

## Walker 811

### [Chapter 811 - The Noon Grass Sect Arrives!](#)

The time given by Hua San passed quickly and it was already the day for the Noon Grass sect's arrival. Scouts were already in place and ready to inform the Kingdom as soon as they spotted the entourage of the Noon Grass sect.

Lin Mu, Jing Luo, and King Hong had already returned to the palace and were in the royal court going over the points they needed to discuss with the Noon Grass sect. These not only involved the things about Gu Yao and the alliance, but also smaller matters such as what to do in case of disagreement and conflicts.

They were important too, and it was best if they got them out of the way as soon as possible. This way, they would have the least number of obstacles in the way.

~CREAK~

It was at this point that the door of the Hall opened abruptly and in came a man who seemed to be looking anxious.

"My King! The Noon Grass sect is here!" A messenger said quickly.

Lin Mu and the rest stood up immediately and flew out of the place and stood in the sky.

"There they are..." Lin Mu said, spotting the people approaching from the distance.

King Hong and Jing Luo also watched them and narrowed their eyes.

"What... is that thing?" King Hong questioned.

"Oh? They have a Spirit vehicle too," Jing Luo replied.

"Mhmm... and it's rather powerful, too. I can sense its spirit Qi fluctuations... it's nearly at the peak grade." Lin Mu spoke.

Hearing this, Jing Luo focused on the flying object and tried to see if he could analyze it.

The object in question was a long rectangular ruler. It was made out of a plain-looking stone but there were many runes carved into its surface. Plus the spirit Qi fluctuation coming from it were also rather strong when combined with the people that were riding it.

~shua~

And while Lin Mu and the rest were observing this, a red blur arrived and floated beside them.

"Danger?" Little Shrubby questioned, his ears perked up.

"No, just some new friends." Lin Mu answered.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said and observed the flying ruler as well.

Lin Mu could see at least twenty people sitting on the ruler. At the front sat two old men, one of which was controlling the formations of the flying ruler. The spirit Qi fluctuations coming from him showed Lin Mu that he was at the Dao Shell realm as well.

Sitting beside him was another old man that looked to be at least a hundred years old when compared to a mortal. This meant that he was really old in the case of cultivators. Unlike the first man, Lin Mu could not perceive any proper spirit Qi fluctuations from him.

He was wearing a long robe that had fine designs embroidered on them. The robes themselves were a plain white color like the rest, and only the designs made them stand out. It was evident that whoever he was, he had the highest position among them.

"That's Daoist Hua, the patriarch of the Noon Grass sect. I've seen his portrait before." Jing Luo informed.

"So that's the master go Hua San and Hua Wu. They're sitting in the middle." Lin Mu replied.

Behind the two old men, Lin Mu could see five younger elders sitting. But even if they were younger compared to the two old men, they were by no means youngsters. They looked to be in their sixties instead.

Four of them were men and one of them was an old woman. Behind these five elders sat the disciples that were accompanying them. Lin Mu could see Hua Wu and Hua San sitting with five other disciples in a group.

Behind them sat more disciples, that had weaker cultivation bases. But even the weakest of them was at the peak stage of the core condensation realm. While the strongest was at the pseudo Nascent soul stage.

"Your sensing capabilities have certainly gotten stronger." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Mmmhmm... the more time I spend pondering on the Dao Shell, the finer my control becomes. I didn't realize it at first, but I'm seeing improvements in things I didn't know about before." Lin Mu replied.

"That's a good sign. Improvements like this usually happen if you are going on the right path with comprehending your Dao Shell's shape. An optimum shape will increase the quality of your cultivation base and allow you to grasp better control over it." Xukong stated.

"Yes, senior. Though I wonder why I can't sense the cultivation base of Daoist Hua, even if he is at the Dao Treading realm, I should have been able to do it." Lin Mu said in a slightly confused tone.

"He is probably at the very peak of it and has some skills that prevent others from sensing his cultivation base. You'll have to be a bit careful when interacting with so many cultivators at such cultivation bases.

There are six Dao Shell realm and one Dao Treading realm cultivator. This is the strongest group of cultivators you are facing." Xukong informed.

"I'll keep it in mind, senior." Lin Mu responded.

Xukong then went silent and let Lin Mu handle the rest. They watched as the Noon Grass sect reached their position in a minute's time.

"Welcome, Patriarch Hua! Welcome fellow elders!" Lin Mu greeted with his fists cupped.

Since Daoist Hua was the only one at the Dao Treading realm, this was the etiquette Lin Mu had to follow. The other elders were all at the Dao Shell realm, though their stages varied.

"We pay our respects to the Noon Grass sect!" One by one, the others also greeted the people from the Noon Grass sect.

"Ohoho! Seems like our disciples grossly underestimated you, junior Lin Mu." Daoist Hua said in a jovial tone.

His eyes sparkled and Lin Mu could feel a very swift sweep of spirit sense going along his body.. Of course, it was blocked by him, but that was more than enough for Daoist Hua to grasp what Lin Mu's cultivation base was at.

### [Chapter 812 - The Guests Are Pleased](#)

When Hua Wu and Hua San reported to the Noon Grass sect, they were met with great acceptance. Them finding the Thousand year old Hong Lin wood was the same as giving the supreme elder a new lease on life.

This was enough to win the hearts of the elders, and they asked what the two disciples wanted for a reward. Of course, the two of them asked what Lin Mu had requested of them. This came as a shock to the elders of the Noon grass sect and even their master, Daoist Hua was a bit taken aback.

They gave them the summary of all that had happened and told them that they should meet Lin Mu. Daoist Hua being the patriarch had to be a bit more cautious of course and asked them for more things in detail before finally agreeing to it.

Though what he was more intrigued by was none other than Lin Mu. From all that he had heard, this boy was the same Lin Mu that was wanted on the entire continent by now and had created great havoc before.

And hearing that he was already at the Dao Shell realm at his age was the most shocking thing to Daoist Hua. At that point, even if it were not for the situation with Gu Yao or the alliance, Daoist Hua would still insist on meeting him.

