past.

"The humans attacked you?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes. I don't fully remember as I was small, but I and my brothers were less than a year old when some humans came around. My father thought they were sent by his master or were the ones that his master had talked about.

He went to meet them, but met with an attack instead. The humans did not even speak and just attacked. My father resisted them, but there were more of them than he expected. Some of those reached my mother and attacked us.

She died protecting me and my siblings and by the time my father came, only I was left." Xiaobao answered.

"What? Humans, more than one?" Lin Mu asked.

So far from what Lin Mu had seen, while there had been hundreds if not thousands of humans that had managed to enter the wandering sinkhole, it was not at the same time. And even if they were, Lin Mu didn't think it would be a large number.

"There were over thirty from what my father told me, all at the Nascent Soul realm." Xiaobao replied.

Hearing this, Lin Mu was now sure that something was wrong here.

"There's no way so many Nascent soul realm cultivators can come here at the same time. I don't think there are many powers that can afford this either." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He looked back to Xiaobao and asked, "And when did all this happen?"

To this question, Xiaobao turned his neck and looked at his body. His eyes lingered on it for a bit and then he finally spoke, "it has been over three thousand years now."

"Three thousand years... this was before Jing Wei's time... the overall strength of the cultivation world was higher back then." Lin Mu muttered while analyzing the situation.

There were many questions he had, as he reckoned this might be linked to the Northern Tribes as well. He didn't question the beast anymore and just watched as he carried him to another island.

This island was smaller than Xiaobao in size but did look similar in shape.

"We're here... this is my father's shell." Xiaobao spoke.

Lin Mu looked around and could see several structures on the shell. They were dilapidated and looked ancient. The island was barren for the most part, except for a few weeds growing here and there.

"I'll take a look then. Did your father tell you anything?" Lin Mu asked.

"He just said that if someone comes, and they are sent by Kong Hutao, I am to take them here. And if they arrive without being told, I am to just hide till they go away on their own. If they find whatever my father hid, they would either die or live.

So far all that have come, died." Xiaobao answered.

"The test... Kong Hutao's grave is on Xiaobao's shell itself..." Lin Mu understood.

Lin Mu nodded his head and flew towards the island while Little Shrubby followed behind him. The stew had long since been put into his storage belt as he did not want it to get spilled or spoiled.

~thud~ thud~

The two of them landed and Lin Mu spread his spirit sense around.

"This is certainly far more clear." Lin Mu muttered as he observed everything with his spirit sense.

He could tell that the reason why he was unable to perceive Xiaobao was certainly due to its unique ability. As for this place, Lin Mu could tell that it really was a shell, and that there used to be a beast that it belonged to.

He could feel the remnants of its aura deep within the shell.

"No... there's something more there as well." Lin Mu muttered.

He looked up at the old ruins and decided to head there first.

'Kong Hutao's grave should be here.' Lin Mu thought.

After about ten minutes of search, he finally found the right place. It was actually quite obvious as it had several skeletons piled around it. Some of them were highly deteriorated while some were still relatively intact.

"A couple of them don't look that old either." Lin Mu muttered.

~sniif~sniif~

"This one is less than a hundred years old." Little Shrubby spoke.

Lin Mu approached the said skeleton and observed it more closely. The clothes that it was wearing were mostly tattered, but since they had lasted this long, Lin Mu reckoned they were probably spirit clothes.

"Hmm... looking at the style, it seems to be of some sect." Lin Mu said.

He tried to see if there were any other items that would point to its identity but didn't find them. What he did find though, were a lot of ashes.

"You will need to be careful now, there might be a rather dangerous formation here." Xukong warned.

Lin Mu nodded his head and became more alert. He entered the ruin and saw what looked like a stone coffin in the center. There were a few words written on the lid of the coffin that Lin Mu discovered.

"Here lies Kong Hutao, whose vengeance is unfulfilled." Lin Mu read.

He furrowed his brows and placed his hand on the coffin.

~SHUA~

The moment he did so, hundreds of runes started to appear around him and arranged into a formation array. Lin Mu could tell that many of them were powerful formations, but they were conditional.

They would not activate until certain conditions were fulfilled, which he guessed would depend on the test.

He then felt his vision go dark, and he appeared in a rather plain looking room.

"Is this the test?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Are you an invader?" A voice was heard from behind.

Lin Mu turned around and saw none other than Kong Hutao.

"No I am not, Kong Hutao." Lin Mu replied. "Rather, I have been ordained by the world's will." Lin Mu added.

~SHUA~

The character appeared on his forehead, showing the proof. Kong Hutao saw it and his expression visibly changed.

