

Walker 841

[Chapter 841 - Caged And Lies](#)

Upon her chant, the red rods moved like rockets towards Lin Mu. He weaved through them and successfully dodged them, but that was not Ku Waowen's goal at all.

~Clang~Clang~clang~

All of the red rods were impaled into the ground around Lin Mu and the Frost cloud was attracted to them like a magnet.

~swoosh~

The frosty wind brought on by the cloud was chilly and frost settled on to Lin Mu's Armor. Even then he could feel the chill penetrate it and spread to his skin.

"How is this going past the Armor?" Lin Mu was confused.

'There was certainly something strange amount that liquid she drank.' Lin Mu thought.

He tried to move, but realized that it was already late. Ice had covered the ground and the top as well. The rods worked like the bars of a cage while the frost became the concrete that coated them.

Lin Mu was now fully enclosed in the ice and was unable to move around much. The speed at which the ice spread was astounding, and it was as if the red rods had catalyzed them in some way.

"You should have taken the offer, now you can only blame yourself." Ku Waowen said with a chuckle.

Lin Mu didn't take that standing though and started to hit on the ice. The short sword that was close to him was now being used as an ice pick. The other weapons of Lin Mu fell to the ground controllably due to the frost restraining his spirit sense.

~bang~bang~bang~

The icy cage was far tougher than Lin Mu had expected and did not budge at all. His expression turned serious as he tried to find a weakness in the skill that had just been used.

"It's definitely not a formation, thus I can't use the normal method. I'll have to find some other way." Lin Mu muttered to himself and use his spirit sense to test out the cage.

But no matter how much he tried, his spirit sense could not penetrate the walls of the cage. They were similar to the repelling effect that was shown by the walls of the ruins that could restrain spirit Qi, but these went a step further and could even inflict damage.

The icy chill exuded from the cage's walls, threatened to drill through Lin Mu's spirit sense and penetrate his body. It was a scary feeling that made Lin Mu quickly withdraw his spirit sense; knowing this might not be the way.

Gritting his teeth, Lin Mu clenched his fist and hammered them down on to the walls.

~BANG~BANG~BANG~

The entire cage shook like a bull was raging within it, but even then there were no signs of damage that could be seen on it.

"Hahahah! My Xieye Yun Frost Cage isn't something the likes of you can break. It has the True Frost Essence of our tribe, which has been refined for over a thousand years. Even if you were at the Shell Expansion stage of the Dao Shell realm, it still won't be affected." Ku Waowen laughed.

Hearing the name of the liquid that she had drank, Lin Mu's mind quickly worked. He felt like he had heard something similar to that before.

"It should be similar to the Arctic Essence." Xukong suddenly spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head as the memory appeared in his mind.

"Indeed, the Lost immortal once traded a large amount of fortune to obtain the Arctic essence. It is said to be one of the coldest materials one can buy and is very useful for those with ice physiques.

But it is also used in restrictive poisons and meridian freezing pills. No wonder it can prevent my spirit sense from passing through." Lin Mu replied.

"Not just that, those red rods made from her hair. They aren't simple either. They are providing the structure for it. And perhaps that is how she's controlling it too." Xukong suggested.

"Hmm... yes, now that I think of it, she didn't control the frost cloud with her spirit sense. She simply blew it out and even when it responded later, it only did to the sound. If the True Frost Essence is similar to the Arctic essence, then it should be impossible for her to do anything, not to mention swallow it like that.

She would have turned into an ice block if she even touched that bottle. This is probably an inferior version of it." Lin Mu replied.

A few ideas appeared in his mind, but then he saw something that changed his thoughts.

'She's not acting? Is she waiting for something? No... it's not that she's waiting, but rather she can't do anything!' Lin Mu understood.

"She might have already strained herself using their technique. Though with her cultivation base, if she could restrain you like this, she might have also been able to kill you with something lethal, after all, you are trapped.

But she hasn't done that." Xukong added.

"She has some other thoughts." Lin Mu muttered.

He looked at the old woman and decided to interact a bit.

"Fine... what is it that you want?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hahaha! So the camel finally decides to bend, huh?" Ku Waowen snarked.