Finally, now that he was face to face with Lin Mu, Daoist Hua realized that what he had heard till now was not even half of it.

Daoist Hua was an experienced man and had seen a lot in the thousands of years he had lived. He could be considered to be of the same generation as that of Jing Wei, the grandfather of Jing Luo and the patriarch of the Jing Clan.

Even if he had guided his sect on a different path than most other sects and had chosen secrecy and facade as the face of it, he was not weak, nor was he foolish. He knew what it entailed for someone like Lin Mu to appear.

After all, even if someone was given unlimited resources, achieving what Lin Mu did was not easy to do alone. What it meant to Daoist Hua was that there was someone else guiding him.

And it was this very person that he was the most interested in. After all, for someone to be able to guide a junior like this from no cultivation to the Dao Shell realm was an achievement on its own.

For a teacher to have an outstanding student, he needed to be outstanding as well.

This was why Daoist Hua was a bit doubtful and wondered if the rumors mentioned by the Sky precepts sect about Lin Mu were true; that he was in fact an old man that had disguised himself.

But now that he checked it himself, he had found out the truth. And the truth was far more shocking than the falsehoods. Lin Mu had thought that Daoist Hua was checking his cultivation base, but that was not entirely correct.

What he was doing in reality, was checking his true age. It could be done through a few techniques that were used by sects to ensure that their disciples were within the limits prescribed by them.

Spirit tools were usually used for this, but Daoist Hua had individual techniques that could be used as well.

'It truly is like that... a twenty one year old Dao Shell realm cultivator... either this world is truly progressing, or someone is interfering in it.' Daoist Hua thought to himself.

Lin Mu on the other hand, wondered if Daoist Hua was just complimenting him as a formality or if he was being genuine.

"You surely jest, Elder Hua. I'm still many years junior in front of you." Lin Mu said humbly.

"Ahahaha! Good, good!" Daoist Hua instantly liked Lin Mu's response.

The one thing that Daoist Hua didn't like were arrogant disciples and cultivators that were talented. They thought that they were so talented that they deserved everything and took everything in granted.

But what Daoist Hua didn't like even more were those that faked being humble. He had enough experience to know who was faking and pretending to be humble, from who was truly humble.

And seeing Lin Mu, who was truly like that while being talented, as well made Daoist Hua feel pleased.

"Patriarch Hua, please come in. We'll talk in the court." King Hong suggested.

"Very well." Daoist Hua agreed as well.

Everyone entered the Royal court and took their seats. Daoist Hua was given a prominent position and so were the other elders. On the head of the table sat Lin Mu instead of King Hong, as he was the one with the strongest cultivation base and was also their leader.

Daoist Hua then went on to introduce the others that had come with him, including the five disciples he had. They were named Hua Yi, Hua Er, Hua San, Hua Si and Hua Wu; in the order of their seniority.

Of the five disciples, Lin Mu knew Hua San and Hua Wu of course. Hua Yi was the eldest disciple of them all and was at the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent Soul realm. Lin Mu could sense the faint spirit Qi fluctuations coming from and found them to be a bit similar to that of Daoist Hua.

Even though they were faint, they still seemed to be powerful, similar to the old man.

'Seems like the eldest disciple is following the same cultivation technique as that of his master.' Lin Mu thought.

Hua Er on the other hand, was the only female disciple among the five and was at the Adolescent Soul stage of the Nascent Soul realm. Hua San and Hua Si were at the Child Soul stage and finally, Hua Wu was at the Infant soul stage.

Though it seemed like Hua Wu was close to a breakthrough as well.

'The pills and herbs might have helped him a lot more than I thought..' Lin Mu thought.

### [Chapter 813 - The Noon Grass Sect Joins The Alliance](#)

With the quick introductions done, Lin Mu got to explaining them about the alliance and why they had made it. Lin Mu simply expanded on what Hua San and Hua Wu had already told the elders about it.

"I never would have thought our suspicions would turn out to be this grave..." Elder Bolin stated.

This was the same elder who had driven the flying ruler and brought everyone here.

"Hmm... when the two alliances started to ask us to join us, I thought the worst. At least the Long cloud alliance reduced their attempts in recruiting us, but the Zither Wind Alliance has been incessant.

Even now, we keep on getting invitations to come to visit their sect. They are even providing free resources to us if we come to their sect and discuss the 'Dao'." Daoist Hua spoke.

"Huh? Discuss the Dao? As if they even know what 'Dao' is..." another elder scoffed.

"Mmhm... there is no such thing as free in this world. Someone is always paying the price, if it's not you then it's the other person. But why would someone pay it for free, unless they have some other intentions?" Adviser Liu chimed in.

"Indeed. Elder Hua was wise to reject them. I fear if you accepted and went there, all those that went there might have been controlled by Gu Yao." Lin Mu stated.

*~Sigh~*

"That is what I fear... I've heard of the strange methods of the invaders of the past from my own elders. It was with great difficulty and sacrifice that they were removed from this world.

And now this... Gu Yao makes his own and created this situation. He is simply not worthy of living in the world." Daoist Hua said, after sighing to himself.

"Exactly, and that is why I want all of us to unite and fight against it. Will Daoist Hua and the Noon Grass sect join me in this endeavor?" Lin Mu asked sincerely.

Silence descended on the room as a pregnant pause took hold.

"Of course!" Daoist Hua said out loud, breaking the silence.

"Even if my Noon Grass sect does not participate in the matters of the world, and avoids most things, we know how to pick out battles. The current events are not something we can ignore.

After all, if we ignore them, we will perish in the same way people of the old did." Daoist Hua spoke.

*~pew~*

Lin Mu and the others on his side took breaths of relief after hearing this. Even though they knew that it was quite likely the Noon Grass sect might agree, there was still some uncertainty to it.

"Grandfather will be pleased when he hears this. I'm sure he'll like to meet you again, Elder Hua." Jing Luo spoke in agreement.

Daoist Hua's eyes went to the large man. Jing Luo had lost the wildness he had to him after getting his hair and beard in control. But there was still a little bit of valor in his eyes that was hard to hide.