"Finally..." He said with relief.. "You pass, and I can pass on too..." with these few words, he faded away.

[Chapter 784 - A Key And Shell](#)

Lin Mu was a bit taken aback by the entire series of events. From what Kong Hutao's spirit portrait had said, there would be a test for him, but now it seemed to be far different from before.

Lin Mu's vision returned to the same ruins as before and he understood that whatever the test was, it was now over.

"That's it? I thought it would be a bit more difficult than that." Lin Mu muttered.

It was even more perplexing for him since there were so many skeletons and remains around the ruins showed that whatever the test was, it was far more dangerous than this. Plus, the formation arrays were rather complex as well.

"Seems like you being the world's ordained was enough to bypass the test." Xukong spoke.

"Perhaps..." Lin Mu muttered and looked towards the coffin, which had started to move.

~CREAK~

The coffin started to slide and a staircase was revealed below it.

"So, I'm supposed to go down?" Lin Mu guessed and walked towards it.

Little Shrubby waited outside, since they did not know if the formations would react to him being a test taker as well. The staircase was covered in darkness and Lin Mu had to light a flame above his hand to illuminate the path.

He could see that the walls of the stairwell were made from solid rock and the staircase was the same as well. Lin Mu walked for about a minute before reaching the very bottom of it.

There, he could see what looked like a very plain looking platform and on that platform, a table was placed. Walking up to it, Lin Mu discovered what looked like a small rectangular piece of stone kept on the platform.

"Is this the key?" Lin Mu said as he picked the rectangular stone up.

It looked similar to that of a miniature Jade slip, but was made from a different material. It was about the length of a pinky finger and was a greenish yellow in color. Lin Mu used his spirit sense to probe it and could feel that there were certain inscriptions written inside the key.

~shua~

The inscriptions suddenly started to move and Lin Mu felt a rush of memories in his mind.

"I am Kong Hutao, the last ancestor of the Kong clan.

If you have managed to obtain this key, it means you passed my test and are worth to inherit the last of the Kong clan's resources and the sacred ground. This world experienced a great calamity and a lot of enemies pushed me to doing this.

Your reward will be waiting in a cave to the north of here, the key will guide you. As for any questions you have, they will be answered there as well." A voice spoke in Lin Mu's mind.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a breath and shook his head after the effect of the key passed.

"Guess it's time to return now." Lin Mu said.

"Aren't you going to take a look below? I thought to found there to be something here?" Xukong questioned.

"Oh? I thought this place was it?" Lin Mu said and spread his spirit sense around.

He couldn't find anything within the room itself, but when he let his spirit sense descend below, he could sense something hidden there.

"No... this is not the place, there is something more down there." Lin Mu said.

At first, he wondered if there was another cave below, but there was no entrance around here.

"Hmm, Phase it is." Lin Mu said and sank into the ground.

For the first time in a long while, Lin Mu felt some resistance going down.

'Oh? This thing is far denser than most metals?' Lin Mu discovered.

While Lin Mu's phase could pass through most things, there were still certain restrictions on it. For example, he could not pass through restrictive formations and barriers. He also could not pass through things that were rich in spirit Qi or filled with it; a good example being other cultivators.

To do that, he needed to use Flicker, which still allowed that. Flicker and Phase were similar, yet their scope of actions was different.

The same could be said for the substance that was of exceptional density and complexity. Lin Mu might be able to pass through soil, dirt, rocks, and even metals, but certain denser materials were still hard for him to pass through.

The substance that he was passing through right now seemed to be one of those things.

Lin Mu looked around and found the substance to be a bit familiar.

"Is this... bone?" Lin Mu guessed.

"You might be passing through the shell of the dead turtle." Xukong stated.

"Oh? So the surface above was just normal rock and soil, huh..." Lin Mu understood.

The shell itself was about ten meters thick and took Lin Mu two minutes to pass through. This showed just how dense it truly was, as normal rock and soil were like water to Lin Mu at this point.

"This is certainly quite strong and with this thickness... will anything even be able to affect it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... it is certainly far beyond normal. I've heard of Great Island Turtles before and their abilities. They have large bodies that are like islands and can carry large landmasses on them.

Some that manage to go above the Immortal Ascension realm are even able to reach sizes rivaling that of entire cities, if not states. I recall there being an ancient tale as well, about a massive turtle." Xukong spoke.

"Oh? What tale senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"There was a certain turtle beast that was so large it had an entire kingdom on its back. The people living on it never knew about it and the said turtle disguised himself as the patriarch of a sect that he started.

No one knew the reality until some disciple discovered it all and forced the turtle to reveal itself." Xukong answered.

"That's interesting. What else happened?" Lin Mu asked.