But Lin Mu kept his face still. The ice was very transparent and thus he could still be seen clearly. It was almost like a glass.

"So then... which sect are you from?" She questioned. "If they managed to hide you for this long, and you appeared, you must have found out about us, haven't you?"

Lin Mu already had a few answers ready for times like this spoke.

"I am from the Zither Wind alliance." Lin Mu stated.

Hearing this, the old woman frowned.

"LIES! There is nothing they can do that we won't find out." Ku Waowen said out loud.

"Oh? You mean the people being controlled?" Lin Mu said with a raised brow.

"Ahah, seems like we truly managed to fool the Northern Tribes. We already have a way to hide from your surveillance.. The people you control aren't all being controlled!" Lin Mu declared, stunning her.

[Chapter 842 - Trickery](#)

Lin Mu's words were of course were shocking to Ku Waowen, but at the same time, her common sense spoke to her that Lin Mu was simply trying to throw her off and was lying.

"Brat, do you really think I was born yesterday? Such simple bluffs aren't something you can use on me." Ku Waowen countered.

"Huh, you really think I'm lying? What if I told you we have our own spies in the Northern Tribes?" Lin Mu stated, throwing Ku Waowen off.

But this time, he didn't give her the time to respond and continued to speak.

"We know all about you. About how Gu Yao has supposedly taken control of the Zither Wind alliance, how you all called another invader through some trader from a different world, and even how many people you have." Lin Mu stated.

Now Ku Waowen couldn't help but think that her conjecture might have been wrong. Knowing not to rush into a trap, she decided to probe a bit more.

"If you really know about our people, then you must know our power, right? Why don't you tell me that and I might just believe you." Ku Waowen said in a taunting tone, though her nervousness was leaking a little bit.

"Sure." Lin Mu said very casually.

"The Northern Tribes have Eleven Dao Treading Realm cultivators and Three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators. As for their locations, most of them are concentrated around your grand capital including two of the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators, while one of the Immortal Ascension realm cultivators is situated to the south of the Grand capital near the Pear's belt in some mountains." Lin Mu revealed.

"Wh-what..." Upon hearing Lin Mu's detailed answer, Ku Waowen was absolutely stunned.

She was expecting there to be some guesses, even including the fact that Lin Mu might bluff and saw they had Immortal Ascension realm cultivators. But the exact locations of them were not something she had expected for him to know as well.

"Hahaha! Seems like you all aren't that well prepared either." Lin Mu teased. "You didn't even know we had spies in your ranks and neither did you know we got out of Gu Yao's control. You all don't even know how deep you are into the ocean."

Ku Waowen did not reply and continued to think to herself. This was a great shock to her. Since she was allowed to come here on such an important mission, she certainly knew some of the high ranked secrets of the Northern Tribes.

They were secrets that, other than her, only a handful of people knew. Thus, for them to get leaked, they would need to have someone in those handfuls of people working as spies.

The moment, this thought came to her, a cracking sound was heard.

~Crack~

She had unknowingly clenched her fist hard enough that one of her ornamental rings had cracked.

"Tell me who are the spies and you will have a chance to live." Ku Waowen decisively spoke.

"Oh? Changing your mind so quickly?" Lin Mu raised his brow.

"Your life is in my hands. Even if you don't speak, our ancestors have methods to extract memories from unwilling people. You don't need to be fully alive for that either." Ku Waowen said, her voice dripping with venom.

"Coming to threats now, are we? Well sure, I'll throw you a bone. Two of the spies are in your Dao Treading realm cultivators. haha!" Lin Mu chuckled.

Ku Waowen's mind immediately got to working on who could be behind it. She didn't even question the fact if Lin Mu was lying, since he had stated far too much information for him to even bother doing something like this.

To Ku Waowen, the most important thing right now, even more important than Lin Mu, was to send word to the Northern Tribes. But that was an immensely difficult task as of now.

While they did have ways to quickly transmit information to the Northern Tribes, that information was sent by relaying it to multiple people. But with the information Lin Mu had just revealed, she couldn't trust that relay set up they had either.

To her, it meant that it would just end up alerting Lin Mu's allies and telling them that he was in danger and had been found out. After all, she couldn't guess on the fact if they didn't have spies in the people that had already entered the Great Zhou Empire either.