"So you are senior Wei's grandson... are you Jing An's son? Or Jing Tan's son?" Daoist Hua asked.

"Jing An is my father's elder Hua." Jing Luo replied.

"Ah... he was a good junior. Very talented too... I dread the day when the massacre of your clan happened. I would have liked to interfere, but the pressure from the other sects made it impossible to act." Daoist Hua said with a hint of empathy in his voice.

"It is not your fault, Elder Hua." Jing Luo said, his eyes softening. "Those that wronged us shall pay multiple folds... they think the Jing clan has been eradicated, but we will return... and when we do, we shall show them the power of the Jing clan!" Jing Luo said in a staunch voice.

"And I'll look forward to that day. The Jing clan has contributed greatly to the world and sacrificed a lot. It deserves the best position in the world." Daoist Hua praised.

Jing Luo and the rest smiled upon hearing this and nodded their heads.

"There is another thing I wanted to ask you, Elder Hua." Lin Mu suddenly spoke.

"What is it?" Elder Hua asked.

"Since you are of the older generation the same as Elder Jing Wei, you must know of the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators in our world, right?" Lin Mu questioned.

Hearing this, the eyes of Elder Hua narrowed.

"I have some understanding of them. My Noon Grass sect has existed around the same time as that of the Sky Precepts sect, Rainbow Pill sect, and the Centennial sword sect. Even if we never had an Immortal ascension realm cultivator of our own, we do know about them." Elder Hua answered.

"Then I need to ask you just how many of them are there in the Great Zhou continent." Lin Mu asked.

Even if he knew that there were three of them, Lin Mu wanted to know what was the actual information that the sects knew.

"Hmm... from what I know, the top three sects all have one Immortal Ascension realm cultivator of their own.

The one from the Sky Precepts sect has been in seclusion for over two thousand years and has not appeared since the last great war.

The one from the Rainbow pill sect should be in seclusion as well, but there is a chance he might have come out, seeing as how the Rainbow Pill sect is taking some serious decisions lately and cooperating with the Empire.

As for the Centennial sword sect... I don't know. The cultivators from the Centennial sword sect are a bunch of sword obsessed fools that know just to swing swords and fight each other.

Their ancestor is far too strong and has no one in the world he can compare his swordsmanship to. Thus, he entered the seclusion and said that he will only come out when he senses someone worthy of him coming out.

Though if he does come out... we will now. He is the one that likes to show off the most and will make his presence known.." Daoist Hua explained.

#### [Chapter 814 - The Immortal Ascension Realm Cultivators](#)

Lin Mu was surprised to hear more details about the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators and how they were in reality. He needed to know their attitudes so that they may have a fighting chance against the Northern Tribes in the future.

"Why are you asking this though, Lin Mu?" Daoist Hua asked.

"Because we are going to need them in our fight... you see the northern tribes... They have immortal Ascension realm cultivators too." Lin Mu said, shocking everyone in the hall.

"IMPOSSIBLE! Utterly impossible!" Daoist Hua was the first to claim.

"That can't be... didn't the sects wipe out all the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators of the Northern tribes?" A minister said.

"How can they even afford to have a single Immortal Ascension realm cultivator, not to mention three in a desolate area such as the Northern continent?" one of the elders commented.

"I'm afraid this is true." Lin Mu stated.

"Are you sure you are not mistaken, Junior Lin Mu?" Daoist Hua asked, feeling doubtful.

"I would be happy if I was wrong, but I'm 100% sure that it is true." Lin Mu said before tapping his forehead lightly.

*~shua~*

A character appeared on his forehead before it floated out. The glow of the characters was faint but enough to catch the attention of everyone.

"This... Ordained... no wonder." Daoist Hua had a sense of realization.

The other elders looked towards Daoist Hua for orders and waited for him to come out of his thoughts.

*~Sigh~*

The expression of Daoist Hua changed a few times before he sighed to himself.

"Junior Lin Mu is telling the truth. If he has been ordained by the will of the world, then we can believe him." Daoist Hua assured.

The others didn't know what to think of it. On one hand, they were relieved that Lin Mu was trustable, but then on the other hand, they were also afraid of the reality that he had presented.

Immortal Ascension realm cultivators were legends to them and other than Daoist Hua, none of them had ever seen one. There has only been a handful of them throughout the history of the Xiaofan world and all of them were very influential.

"This is why I stressed on the need for an alliance. Gu Yao is merely the first obstacle we will face. The one after him will be the Northern Tribes, who I doubt will stay still when we deal with Gu Yao.

Even now, they are spreading in our homeland and taking over different places. We need to keep an eye out for them as well. It's also why we set up the detection formation around the entire Hong Lin Kingdom.

That way, we know each and every person that enters and leaves the kingdom. So we will be able to track them down the moment, they enter this. I recommend all others do the same if they don't have it set up already." Lin Mu explained.

"Junior Lin Mu is right. I've heard and seen the horrors of the northern tribes. They will stop at nothing to complete their goals. They are the most ruthless people in this world and will kill without mercy." Daoist Hua added.

Discussion and chatter occurred after their information was revealed to everyone. Lin Mu let them talk it out for a bit before he continued with his side.

"Elder Hua, do you think the top sects can be asked to help out... or rather, will those Immortal Ascension realm experts be willing to help us?" Lin Mu questioned.

*~Sigh~*

"It is hard to tell. They will usually only act if their own sect is being threatened. But if war truly breaks out, I reckon they won't stand back. Of the three sects, only the Ancestor of the Centennial Sword sect is someone who I think may be ready to fight right away.

He still has grudges against the Northern tribes, and his own goal of fighting against a strong opponent will be fulfilled if the three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators of the Northern Tribes are revealed." Daoist Hua answered.

"What about the other two? What drives them?" Lin Mu asked further.

"The Ancestor of the Rainbow pill sect is said to be a shrewd man and won't act unless benefits are involved. As for the Ancestor of the Sky Precepts sect, he is a mystery and I don't know much about him." Daoist Hua replied.

"Hmm... there are still ways the ancestor of the Rainbow pill sect can be pushed to cooperate with us then." Lin Mu said.