"I don't know much more than this. Either the tale is too ancient or just a made up story.." Xukong replied.

[Chapter 785 - Remnant Dao Crystal](#)

Lin Mu learned a bit more about the Great Island Turtles from Senior Xukong and understood that they were often used as mounts by many cultivators. The only problem was that they were rather slow.

But this didn't matter when they could carry massive amounts of weight on their bodies. Since they were impervious to most kinds of damages, these beasts were basically mobile forts.

The cultivators would set up different structures on the backs of these turtles and turn them into mobile fortresses. They could be taken into a war and serve as a camp for the soldiers.

Of course, this was something done only in higher level worlds as the low leveled worlds would either not have such beasts in them, or would not have cultivators that could tame beasts as these.

Kong Hutaο could be said to be a lucky person, as he actually managed to find an infant Great Island turtle before. It is lucky because these beasts are hard to distinguish from other common turtle beasts before they reach a certain size.

"What do you think the cultivation base of this beast was senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"There is a chance that it may have reached the Dao Treading realm, seeing how long it managed to live and the sea around it." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu nodded his head and finally reached the interior of the shell.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu exclaimed upon seeing the interior.

He could see long and wide pillars supporting the top of the shell and beams extending from it spreading across the roof of the shell.

"Are those... his bones and spine?" Lin Mu questioned in awe.

"They are indeed." Xukong answered.

Since the beast had been dead a long time, the flesh had long since decayed, leaving behind only the shell and bones. This hollow space would have once been filled with the flesh of the Great Island Turtle, whose name was Bao.

It was now that Lin Mu discovered something he had missed.

"Wait, why can I see things? Where's the glow coming from?" Lin Mu turned his eyes towards the bottom and saw a small blue spot.

It was faintly glowing, yet its glow was able to reach the bones and the shell. This was of course, very weak and normal humans would not be able to see anything. But for Lin Mu, it was still enough to see.

Lin Mu quickly dropped to where the blue glow was coming from and slowed down his descent when he was close enough.

"Huh... what is this? A Gemstone?" Lin Mu questioned.

In front of Lin Mu, there was a small blue gemstone floating. It was six-sided, but two of its sides were longer than the other four.

"This... the Dao Embryo actually condensed into a remnant Dao crystal?!" Xukong said with shock.

"This is a Dao Embryo?!" Lin Mu questioned, feeling stunned.

"Not exactly. After the death of a creature, their Dao Embryo would fade away and dissipate. But in certain rare cases, instead of dissipating like that, they would condense into crystals such as these.

They are called as remnant Dao Crystals and are very rare. If sold, they can easily fetch a price of several hundred thousand peak grade spirit crystals. Of course, only a fool would sell it like that.

There is a market for it, but no supply. They are simply too rare." Xukong answered.

"What's its use though, senior? I'm guessing they can be used for cultivation and help increase our cultivation base?" Lin Mu asked.

"No, they can't increase your cultivation base. They have no spirit Qi in them at all either." Xukong replied.

"Huh? Then why are they so valuable?" Lin Mu asked again.

"What these crystals represent is what gives them value. If someone is able to obtain a crystal like this, they are basically assured to have a path to reach the Dao Treading realm. The crystal will help them comprehend the Dao path that was left in it.

For example, if a Remnant Dao Crystal was formed from someone whose Dao embryo was based on the Dao of fire, it would allow one to comprehend the Dao of fire and allow them to make their own Dao embryo.

Since most Dao shell realm experts are unable to do so and fail at that point, this basically gives them a guarantee that they would be able to reach the Dao Treading realm. What's more, is that it can actually be used more than a single time." Xukong explained in detail.

"This... no wonder it's so valuable." Lin Mu couldn't help but gasp.

"Should I take it? Touching it won't cause any problems, will it?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yeah, you can touch it. The crystal itself is inert and won't do anything." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and touched the crystal before taking hold of it. It was slightly cold to the touch and light as well.

"Feels like I'm holding a feather, it's very light." Lin Mu spoke.

"Hmm... so it's the lowest quality Remnant Dao Crystal. The more their weight, the better their quality. The quality decides how fast someone would be able to comprehend their own Dao Embryo from the crystal." Xukong added.

"I see..." Lin Mu muttered. "Wonder what Dao Embryo can be comprehend from this."

"Hmm... it should be a Dao Embryo based on the Dao of Water. The Great Island turtles have an affinity with water and a slight affinity with earth. Seeing the sea around us and the crystal itself, it should be one of the Dao of water." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu nodded his head and put the crystal into the ring for now.

"Let's return now. We've had quite some gains." Lin Mu said before ascending back to the top.