'Will ancestors even respond to my call? It will be a great disrespect to use that, but this is now a grave emergency.' Ku Waowen decided.

She looked at Lin Mu, that was still standing and smugly looking at him, and gritted her teeth.

"I swear I'll rip out your lungs, once I'm done with this..." She muttered to herself.

While Ku Waowen was doing this, Lin Mu was doing something else. His mind was split in two and was doing different tasks. On one hand he was keeping an eye on the Old Woman's every move and on the other hand, it was trying to find some other solution.

Lin Mu had to maintain a staunch attitude as the more he did that, the more Ku Waowen got nervous and the better chances for her to make mistakes.

'She finally moves,' Lin Mu thought to himself and saw Ku Waowen turn around.

She started to walk towards the formation array in the center and work on something.

'Time to test it...' Lin Mu thought to himself and pretended to contact someone using a Jade slip.

Seeing that she had not noticed him or had looked at him, Lin Mu decided to be a bit more daring. He directly took out a pile of peak grade spirit stones and looked at Ku Waowen.

'Huh... so she really can't sense anything inside either... PERFECT!' Lin Mu smiled upon discovering this.

"Seems like not only is my spirit sense restricted by this cage, the same applies to hers as well. This will work in our favor.." Lin Mu muttered to himself and enacted his new plan.

[Chapter 843 - Escape And Counterattack](#)

Ku Waowen was quickly working on a different thing than what she had come here for originally. Her plans had seemingly been flipped on its end, due to Lin Mu's appearance. And in addition to that, the revelation about the spies was far too much for her to bear alone.

Her fingers flitted across the formation array as she made one change after the other. There were some runes being added, and some removed, though she didn't change any layers of it.

Lin Mu observed this and guessed what she was doing.

'She's trying to draw spirit Qi from it?' Lin Mu furrowed his brows.

He was a bit confused as this was a complex thing to do as a formation array would hide sensitive functions like this deeper into its middle layers. This would prevent anyone from accessing it.

And what Ku Waowen was doing was certainly that. But it was stranger since she was not altering any layers at all and was only working on the surface.

"How is this possible?" Lin Mu muttered.

"She may have a key to the formation array. Since it was set by their ancestor, they likely have something that allows her to control it." Xukong suggested.

"Hmm... seems like it. But I can't sense what that is from here. Not without my spirit sense." Lin Mu replied.

But Lin Mu couldn't wait for something to happen on its own. He needed to take the initiative.

'I can't let her do as she feels. She's probably trying to make contact with the Northern Tribes. Even if she does make it, she can't reveal who caught her. The information reaching them might be a good option and will throw them off though.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

With a plan ready, Lin Mu decided to be even more daring.

~huh~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu looked around him and tried to memorize everything he could. Then the very next moment, he disappeared into thin air.

"Fade," Lin Mu appeared in the parallel world.

The vast emptiness of the strangely comforting to him and he paused briefly before moving again.

"It should be about here..." Lin Mu said, recalling the layout of the hall.

He moved to a certain location and came to a halt before deactivating fade. Since the Xieye Yun Frost Cage could restrict spirit Qi, Lin Mu didn't know entirely if Fade would work or not, since Flicker, Blink, and Phase didn't work in there.

Meld was out of the option too, as using it this close to his body could gravely injure him.

But seeing Fade work like normal was relieved and allowed him to finally escape it. Appearing near the ceiling of the hall, Lin Mu instantly entered an offensive stance. Vital energy stirred within his arm as Lin Mu poured a larger than normal amount into it.

Boulder Collapsing Fist: First Form- Impact!

He descended from the ceiling like a meteor, and Ku Waowen was too late to stop him.

"NOOO!" She yelled as Lin Mu reached the top of the formation array.

~KABOOM~

The defensive layer that had automatically activated by the fomentation array shattered almost immediately and the ones that appeared after that were shattered as well. Lin Mu's attack breached the initial defenses and finally struck the uppermost layer of the array.

The impact broke it apart and the spirit Qi contained within it exploded uncontrollably. The explosion of a formation was often very dangerous, as the spirit Qi contained within it was very structured.