"Are you thinking of making use of the alliance between them and the Great Zhou Empire?" Daoist Hua quickly grasped.

"Perhaps... it depends on whether we have that much time or if Gu Yao doesn't gain control over them as well." Lin Mu replied while rubbing his chin.

"So our only option is to strengthen ourselves first." Daoist Hua said.

"Exactly. And for that, I have some other options that we can use." Lin Mu stated.

"Oh? What are they?" Daoist Hua said, feeling intrigued.

Lin Mu then went on to tell him about the Kong plan and how he was thinking of using it as a junction to move everyone around. Hearing it all, Daoist Hua was not only impressed, but also shocked.

He was impressed by the idea and shocked that Lin Mu could actually make formations like this and manipulate space to that extent.

"THAT IS AMAZING!" one of the elders of the Noon grass sect named Liqiang exclaimed.

He seemed to be the most enthusiastic among the others and was paying the most attention to Lin Mu when he spoke about the formations.

"Indeed. That is something we would greatly like. If Junior Lin Mu can establish something like that, I reckon it might change the entire world." Daoist Hua proclaimed.

"If Daoist Hua is fine with it, we'd like to add the Noon Grass sect to it as well." Lin Mu said.

"Of course, and I believe Elder Liqiang would be more than willing to help you out with this endeavor as well. He is the head of our formations pavilion.." Daoist Hua replied.

#### [Chapter 815 - A Pipeline Of Plans And The First Teleportation Gate](#)

With the discussion done, several plans were made by Lin Mu and the Noon Grass sect.

The first plan was to make contact with the Long Cloud Alliance. This would have to be a careful step and they would have to ensure that the Zither Wind alliance does not get any hint about it.

The same could be said for the top three sects, and it was best if they were in the dark about it as well. Because if any of them found out, it may once again shift the balance of power and cause another race for conflict.

It was important that only the Long Cloud Alliance knew about it, but even then they would have to contact someone trustworthy. This was so that Lin Mu could be involved in it without getting attacked.

After all, Lin Mu was still someone wanted in the sects and the empire.

The next plan was to establish another teleportation gate in the Noon Grass sect. For this, Elder Liqiang and his entire Formations pavilion will be helping them. They were more than enthusiastic to help as they would get to improve their own craft as well.

Jing Luo would be making most of the formations and structure needed for the gate here itself and would then pass them on to Elder Liqiang, who would do the rest in the Noon Grass sect.

Then came the placement of people. For now, Daoist Hua decided that it would be best if Hua San and Hua Wu accompanied Lin Mu and helped him out with anything he needed. Though he also wanted the two to make use of time to cultivate in the Kong Plane.

And once the teleportation gate was established, he would be sending other talented disciples to cultivate in the Kong plane as well.

The Noon Grass sect did have a sacred ground of their own that could help in cultivation, but the problem with it was that it would take several decades before it would open again.

Thus, it could not be used right now even though they needed disciples to cultivate faster. Though the Noon grass sect and its elders collectively decided that they would increase the resources given to the disciples so that they could quickly cultivate.

They even decided to end the seclusion of several elders and disciples so that they could all go to the Great Southern Forest and hunt for resources. This was something even Lin Mu was interested in and decided that he would go if the opportunity arose.

Except Elder Liqiang, Daoist Hua and all the other elders would be heading back to their sect. They would currently focus on contacting the Long Cloud alliance and see if they could set up a meeting.

This greatly lifted the workload from Lin Mu and he no longer needed to worry about doing that part himself.

"Once we get some news from Jingming Shang about the situation in the Shuang Qian kingdom and Wu Hei, we will leave for the north." Lin Mu said to Jing Luo.

The two of them were currently alone in one of the courtyards assigned to them.

"Hmm... I should be done setting up the teleportation gate for the Hong Lin kingdom in a few days. After that, I'll prepare it for Noon Grass sect. Elder Liqiang will be helping me out, so it should be much faster than before as well." Jing Luo replied.

*~hoo~*

Lin Mu took a deep breath and looked up at the night sky. The moon was out and no clouds could be seen today. It was a pleasant sight that gave them a little relief from the day's stress.

"Seems like the day we meet your grandfather again is coming close." Lin Mu spoke.

"I'm looking forward to it as well. The Entrance token is already prepared so we are covered on that aspect." Jing Luo informed.

"Oh? That's good. Though what route should we take for going to your family's ancestral land? I don't think it should be accessible from the normal roads, right?" Lin Mu asked.

"Even I haven't been to that place before. Though I do know how to get there. And you're right, the route to get there is not from the normal roads. There are two ways to get there.

We can either go directly through the Black Dawn kingdom, or take another route through the Shuang Qian kingdom and leave it through the north west mountains." Jing Luo answered.

"I see... then we can finalize what path to take after seeing the condition in the Shuang Qian Kingdom. If things work out with Wu Hei, we might go there first, and if not, we will directly head to the ancestral lands." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

"That should be fine." Jing Luo agreed.

With the plans made, Lin Mu discussed a few more minor things with Jing Luo before returning to the Kong Plane with him. There, Lin Mu focused on his Dao Shell while Jing Luo worked on the teleportation gate.

With each passing day, Lin Mu was getting closer to the shape that he wanted his Dao Shell to be and was finding more and more mistakes with it. Xukong told him to be very thorough with it and make sure all the flaws were checked by him, before he decided on the final design.

Hua San and Hua Wu also started cultivating in the Kong plane and made use of the resources that were given to them. Since they all knew that a great battle was lying in the future, no one held back on the resources and started using them as much as they could to speed things up.

King Hong was also progressing steadily and so was Little Shrubby.

Days passed like this and Jing Luo was finally done with making the first proper teleportation gate. This was installed in a special area prepared in the Palace and was guarded by many soldiers.

It was of course, a formality as without the approval of the defensive formations no one could enter it.

#### [Chapter 816 - A Six Minute Teleportation And The Next Step Of Expansion](#)

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With the installation of the First Teleportation gate completed, the first thing Jing Luo and Lin Mu did was to let the others visit the Kong Plane as a test.