About fifteen minutes later, he exited the ruins and met up with little Shrubby.

~FUUUSH~

But then the sound of air gushing could be heard.

"Why do I sense the aura of my father on you?" Xiaobao's voice was heard.

[Chapter 786 - A Mental Demon And Xiaobao Breaking Through](#)

Lin Mu looked up to see none other than Xiaobao staring at him. His eyes were locked onto him and were scanning him from the top to bottom.

"Your father's aura?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes... I can feel it. It wasn't on you before, it is now." Xiaobao stated.

"Huh? Is it perhaps because I went down into his body from the ruins?" Lin Mu replied.

"That cannot be it. His aura has faded away a long time ago and cannot be felt from his body. How do you have it?" Xiaobao asked again.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and wondered what was the reason for it, but then it struck him.

'Could it be the Remnant Dao Crystal?' Lin Mu guessed.

He then thought for a bit before deciding to withdraw the Remnant Dao Crysta from the ring.

~shua~

The moment it appeared out in the world, the water around them started to get agitated. Ripples started to appear on it and it started to swirl around the entire island, which was the dead body of Bao.

"That's it! That's my father's aura!" Xiaobao said out loud.

Lin Mu nodded his head as his guess turned out to be right. While he was a bit confused as to how there was any aura on this Remnant Dao Crystal as he had not felt it at all and he was rather sensitive to that.

"I think he's mistaken. He's thinking of the natural aura of the remnant Dao Crystal to be his father's." Xukong suddenly said.

"Mmhmm, though what do we do now?" Lin Mu asked after observing the reaction of the turtle.

It was evident that the turtle was desiring the Remnant Dao crystal.

"That's up to you. Truthfully, that Remnant Dao Crystal isn't really of use to you. While it can allow you to comprehend the Dao of water, you do not have any affinity for it and neither do you have any skills that use it.

You can sell it of course, but that would be even more foolish. And I doubt you will want to give to other humans, anyway. Another thing is... it was formed from a beast, and thus the Dao Embryo would be something that is more adapted to that of a beast.

While a human would be able to comprehend it from that, it would still be a bit weaker than if they did so themselves." Xukong explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu nodded his head and looked at the turtle.

"Do you want it?" Lin Mu questioned the beast.

"Yes." The beast replied without hesitation.

"Sure, take it then." Lin Mu gave away the crystal to Xiaobao.

He did so because of several reasons, some of them being that perhaps it remaining in this place would be better than appearing in the Xiaofan world where it could add to the chaos, and the other being that Lin Mu felt a bit bad for Xiaobao.

Not only was he alone all this time, but he had also lost his entire family to other humans that came here. And all that only happened because they were doing the duty that Kong Hutao gave to Bao before his death.

Lin Mu himself knew that he did not need the Remnant Dao Crystal and was more than confident in himself to be able to comprehend one himself.

He thus watched as the Crystal floated towards Xiaobao and was quickly absorbed into his head. It was as if it was a part of him from the very start and merged with his aura as well.

The water that was swirling calmed down on its own and Xiaobao seemed to be in a dazed state. His eyes were out of focus, but soon they returned to a normal state.

~HUALA~

The moment this happened though, a strong pressure exuded from Xiaobao's body and spirit Qi waves started to emanate from his body. Lin Mu felt the fluctuations and was able to sense his cultivation base for the very first time.

Lin Mu's brows raised as he realized something.

"He... he's having a breakthrough?" Lin Mu questioned.

"How's this possible? Didn't you say there is no spirit Qi in the Remnant Dao Crystal senior?" Lin Mu asked, feeling confused.

"I don't think the breakthrough is because of the crystal providing the spirit Qi needed for the breakthrough. Rather, it is due to a mental need that was fulfilled by it." Xukong replied.

"A mental need?" Lin Mu wondered.

After thinking for a few seconds, he understood the reason.

"A heart demon? Or a mental demon?" Lin Mu asked.

"Indeed. But in this case, it is a mental demon. The beast probably had one for a long time and had thus been unable to progress any further. Or maybe it had no desire to do so. But now... that he felt his father's aura again and got that Remnant Dao Crystal, that mental demon was purged.

There was nothing stopping him from breaking through anymore." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head in understanding and recalled some information about mental demons.

Both Mental demons and Heart demons were something cultivators often suffered from. It was difficult to tell which was more dangerous or hard to overcome as they could present themselves in different forms.

Though the major difference between a Heart Demon and a mental demon was that the Heart Demon could actually gain a corporeal form. They mostly did so by taking over the body of the cultivator and destroying their true consciousness.

Of course, this was only if the cultivator had truly reached that limit, but most would die way before that ever happened.