But when this structure was forcefully shifted, it would lead to the spirit Qi channels within it conflicting and leading to a volatile reaction. Most formation arrays would have a safety for preventing this even if a layer was broken, but that safety was unless when Lin Mu had directly attacked it.

"AAAARHGH!" Ku Waowen spat out a mouthful of blood as she was shot to the other corner of the hall.

Lin Mu was similarly sent to the opposite corner and sustained some damage as well.

~Crack~

~SHATTER~

The Armor of the Mortal Strengthening Scripture broke almost instantly and his body had to bear the rest of the damage. Protecting his head with his hands, Lin Mu soldiered on as he finally slammed into the wall.

~BANG~

His body created an indent into the wall as cracks spread around from it.

"UGH!" Lin Mu grunted in pain.

His back, arms, and head ached in protest, but he forcefully endured it. Spreading his spirit sense around, he quickly assessed the situation in the room, while also eating a bunch of healing pills simultaneously.

"YOU!!!! YOU SWINE!!! YOU BROKE IT!" An enraged voice could be heard coming from the back of the smoke cloud.

~WHOOSH~

With the sweep of her hand, Ku Waowen blew away all the smoke and cleared her field of vision. She then saw Lin Mu standing on the other end. Her anger spiked as she sped ahead.

A silver lance appeared in her hand and she aimed it towards Lin Mu's head.

"YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!" She shouted as her eyes turned bloodshot.

Lin Mu observed the blood leaking from her lips and nose and knew that he had managed to injure her far more than before.

'Her spirit sense should have gotten injured as well since she was connected to the formation array when it exploded.' Lin Mu reckoned as he took out a shield from his storage.

Putting it in front of him, his body was entirely hidden behind it.

~DENG~

The Silver Lance hit the broad shield for a fraction of a second before piercing through with ease.

~BANG~

The lance directly pushed the shield along with it and was stuck half way through it before embedding into the wall behind it. But Ku Waowen did not fall for it and immediately flipped around to intercept another attack.

~CLANG~

"You can't fool me twice!" She said as Lin Mu used a long sword to attack her.

Their eyes locked as the battle entered a sensitive period.

[Chapter 844 - The Odds Flip](#)

Ku Waowen was incredibly angry, and her fury was now overflowing. Her original intent about trapping Lin Mu and extracting more information from him was long gone and all she wanted to do now was to kill him.

"YOU WILL DIE TODAY!" She yelled and spun the lance in a circle.

~WHOOSH~

A glowing circle was formed due to the spinning of the lance and was shot out like a spinning blade.

~zing~

Lin Mu flipped in the air, dodging the ring while keeping his gaze locked onto the old woman. For some reason, he felt like there was a problem with her.

'Even if I did break that, her anger seems a little too much.' Lin Mu thought.

"Perhaps you broke something that allows the access to the inheritance of the Immortal Ascension realm cultivator." Xukong suggested.

"That shouldn't be possible. The access formation for that will be deep in the middle layers of the array, there is no way a complex formation like that will be broken with an attack like that." Lin Mu replied.

Even if Lin Mu knew his attack was strong, he knew its limits as well. Besides, he himself did not want to use an attack that was too strong as that might result in an explosion that would gravely hurt him too.

~clang~

The short sword and the Iron Thorn Spear made their return and blocked the next attack that had reached Lin Mu. Lin Mu had linked back up with all of his spirit weapons that were fallen on the ground.

"She didn't think to confiscate the weapons... not like it would have mattered much, I got more." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He now understood just how shocked Ku Waowen really was. Any experience cultivator like her would have confiscated weapons as soon as they got the chance. But it was evident that Lin Mu's words had pushed her a little too much.

"Once I get rid of you, the sects will all suffer. Their souls will join you in the flames of torture! JUST IMAGINE THE MAGNIFICENCE!" Ku Waowen said out loud.

'I'm not even from sects.' Lin Mu thought to himself and kept on dodging.

The battle continued on as Lin Mu and Ku Waowen exchanged attacks back and forth. Lin Mu's Mortal Strengthening Scripture had also recovered his armor and he could ignore most of the blowback from her normal attacks.