"So, how many times does it need to be tested before you are sure of it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"While I've got the stability down to the correct level, it's the efficiency that is the problem. The time needed for the teleportation will be different and that is what I need to tweak.

I reckon ten tests should be enough to get a judgment." Jing Luo spoke.

"Alright, let's see how it works." Lin Mu spoke.

The ten people who were going to enter the Kong Plane stood in the teleportation circle and waited for it to activate. This was the flaw that happened with the teleportation gate. While Lin Mu could take many people with him to the Kong Plane instantly, the same couldn't be done with the teleportation gate.

Its size was enough for only ten to fifteen people to stand in it and it would not be instantaneous travel. They would need to wait for a few minutes for the formation to fully activate and send them.

It was this very time needed for the formation to work that Jing Luo wanted to tweak.

~shua~

Finally, the formation activated and the ten people were sent to the Kong plane.

"Hmm... twelve minutes... that's not good." Lin Mu spoke after seeing the time needed.

"While it's fine in a non stressful condition like this, I don't think it will be good in a battle or something like that." Jing Luo said.

"Indeed. See if you can improve it." Lin Mu said before taking his leave.

Jing Luo got to work and made several more improvements before it was finally at a decent enough time.

"So how much is it now?" Lin Mu questioned, having returned.

"See for yourself." Jing Luo said, and activated the formation.

The soldiers that were volunteering this time looked on in nervousness as the fomentation below their feet activated and glowed. The spirit Qi swirling around them was many times more than what they had in their cultivation base and thus made them feel even more nervous.

After all, these soldiers were mere Qi refining realm cultivators and weren't particularly strong. Though for commoners and general warriors, they were still enough to deal with them.

*~shua~*

The formation finally activated and teleported the ten soldiers away.

"Oh! Six minutes! This is way better." Lin Mu exclaimed, feeling pleased.

"Mmhmm, I managed to reduce it by half. I think I might be able to reduce it more, but the effort might not be worth the returns. For any significant improvement, I'll need to change the entire array and the materials as well." Jing Luo explained.

"This is still pretty good. After all, the time will be six minutes for any distance. Whether it be a few meters or a few thousand kilometers." Lin Mu praised.

"Thank you." Jing Luo said with a smile.

"Guess it's time to make the second one now... for the Noon Grass sect." Lin Mu stated.

"I got the basics ready, and Elder Liqiang has learned some parts of it as well. I should be done with it in a week, and then Elder Liqiang will leave for the Noon Grass sect. We can begin our return to the North as well then." Jing Luo spoke.

"Yes. Jingming Shang has also sent us some reports regarding the Shuang Qian kingdom. The situation there, while a bit sensitive is starting to normalize. Whatever Wu Hei did, he has managed to handle it well enough." Lin Mu replied.

"Oh? Seems like the Little merchant showed his worth." Jing Luo said in a surprised tone.

"I thought you approved of him since he was trusted by your grandfather." Lin Mu asked.

"People change... and it's always good to be cautious." Jing Luo replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and thought that Jing Luo was correct too.

"We now have a communication channel with Wu Hei, but using it will probably get it exposed so we can only use it once. The informant that made contact with Wu Hei has said that there are certainly a lot of suspicious people around Wu Hei and they are watching his every move.

There are some rumors in the public that Wu Hei has committed patricide for fortune. While it is true, we cannot let it ignite any incidents. That's why it's best if we keep the contact channel for when we truly are ready." Lin Mu explained.

"That's harsh. At least we can now retreat whenever needed with the Kong Plane." Jing Luo said.

"Indeed. The Kong Plane will be the godsend for our victory... as long as we can make good use of it." Lin Mu agreed.

With the discussion done, Jing Luo got to making the second teleportation gate that will be placed in the Noon Grass sect and was done in about a week. Elder Liqiang had already been explained to how it should be installed and was ready to leave now.

"Elder Liqiang, hope your journey goes well." Lin Mu said as he looked at the elderly man.

"You do not need to worry brother Lin Mu, I'll get to the Noon Grass sect as soon as possible. Patriarch Hua is also working on talking with the Long Cloud alliance and is in contact with a few people that may be willing to cooperate." Elder Liqiang replied.

"Very well. Just tell us if anything occurs, the new communication jade slips should work for both of us even at that distance." Lin Mu spoke.

"Yes. I shall take my leave now, brother Lin Mu." Elder Liqiang stated.

"Farewell." Lin Mu, Jing Luo, King Hong, and the few others that were in the hall said together.

Elder Liqiang flew away and soon disappeared in the distance. Once he was out of the range of their sight, Lin Mu lightly sighed to himself.

"Hopefully things go well..."

### [Chapter 817 - The Missing Elder Liqiang](#)

Everyone was currently sitting in the Kong plane, in one of the caves that the servants had set up as a meeting hall. This was one of the recent developments and was made on a suggestion by adviser Liu.

He said that since the Kong plane will be used as a junction for many locations, it will be better to have a meeting hall for the alliance right here. And that was exactly what Lin Mu got set up.

Clearing up some of the rocks in the cave for making the hall took Lin Mu barely a few minutes and the rest of the work was simply done by the servants that Adviser Liu sent in. The formations were easy to set up as well as Lin Mu simply needed to expand on the already existing ones.

Since he was already the owner of the plane, it was a piece of cake for him.

Two weeks had passed since Elder Liqiang had left for the Noon Grass sect. Lin Mu and Jing Luo had gotten a bit anxious since they had received no message since that day and were a bit worried.

They had tried contacting Elder Liqiang as well, but they received no response.

"Do you think he may be in danger?" Adviser Liu asked.

"It's possible, but if he was in trouble, he should have contacted us at the very start." Lin Mu replied.

"What about the others at the Noon Grass sect? Do they know anything? We still have a contract with them right?" Jing Luo asked.

"I've talked with the master and the other elders. They are worried about Elder Liqiang too." Hua San replied.

'Just what could it be...' Lin Mu thought as he fiddled his fingers.