A mental demon was not something that would ever gain a corporeal or a true form. It was part of the cultivator's mind itself and could even be said to be a form of disease.

It was in fact, something that could even plague a mortal commoner and was not limited to a cultivator.. Many considered mental illnesses as a form of mental demon as well.

[Chapter 787 - A Different Method To Observe](#)

Lin Mu's eyes were on Xiaobao as his aura kept on increasing more and more.

"Observe him closely. Perhaps you'll get some tips for your own breakthrough in the future." Xukong advised.

"Yes senior." Lin Mu replied.

Lin Mu knew that his spirit sense could not penetrate the body of Xiaobao already and thus the only way for him to perceive it was through the spirit Qi waves and the changes in the auras that were emanated from him.

~thud~

Lin Mu quickly sat down and decided to observe as much as he could and take benefit of it. He observed Xiaobao for about five minutes with his full focus, but was unable to see much.

"Ugh, this won't be enough..." Lin Mu said and tried to think of another method.

After a few seconds, an idea did come to him, but he did not know if it would work or not.

"It's worth a try, anyway." Lin Mu decided.

~huu~

He closed his eyes and took a deep breath. A second later, his lips started to move lightly and a low chant could be heard coming from his mouth. Lin Mu's eyes opened and a cold glare was emanated from it.

Severing Heart Sutra! Spatial Perception!

Severing heart sutra stilled his mind, removing everything unless from it, while also preventing disturbing thoughts from appearing in it. Then the Spatial perception allowed him to peer into the body of Xiaobao without spirit sense.

This was something that would not work on someone normally and if Lin Mu did do it, he would just end up seeing the space but not the person or anything within them. But the current situation was an exception.

Since Xiaobao was undergoing a breakthrough, there was a lot of spirit Qi moving around. This caused the space to show fluctuations as well, and that was something Lin Mu could see.

Thus, Lin Mu observed the spirit Qi's movement using the spatial fluctuation as a negative contrast. This was of course, not fully accurate, but it was more than what he was seeing before.

Right now to Lin Mu, it looked like he was seeing everything through a sheet of cloth and things seemed to be a bit blurry. He couldn't see Xiaobao's Dantian or meridians. All he could see was the fluctuations caused by spirit Qi, not even spirit Qi itself.

It was a complex situation where he was deriving conclusions from a third factor that was indirect.

~shudder~

Xiaobao's body started to shake as the spirit Qi in the atmosphere started to pour into his body rapidly. Lin Mu could even feel a different kind of spirit Qi mixed into it. Slightly diverting his attention to use spirit sense, Lin Mu sensed the new kind of spirit Qi that was arising from the sea.

"Is this the water elemental spirit Qi?" Lin Mu guessed.

~HONG~

His attention was quickly pulled back to Xiaobao's Dantian... or rather, the general area in which it was located. He could sense that the spirit Qi there was getting really agitated and seemed to be moving in a very peculiar manner.

'It is gathering in a specific place.' Lin Mu thought.

He could see another small outline floating in the area of the Dantian. Its shape was rather blurry and fuzzy, getting distorted every so often. But after observing it for a few seconds, Lin Mu understood what that was.

"That should be Xiaobao's Nascent soul itself." Lin Mu muttered.

He then looked below it and saw that the spirit Qi that was gathering was actually condescending below it. It was like a whirlpool of sorts had formed and all the spirit Qi was getting sucked into it.

More and more spirit Qi kept on getting sucked into it and time passed by.

After about an hour, Lin Mu could tell that the situation had arrived at a different stage. The whirlpool had started to fade away and behind it, another structure had appeared. It looked to be a flat circle that was a bit deformed.

Its shape was changing, and it looked to be rather flexible. The spirit Qi was actually moving into this circle, or rather into the circumference of it. The more that entered it, the more the circumference expanded.

After a certain point, it stopped expanding and its form had become relatively stable. No longer did it deform and kept a stable shape. Thirty minutes passed and now the circle was growing into a three dimensional form from the two dimensional one.

"It's... becoming a sphere?" Lin Mu said as he observed the change.

Bit by bit, the sphere started to take form and about an hour later, it was fully formed. It looked to be flickering and seemed like it would disappear anytime now.

"No... it's not disappearing. Rather, it is stabilizing. I can only see the spirit Qi that is volatile and moving. It needs to cause a spatial fluctuation in order for me to see it. If it is calm, it would do that and it will become invisible to me again." Lin Mu analyzed.

Lin Mu did not feel disappointed as he knew that this was the eventual end of the entire process. He felt lucky that he was even able to observe this much. A few more minutes passed and the sphere fully disappeared.