But a direct attack would still break his armor. He had understood that much. Lin Mu also got to learn quite a bit from Ku Waowen. Since he hadn't fought any cultivator that was at the Dao Shell realm yet, his understanding of their skills and methods was lacking.

The only ones he had fought were Dao Shell realm beasts, thus the same factors would not apply to this fight. Lin Mu was also not going all out as he felt like something bad would happen if he did that.

His instincts were telling him to hold back. Plus, that combined with the fact that Ku Waowen had still not hurt him significantly despite having a very high cultivation base suggested to Lin Mu that she was planning something.

His spirit sense was already scanning around to find if there was any trap set, but he could not perceive any at this point.

'Is it really just her being unable to catch up with me? Or is there really something else?' Lin Mu wondered to himself.

After about fifteen minutes, both Lin Mu and the old woman had sustained some injuries on their bodies. In this time, Lin Mu's armor had been broken at least three times from attacks he could not dodge.

Ku Waowen had a skill that allowed her to accelerate her normal attacks and techniques by ten times and it would be done randomly. This caught Lin Mu off guard and it ended with his Mortal Strengthening Scripture's armor breaking.

Thankfully, at his level, only the part that was struck would break, and not the entire armor. Thus repairing it was just a matter of time and earth elemental spirit Qi, which he had a sufficient amount of.

~clang~

Suddenly Ku Waowen tapped her lance on the ground and spun mid way through her attack.

~Rip~

~splatter~

"Huh? What?" Lin Mu said in confusion.

Ku Waowen had made a strange move that didn't make sense. If she had continued onwards, she would have been able to block his attack or at least parry it, but turning around mid way had caused her to get injured by Lin Mu's short sword instead.

A deep gash had been cut out onto her waist and the flesh within it could now be seen.

"Haha!" The old woman laughed instead of wincing in pain.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and knew that something was wrong. A surge of spirit qi was felt by him and his pupils became pin point.

"FADE—" Lin Mu tried to use the skill, but was interrupted before that.

"Ahahaha! AHAHAHA!" Ku Waowen laughed again, seeing Lin Mu fail.

"How's this possible?!" Lin Mu was puzzled.

Taking the chance while Lin Mu was a bit distracted, Ku Waowen made a few hand seals.

~shua~shua~shua~

Her fingers moved like a blur and created various runes in the air. Then the very next second, she joined her palms and spun them like a blooming lotus.

"With the Ancestors Blood, With the Ancestors Bloodline, Calling the Bloodline, Calling the Will!" Ku Waowen chanted.

~Ripple~

The blood that had spilled out from the old woman's body started to gather together. Globes and spheres of blood rushed up from the ground and turned into hundreds of streams that split in the air and rushed back towards the ground.

But this time they entered very specific places. Lin Mu's spirit sense had stopped working and he could only look around to see what was happening. The streams of blood entered the crevices and indents that had been made during the battle.

Lin Mu's anxiety increased while Ku Waowen smiled widely, showing her missing teeth.

[Chapter 845 - Humiliation And Anger](#)

In the hall, not all of the indents and scratches were filled with blood.

Only very specific ones were filled with the blood and once Lin Mu saw all of them, he could make out a very specific shape. It was not like any character or letter he had seen, and neither was it any pattern he was familiar with.

~WEEENG~

The pattern lit up and glowed in a blood red light.

~HUALA~

A very strange energy erupted from the pattern and snuffed out all of the spirit qi in the air. The energy rushed towards Lin Mu and coated his body. Lin Mu could not dodge it and found his control over spirit qi falling rapidly.

"HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

He could understand if the spirit qi in the air was restrained, but even the spirit qi in his own body was not in his control anymore. His dantian was soon covered in the same strange energy and he was unable to use any spirit qi at this point.

"Ehehehehe! Do you like that? DO YOU FEEL THAT!" Ku Waowen said out loud.

A deep frown appeared on Lin Mu's face and knew that he had been fooled.

"She was making this thing the entire time... She never wanted to kill me from the start, she was just making it seem like it." Lin Mu understood.

"She used the same method that you used earlier." Xukong spoke.

His voice though, was eerily calm. Lin Mu didn't particularly notice it as he was more focused on the situation at hand. He felt both humiliated and lost at this.