'For a Dao Shell realm cultivator like Elder Liqiang to be unable to contact us, it should have been something that either knocked him out directly, or managed to trap him somehow.' Lin Mu tried to think.

"What are the likely dangers that he can face on his way there? Do you know of them?" King Hong questioned the Noon Grass disciples.

"While there are dangerous areas on the way to the Noon Grass sect, most of them are something that shouldn't trouble a Dao Shell realm cultivator like Elder Liqiang." Hua San replied.

"What about beasts? Are there any that can threaten them?" one of the ministers questioned.

"Hmm... there are a few areas where Nascent soul realm beasts live and are dangerous to the average cultivator, but for Elder Liqiang it is still simple to bypass or fight them." Hua San answered again.

Everyone discussed and tried to figure out the reason behind the lack of communication, and it finally reached a point where they could not go forward.

"That's it. We'll end this for today. No use discussing it further. All we can do now is wait..." Lin Mu said, dismissing everyone.

"As you wish, Senior Lin Mu." Everyone said and started to leave.

*~Sigh~*

Lin Mu sighed and felt a hand on his shoulder.

"We'll figure something out, don't worry." Jing Luo said.

"I know, but I just feel like we should have gone along with him as well. At least that way we would have finished the task even if we would have lost some time." Lin Mu said.

"We shouldn't try to do everything ourselves when we have people to help us. You should know that it is a very inefficient way of running things by now." Jing Luo explained.

"I know..." Lin Mu said in a low voice.

~hummm~

But just as he finished saying that, he felt the communication jade slip on his waist, hum lightly. His eyes went wide and he immediately grabbed on to it.

Jing Luo watched Lin Mu and waited for him to be done.

"What is it?" Jing Luo asked, after waiting for five minutes and seeing no response from Lin Mu.

Lin Mu opened his eyes that had a sharp look in them.

"Get ready, we are leaving for the south." Lin Mu stated.

"But what happened?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Elder Liqiang... he's likely trapped in some ruins in the Broken Sand desert." Lin Mu answered.

"Huh? Who told you this?" Jing Luo asked as ideas appeared in his mind.

"It was Elder Hua. He is currently in the Long Cloud sect discussing a meeting with them. He learned there that an old ruin with the inheritance of an old expert named Kushao has reappeared.

The site where it appeared is in the broken sand desert, which is before the Noon Grass sect. It is quite likely that Elder Liqiang is trapped there. If it is anything like an inheritance ground, it should probably restrain people inside till the task is completed." Lin Mu answered.

Jing Luo furrowed his brows as he recalled the name Kushao.

"I never would have thought the ruins would appear again. They were thought to be lost after the last time they opened. Some disaster was said to have happened then which closed them forever and they disappeared in the Broken Sand desert." Jing Luo remembered.

"That's what I'm worried about. If it is a different plane like the Kong Plane, then Elder Liqiang may truly be trapped. After all, the formation arrays of the ruins were already damaged." Lin Mu explained.

"If that's true, then we need to hurry. Do they have any idea how long Elder Liqiang may have been in there?" Jing Luo asked.

"It should not have been that long. It takes two days from the Broken Sand desert to reach the Noon Grass sect and it's been two weeks since he left, so at most he should have gotten trapped five or six days ago." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmm... and I'm guessing if the Long Cloud sect knows about it, the other sects do as well?" Jing Luo asked.

"They do, of course." Lin Mu said in a slightly tired tone.

"That means we will have to be careful there. We will probably have eyes on us. The sect disciples won't let this chance go to get some more inheritances." Jing Luo guessed.

"We'll need to prepare..."

[Chapter 818 - Leaving For The Broken Sand Desert](#)

The news about Elder Liqiang being trapped spread quickly among Lin Mu's allies and they all prepared for the journey that Lin Mu was going to embark on.

"Senior Lin Mu, will it really be fine for you to go there alone?" Hua Wu asked.

"I'm not going alone, Jing Luo and Little Shrubby are coming." Lin Mu replied.

"They are? *~p Hew~* that will be good then." Hua Wu took a breath of relief.

Since even Elder Liqiang who was at the Dao Shell realm had been trapped at the ruins, no one was now thinking that a cultivation base like that was enough to be safe. Thus they did not want Lin Mu to leave alone.

"I've contacted Master and the elders in the sect, they will be joining you at the ruins as well. Many other sects have already sent out their disciples or are sending them out to explore the ruins.

You can join them to mix in." Hua San informed.

"Hmm... that will be a decent disguise." Lin Mu spoke.

The others including King Hong and adviser Liu also said some things before they were finally ready to go. The one person they were waiting for was none other than Jing Luo. He had some things he needed to get ready, just in case they needed them in the mission.

*~Creak~*

The door of the hall opened and Jing Luo appeared. He was wearing a different style of robes now that looked a lot more compact. It looked like something that was made for long travels and also had leather armor on top of it.

"You ready?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Of course. Let's get Elder Liqiang!" Jing Luo answered.

"Very well..." Lin Mu said and sent a message to Little Shrubby through his link.

By the time they appeared in the sky above the Little Shrubby was already waiting for them there.

"Did you find out anything?" Lin Mu asked.

"There are a lot more cultivators out of the kingdom. Many at the Nascent soul realm too," Little Shrubby informed.

Lin Mu had gotten Little Shrubby to scout out the situation for them while they got ready. With his speed, it was a simple task to do and saved them time and effort.

"If there are Nascent soul realm cultivators then we should be able to blend in too." Lin Mu spoke.

"They won't discover you anyway. I don't think they will be able to tell what realm you are in any way. Though being at the core condensation realm will suit you." Jing Luo replied.

"I'll reduce my spirit Qi fluctuation to that level then." Lin Mu said and closed his eyes for a few seconds.



The Brown armor of the Mortal Strengthening scripture appeared on his body and glowed for a bit before the spirit Qi waves coming from his body fell. Soon they were only a fraction of what they were before.

"This should be enough." Lin Mu said as he opened his eyes.

The others that saw there were shocked.

'How can he... doesn't that take a strong technique to hide one's cultivation?' Hua San and Hua Wu were surprised.