And along with the disappearance of the sphere, which was nothing but the Outline of the Dao Shell, the Dantian also disappeared.

~huu~

Lin Mu closed his eyes to rest them and took a deep breath. Observing for this long had put quite a lot of stress on them and he would not be able to use spatial perception for the rest of the day or two now.

Lin Mu stood up and suddenly smelled something near him.

"Huh? What's that aroma?" Lin Mu turned around and saw Little Shrubby.

"You're drinking the stew?" Lin Mu asked, feeling bewildered.

"You were busy doing your thing, and I was getting bored. So I thought I may as well eat.." Little Shrubby replied casually.

[Chapter 788 - Returning To Kong Hutao](#)

Lin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry upon seeing Little Shrubby and just decided to join him instead. He knew that Xiaobao would take a few more hours to fully be done with the process and that they had time.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby lounged around and ate the stew while Xiaobao was done. Three hours passed like this before Xiaobao woke up and looked at them.

~HUU~

A gust of hot air was released from the nostrils of Xiaobao and he seemed to be a bit happy.

"Thank you," He said calmly.

"That's fine. It belonged to your father so you can keep it. I'm happy it helped your breakthrough." Lin Mu replied.

"I never thought I would be able to breakthrough. I didn't think I needed to. All I wanted to do was to fulfill my father's wish. And now that is done as well." Xiaobao said with a hint of melancholy.

Hearing this Lin Mu thought for a bit and spoke.

"What are you going to do now?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Just what I have been doing all this time I guess. Live here." Xiaobao answered.

"Do you want to perhaps come with me?" Lin Mu asked.

To this, Xiaobao gave that answer instantly.

"No... I'd like to stay here where my father once lived. I don't go anywhere else in this world either and have no need. I'm fine where I am." Xiaobao replied.

"Ah... I see. That is fine I guess." Lin Mu replied.

Lin Mu didn't really want to force the beast if it had no desire to do so. He had just asked him casually and wasn't really sure either.

'Guess I should return now. No need waiting here now.' Thought to himself.

"We'll take our leave now, Xiaobao. I hope you live well." Lin Mu bid him farewell.

"Good bye." Xiaobao replied.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby then left for the portrait of Kong Hutao and reached it rather quickly. Since they already knew the location and the distance, Lin Mu simply got onto Little Shrubby's back and reached their destination.

Quickly entering the inner cave where the portrait was located, Lin Mu saw Kong Hutao.

"You're back!" Kong Hutao's portrait awakened.

"I am indeed. I got the key," Lin Mu said as he withdrew the rectangular object from his ring.

"That's truly the key. How was the journey? Did you meet Bao?" Kong Hutao questioned.

"The journey was fine, but I did not meet Bao. But I did meet his son." Lin Mu answered.

"His son?! Oh, tell me more." Kong Hutao asked.

Lin Mu then went on to explain all that had happened in the past few days along with the story of Bao and how the humans attacked them. The more Kong Hutao heard it the more his brows furrowed.

"The men of the Gu Clan, no doubt. Those kinds of techniques and clothes belong to them. They are the ones that attacked Bao's family." Kong Hutao said, anger visible in his eyes.

"Huh? They were from the Gu clan? The one from the northern tribes?" Lin Mu asked feeling surprised.

"Indeed. There is no doubt. Only they would have the intelligence about the sacred grounds of my clan and that I unleashed it here. Some of their experts are specialized in remote sensing and can tell when certain things happen.

They've existed for a long time and have their spies mixed into many different places all over the continents. There were some in the Western continent as well and had once targeted my clan.

They were after the inheritance grounds for a long time and I wouldn't be shocked if they were the same even after thousands of years." Kong Hutao explained.

Hearing this Lin Mu was rather shocked. He did not know the Gu clan was this ancient.

"Are they related to Gu Yao and his clan as well?" Lin Mu questioned feeling doubtful.

He had already told Kong Hutao all about Gu Yao, and thus the man was informed about him.

"From all that I've heard from you, I think the majority of the Gu clan must have been eradicated by now. Or they went into hiding. The clan that Gu Yao belongs to was probably one of the branches.

Poor Xiaobao, he lost everything that he had and yet kept up his father's duty." Kong Hutao answered.

"I felt sad for him too and asked if he wanted to come with me. But he denied and said that he'd like to stay in the place that was his father's home." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmm... that is probably for the best. His kind is not something that can be found in our world usually. I was lucky that I found Bao, and I didn't even know what kind of a turtle beast he was.

Xiaobao is even rarer since his mother is a Great Reef turtle." Kong Hutao said.

"Oh? You know about Great Reef Turtles?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Mmhmm, but not much. I didn't know about the Great Island turtles and only learned about them from you just now. But I've heard of the Great Reef Turtles. There were some old records left behind by my ancestors.

I don't know where they got those from but they were certainly not from this world. In those records, I learned of a great world that was many times massive than ours. But it was also very different.

Unlike our world that had land as well as oceans, that world only had water covering its entirety. And on that world, a beast called as the Great Reef Turtles lived. I do not know where that world is or how my ancestors got this information but I do know that no one else has it. Not even the great powers of my time do." Kong Hutao explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu's ears perked up. After all, this all sounded very familiar to him now.

"Senior Xukong this... is that perhaps the oceanic world we saw?" Lin Mu said in his mind.

[Chapter 789 - Past And Mysteries Of The Xiaofan World](#)

The description that Kong Hutao had just given was far too similar to that of the oceanic world that Lin Mu knew of. He had already seen the remnant of the oceanic world and in the void and that combined with the other proofs he had seen, he was now sure that the two worlds definitely had something to do with each other.

"Hmm... that seems to be true. Perhaps there may have been a passage between the two worlds once upon a time. It could have been a natural one too. And considering how we have no information before the ten thousand years ago, it is safe to assume that there were more people that traveled to the oceanic world." Xukong replied.

"Seems like that senior. Perhaps I can get to know more about the history before the unification of the continents." Lin Mu said and looked at Kong Hutao.

"And what did these records tell more about the Great Reef turtles?" Lin Mu questioned.

"According to those records, the Great Reef turtles are massive beasts of great power. They live below the oceans and are the home of several aquatic beasts due to the corals that grow on their shells.

They can cause tsunamis that can wipe out entire countries if they are enraged as well. Their cultivation base is said to be very great and they can grow even more. They are perhaps one of the strongest beasts I know of." Kong Hutao answered.

"I see." Lin Mu replied, finding the information to be pretty similar to what he had.

'The characteristics of the Great Island Turtle and the Great Reef Turtle are pretty similar. No wonder Bao chose one as his mate. Though I wonder how that Great Reef Turtle made its way to the sinkhole.

Though its cultivation base might not have been that high considering how she died back then. If it really was that strong the cultivators would have all died.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Do you know the history before the invasion, senior Kong?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Unfortunately, I don't... or rather this portrait does not. There was only a limited amount of information I could add to it back then as my death was rather close and I still had a lot of things to set up.

I was lucky that our clan had a blank portrait like this. If not for this, I don't think I would have been able to set everything up." Kong Hutao answered.

"Huh? A blank portrait? This spirit painting was not made for you by a spirit painter?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, it was one of the ancestral treasures that we've had for a long time. As for a spirit painter... what's that?" Kong Hutao replied.

Hearing this, Lin Mu was now confused. From what he had heard, a spirit painter needed to custom make the painting for the person. But it seemed to be far different from that in this case.

"Senior Xukong, what is this? Can there be a blank painting like that?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... that's hard to tell. I've heard of bloodline linked paintings in which every patriarch would leave a wisp of their soul. But this seemed to be a bit different than that. The process of making a spirit painting is said to be complex and for it to work with just anyone is even more difficult.

I don't know how this all happened, but it's likely that there is more to the Xiaofan world than we know. The history before ten thousand years is pretty much a mystery." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu nodded his head and knew that it was better to just learn about it later since it was not possible now. He knew that one day he would be able to unravel the secrets of the Xiaofan world.

Lin Mu and Kong Hutao talked for a while more and figured out some things.

"Now that you have the key you can begin the process of inheriting the entire sacred ground." Kong Hutao spoke.

"Alright senior. What should I do now?" Lin Mu asked.

Kong Hutao then went on to explain the steps that were needed for the process to be done. Lin Mu was basically supposed to take the key to the Formation Nexus and insert it into a specific place.

After that, he just needed to bind it with his spirit sense and blood before the process would be done.

"I'll get to it then." Lin Mu said and left to do it.

He reached the formation Nexus and quickly found the place where he was supposed to insert the key into.

"No wonder I did not see it before. There are simply too many of them." Lin Mu said.

There were pillars here in the hall where the formation nexus was located and on those pillars, there were hundreds of indents. This was where Lin Mu was supposed to insert the key. But the problem was that there were too many of them and they all looked the same.

If someone else found the key and came here, they wouldn't even know where to start with. Thankfully Kong Hutaο had already informed Lin Mu of it and he quickly found the right one.

"The Ninth hole of the ninth pillar of the ninth ring." Lin Mu located the indent.

He took out the key from the ring and inserted it into the indent.

~SHUA~

The moment he did so, a wave of spirit Qi spread in the area and the entire formation nexus felt like it had just come alive.