The two of them were knowledgeable about techniques that allowed one to hide one's cultivation base. They had seen these in their sect and there were many grades of them. They themselves knew one as well and had used it while they were entering the Hong Lin capital.

But Lin Mu's was on a completely different level than the one they had. For them, the technique could only lower it by a single level or hide the cultivation base entirely, but doing the second option only leads to being viewed with suspicion.

And using the technique also took some time and was slower than what Lin Mu had just done.

But what they did not know was that Lin Mu wasn't even using a technique that hid his cultivation base primarily. The Mortal Strengthening scripture's armor mainly served to isolate his body from the outside.

While it did let some things like spirit Qi pass through it, Lin Mu could decrease its permeability to let the spirit Qi pass through and reverse it as well. Using that Lin Mu now appeared to be at the Core Condensation realm.

It was a lot more believable for him to be at the Core Condensation realm than the Nascent soul realm or the Dao Shell realm considering his young appearance. Lin Mu was currently twenty-one years old and was close to being twenty-two in a month.

No one would believe him to be at those cultivation bases, but with his appearance, he could still pass off for someone that was in his thirties or forties since cultivators aged slowly as well.

This way the chances of suspicion would be less. Though if things really went south, Lin Mu had no fear and was ready to take them on directly. He already managed to kill a strong beast like the Troll when he was at the Adult Soul stage, he was more than confident of taking down anyone as long as they weren't at the Dao Treading realm.

Lin Mu asked a few more details from Little Shrubby about what he saw and then finally decided to leave.

"Take care senior Lin Mu." Adviser Liu and King Hong wished.

"Don't put yourself in any unnecessary trouble senior Lin Mu. It isn't your responsibility to save an elder of our sect. Master will act himself as soon as he is freed from the Long Cloud sect." Hua San said with concern.

"No... if I can't help my allies when they are in distress, there would be no meaning to this alliance." Lin Mu stated with determination.

"That's right." Jing Luo chimed in.

Hua San and Hua Wu looked on feeling touched and saw Lin Mu fly away with Little Shrubby and Jing Luo.

The spirit boat came in handy again and they were soon flying at a great speed.

"I should have done this from the very start, people suffer when I don't act on my own..."

### [Chapter 819 - Hundreds Of Cultivators And Camouflage](#)

Jing Luo heard Lin Mu's self blaming words but did not know what to say. He knew that Lin Mu had been pushing himself a lot and he had already scolded him before about trying to do anything.

But the current incident didn't really help him think any better now. Deciding that it was best to keep his silence for now, Jing Luo simply watched on. Lin Mu sat with a cold and still expression as well, his thoughts unable to be perceived from the outside.

After a couple of hours, Little Shrubby spoke up. "This is where the cultivators start getting more common."

Lin Mu simply nodded his head and spread his spirit sense to the maximum range. In a single direction, Lin Mu's spirit sense was now long enough to reach almost ten kilometers in range.

Though if he wanted to perceive a wider area, the range would also reduce and if it was an entire spherical radius around him, he could only reach a few hundred meters of range. Still, his range of spirit sense was a lot more than any average Dao Shell realm cultivator.

Even Dao Treading realm cultivators only had spirit sense that reached up to a hundred kilometers. Beyond that, they were unable to extend it easily since the cost of refinement increased exponentially.

With Lin Mu's range, he was able to easily detect if there was anyone in their path, and switched their flight route to go around those people. This way they avoided most if not all cultivators that they encountered.

Lin Mu also took note of their cultivation bases and appearances. He was on the lookout for anyone from the Zither wind alliance or anyone that may be linked to Gu Yao.

"There's a lot of cultivators from the low ranked sects now." Jing Luo said.

"Mhmm... a few from the high ranked sects too. They have Nascent soul realm elders guarding them." Lin Mu commented.

Jing Luo had not sensed these people as they were out of his range, but Lin Mu had.

"They shouldn't pose any problem to us then." Jing Luo replied.

"Hopefully. It's not that we can't fight them, it's about them letting the others know about our existence. That is what will bring trouble to us." Lin Mu said.

"Indeed... let's just keep on avoiding them as much as we can." Jing Luo agreed.

"You know... I can just eat them before that." Little Shrubby chimed in.

Lin Mu looked on with narrowed eyes while Jing Luo tried to guess what was spoken.

"We aren't eating anyone... at least not when it is unnecessary." Lin Mu replied.

Hearing this Jing Luo raised his brows and understood what Little Shrubby was intending.

"You'll just eat anything you see, won't you?" Jing Luo said.

*~growl~*

"I'll eat you too~"

"What did he say?" Jing Luo asked.

"Just ignore him..." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmmm..." Jing Luo squinted his eyes before looking away.

Their travel continued for a few more days and the number of cultivators that they encountered kept on increasing. It reached a point where Lin Mu had to take a significant detour to avoid a large caravan of cultivators.

He even sensed a strong spirit Qi signature with them which hinted to him that it may have been someone at the Dao Shell realm.

"The Zither wind sect is here too." Lin Mu suddenly said.

"They are?" Jing Luo asked.

"Yeah, I saw the disciples with their robes some distance away." Lin Mu said as he opened his eyes.

Jing Luo then withdrew something from his spatial storage treasure after hearing this.

"What's this?" Lin Mu asked.

"Something that I guessed would come in handy for us now." Jing Luo replied before flipping open the object he had in his hands.

It looked like a flat rectangular box, but after it opened, one could see the fine runes inscribed in it. There were also some uniquely carved stones embedded inside the box.

Jing Luo placed the box in the center of the spirit boat and tapped it in certain spots before it activated.

*~shua~*

A spherical membrane extended out from the box and covered the entire boat. Soon the membrane changed color and foggy mist appeared on it. It increased in density and soon turned into a cloud.

"Huh? A camouflage?" Lin Mu asked.

"Mmhhh... now take us to the sky. This will not last that long, it's best if we cover as much distance as we can." Jing Luo replied.

"Very well," Lin Wu said before controlling the spirit boat or rising up to the sky.