Lin Mu could see several runes appearing all over the place and they were all operating in different ways.

~SHING~SHING~SHING~

The pillars started to move and most of them sank into the ground. Even the one with the key inserted into it did the same.

~RUMBLE~

The floor started to shake and move before a circular platform started to rise from the center of the hall.

[Chapter 790 - A Problem Of Logistics And Space](#)

Lin Mu looked at the platform and the fine runes that were directly carved into it. They seemed a bit familiar to him and after a few seconds, he realized them to be spatial runes that dealt with the spatial linking of the minor plane.

"This... so the binding involves not only the control of the formation nexus but also the planes access coordinates as well?" Lin Mu spoke.

"This is a rather different way of doing a binding. Usually one would just link directly to the source of the minor plane, but in this case, since Kong Hutaο had to prematurely deploy the minor plane, I guess the source was merged with the Xiaofan world as well." Xukong replied.

More runes started to appear from the platform and arranged themselves into a formation that was different from the others. But this process was also far slower than the one before and it looked like each rune was being made with great precision.

This gave Lin Mu the time to think more about the minor plane and what it would entail. He already had several ideas of how to make use of it. The biggest advantage was that he could use the resources stored in here for the fight against Gu Yao and the invader.

But the only problem was that the access point was limited to one location and if they wanted to procure the resources they would all have to go to the Hong Lin Kingdom. While this was fine on the

surface, Lin Mu was sure that it would be quite alarming for the sects and other kingdoms, if a lot of cultivators suddenly started to visit the Hong Lin Kingdom.

These were already troubled times and everyone was getting suspicious about the actions of other powers. The alliances and opposition between the top sects had also split the lower sects into their respective camps.

The two alliances, the Long Cloud Alliance and the Zither wind alliance were currently growing with wanton speed and it did not look like it would stop anytime soon. The top three sects seemed to be busy among themselves and it looked a bit strange as they weren't really acting either.

The only one among the three that seemed to be doing anything at all was the Rainbow pill sect, but even that was just taking advantage of the Emperor right now. It was now no secret that they were looking to create an alliance of their own.

There were already rumors that the son of the empress consort was willing to marry one of the core disciples of the Rainbow pill sect. The said disciple was actually the daughter of one of the supreme elders of the Rainbow pill sect as well thus her status was no less than that of the prince either.

In fact, her cultivation base was far higher than the prince right now. She was said to be at the peak of the core condensation realm. Though the only difference was that she was far older than the crown prince, being over fifty years old right now.

Of course in the case of the cultivator's age didn't really matter as much since they could maintain their youthful appearance for hundreds of years. Thus even if there was about twenty five years of difference between the crown prince and the daughter of the supreme elder it was easily acceptable.

All these thoughts went through Lin Mu's mind as he formulated a solution that might help him and his own alliance the best. He knew that the current members were not enough and they would soon be expanding.

'Hopefully, the Long cloud alliance joins up with us. But even if they do, fully trusting them might not be the best thing. The resource distributional will probably get skewed if they are the ones providing it.

Rather than that, I'll need to find a personal balance on a different front.? Hmm... perhaps for the smaller but more trustable powers such as King Hong, the Mu clan, the Fei clan and the Hei corps I can depend on the Minor plane for it.

But even then the distance between all of them will be far too vast to efficiently take care of the logistics.' Lin Mu thought.

More time passed as the formation kept on progressing little by little. This process was sensitive and needed to be done without any disturbance or the problems that arose would be quite devastating to the entire formation nexus.

As always, anything that dealt with the space and void was something that needed to be very carefully controlled. Any lapse of focus could lead to devastating effects and they would not be something that Lin Mu would like to bear.

"If only there was a way to allow multiple access points to this minor plane..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

~hummm~

The ring on Lin Mu's right hand hummed slightly bringing his attention to it.

"Oh? You want to tell me something?" Lin Mu asked lightly.

He closed his eyes and appeared in the internal space of the ring. The area around him was mostly bare except for the ethereal altar a short distance from him and the Grey egg that rested on a soft cushion near the barrier of the Altar.

Lin Mu lightly gazed at the egg for a few seconds before heading towards the altar.

"What is it that you want to tell me?" Lin Mu whispered.

He knew the ring was sentient and that it was always listening. It had often given him hints and helped him. He didn't know what the conditions for it to do that were but it didn't hurt to think more about them.

Lin Mu came to stand beside the avatar and placed his hand on the altar.

He expected there to be something that would happen, some information that he would get, but nothing like that happened.

"Huh? That's weird... then why was I called here?" Lin Mu questioned as he looked at the altar.