*~ZOOM~*

It picked up speed again and started to move directly to the desert. With the camouflage, it was easier for them to hide in the clouds that were spread in the sky. Not many people would pay attention to the clouds anyway and at the speed that Lin Mu was flying, it was hard to notice them anyway.

The only ones that had the chance of doing so were those at the Dao Shell realm or someone at the Nascent soul realm that had a strong perception ability. Even then they would not look up at some random cloud as these elders would rather pay attention to their disciples and protect them from danger.

This allowed Lin Mu to cover the distance far quicker and in less than a day's time they were already in the Broken Sand desert.

*~hum~*

The power of the camouflage died down and the illusion faded away. Jing Luo put away the box and looked down at the vast desert that was filled with yellow sand and patches of flat hard ground.

This was the Broken Sand desert and was one of the three deserts of the Great Zhou continent. There were barely any clouds in the sky, thus their camouflage would not have worked as well anyway.

"We'll go on foot from here. It will be easier and less noticeable." Lin Mu stated.

"Where is the Noon Grass sect waiting for us?" Jing Luo asked.

"They said they have set up camp about ten kilometers away from the Kushao Ruins.. We will meet up there." Lin Mu replied

### [Chapter 820 - The Situation At The Kushao Ruins](#)

"How long do you think it will take Senior Lin Mu to arrive?" one of the disciples of the Noon grass sect questioned.

"According to the last we were informed, he should be reaching us in a day or two." Another disciple that seemed to be the leader this time spoke.

The disciples all seemed to be a bit nervous and couldn't help but look in the distance. The Camp of the Noon Grass sect was located some distance away from the camps of the other sects and powers that had arrived in the area.

Everyone wanted to take advantage of the ruins and try to obtain some fortune inside. Unfortunately for them, even if the ruins had appeared, it didn't mean that they could enter it right away.

The main entrance of the ruins was still blocked by several complex formations that had not opened. There were many cultivators trying to figure it out and unlock it. But it was not something that would be done so easily.

That was entirely the reason why they were all setting up camps instead of directly entering the ruins.

"Hopefully they arrive here before the ruins open... we don't know what kind of a situation Elder Liqiang is in..." another disciple that was wearing a pair of gauntlets spoke.

"About that... I heard that the ruins may open automatically in a week or so. But the others still want to try and see if they can do it beforehand. Don't they know it's dangerous? Why are they still doing it?" A female disciple questioned.

"Everyone in this world strives for resources and fortune. Even if one is born with it, more fortune is always necessary if one wants to keep on growing stronger. That's why even if the ruins might open automatically later, they still want to bet on obtaining more of it early on by doing this.

After all, if they become lucky and enter it, they will have the best harvest." Suddenly, a voice was heard from the side.

All the disciples became alert and looked towards it, only to find an elder standing there.

"ELDER WEIMIN!" The disciples identified the man.

"You're back? Did elder learn anything about Elder Liqiang's disappearance?" The leading disciple questioned.

*~Sigh~*

"I couldn't find anything particular, but there are some rumors among the others that a few people that appeared at the very start managed to enter the ruins. I'm thinking Elder Liqiang might be one of them." Elder Weimin answered.

"But if that's true, then why are the ruins blocked now?" Another disciple asked.

"We do not know. The Kushao ruins were long since considered lost, but now its reappearance changes things. Originally it was an inheritance ground that many sects wandered to, trying to obtain the inheritance hidden within.

Some succeeded, many failed, but they still kept on trying over the years. The Kushao ruins would appear and disappear every hundred years normally, but they haven't appeared since the disaster five hundred years ago.

They were considered to have been destroyed entirely. But now we know that it's not true, they were simply damaged enough that they do not function the same. That is also probably why its entry is broken and random now.

There are chances that it may randomly open up even now and allow some people to enter." Elder Weimin explained.

"Then will we have to wait for that? What will we do if Senior Lin Mu is not here till then?" He Yun the leading disciple, asked for guidance.

*~Sigh~*

"That is something we can only leave to fate. We can simply hope that the fates favor us this time and Junior Lin Mu appears before that..." Elder Weimin replied in a tired tone.

"It will still take a day at the very least, I don't know if we are in luck this time..." A disciple who was meditating in the side spoke in a low voice.

"Don't speak if you have nothing good to say and jinx it," The female disciple next to him said.

*~whoosh~*

At the same time, wind started to blow, and the tent that everyone was sitting on shook.

"Huh? Why the sudden wind?" Hu Yun wondered.

"SENIOR YUN! They are here!" A disciple that was scouting in the distance called out.

Elder Weimin raised his brows and appeared outside to check. The other disciples appeared as well and they could see a red stream approaching them at great speed. It was knocking up winds that reached all the way to them.

*~Thud~*

*~MUSH~*

The red streak tried to slow down and blew away a lot of sand before finally halting near the tent. Its breaking had caused a small hill of sand to get accumulated in front of it. Everyone approached it and saw none other than Lin Mu, Jing Luo, and Little Shrubby.

Lin Mu was sitting on Little Shrubby while Jing Luo was holding on to his back, stuck like a koala bear.

"We're here, you can let go now." Lin Mu spoke lightly.

Jing Luo opened his eyes and took a breath of relief. He looked towards Little Shrubby and huffed before looking away.

"I'm never doing this again." Jing Luo stated.

"I don't want to either," Little Shrubby said with a growl.

Lin Mu saw the little banter between the two and could only shake his head. He decided to focus his attention on the task at hand and saw the Noon Grass sect's people standing around them.

"Elder Weimin," Lin Mu greeted with cupped hands.

"Junior Lin Mu... you managed to reach us before time?" Elder Weimin said, still finding it a bit unbelievable.

"Yes... thanks to little Shrubby here, we cut down on a few day's time." Lin Mu said casually.

*~growl~*

Little Shrubby lifted his head, feeling proud.

"What is the situation right now?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It's like this..." Elder Weimin then went on to explain the way the ruins were working and the other powers that had arrived in the area.

After hearing everything, Lin Mu couldn't help but furrow his brows.

"No matter what, we have to enter it first!"