'I thought I had everything under control.' Lin Mu realized he had done the very thing he had long decided not to do: underestimating his opponent.

Gritting his teeth, Lin Mu slammed his foot creating spiderweb like cracks in the floor and shot towards Ku Waowen.

"I DON'T NEED SPIRIT QI TO DEFEAT YOU!" Lin Mu said staunchly.

Ku Waowen was taken aback by Lin Mu's action.

'This kid... how is he doing this?' Ku Waowen thought.

While she had understood that Lin Mu was strong, she didn't know that his strength didn't just come from spirit qi. Lin Mu was a body cultivator as well and had the same strength as that of an Adult Soul Stage Nascent Soul realm cultivator that was at the very peak just with his body.

A casual punch of his could break apart boulders and turn them to dust, which was something that normal cultivators would need to use spirit qi to do. They would have to first amplify their body with spirit qi and reinforce it, or they would end up injuring themselves.

But this effect was temporary and would only last as long as they maintained that state. It also consumed their spirit qi continually as long as they kept it active. But Lin Mu was not like that. Even if he had no spirit qi, he would still stay like that.

Not only that, if he ever lost his spirit qi cultivation base, his body cultivation would always be there. Crippling that was not a simple thing.

~BANG~

Lin Mu's fist buried into the ground where Ku Waowen was standing and missed her.

"Dammit!" Lin Mu cursed and looked around to find her again.

With the loss of his spirit sense, he couldn't react as fast as before either.

"Seems like there are more secrets to you than I thought. You will be the perfect gift for ancestors. They will be happy to pry out each and every secret of yours!" Ku Waowen said in a happy tone.

Lin Mu saw her standing in the air on the opposite side.

Her hands moved again and made a few patterns.

"Totemic Dungeon Seal! UNLEASH!" Ku Waowen recited.

~HONG~

~CLANG~CLANG~

~SHING~

The moment her chant ended, tens of chains that were bloody rose up from the ground. They clasped onto Lin Mu and wrapped around his body.

Three chains wrapped on each of his limbs, four wrapped on his waist, navel, chest, and neck.

The chains were then stretched taut and immobilized Lin Mu. His neck was pulled back, making him feel very uncomfortable.

"Ehehehe! I thought just restraining your spirit qi would be enough, but this monkey has more tricks than that. Let's see what you can do with our Totemic Seal." Ku Waowen laughed.

Lin Mu's eyes darted around as much as they could in his orbits and tried to find a solution. He couldn't find anything that seemed like it would help him and he didn't recognize the pattern to be a formation either.

'What is this? It's not a formation, and neither is it a qi skill...' Lin Mu was lost.

"It's a totemic technique. They are similar to bloodline skills but have far greater restrictions on them." Xukong informed.

"Huh? What restrictions does this one have then?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I don't know." Xukong flatly answered.

"What do I do now?" Lin Mu asked, his tone low.

"That is up to you. This is now a trial for you. You will have to figure out a solution for yourself. You got into this and you will have to get out of it yourself." Xukong stated firmly.

Lin Mu's expression fluctuated, but he gritted his teeth. He knew that it was his mistake he had let it continue this far.

'If only I stopped her earlier, this would not have happened...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He tried to pull on the chains and exerted his strength, but was unable to do anything.

~CLANG~

Instead, the chains only tightened their grip on his body, making him grunt in pain.

"Ahahaha! There is no use. Breaking the Totemic Seal of my clan is impossible for your kind!" Ku Waowen insulted.

Numerous thoughts, including self blame went through Lin Mu's mind. He was reminded of his companions that were still waiting for him upstairs and what their end would be like if Ku Waowen got to them.

This lit a fire in Lin Mu's heart and his eyes turned bloodshot.

"I... can't let that happen... NO! I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!" Lin Mu declared out loud.

[Chapter 846 - The Terrorized Ku Waowen](#)

Ku Waowen was pleased at seeing Lin Mu fall into her trap. While it had taken quite a bit out of her to plan it out and execute it, she had finally succeeded. The mental pressure of Lin Mu having information about spies was simply too heavy.

She knew that there was no way she could kill him, just like that. Especially since her earlier attempt at sending a message to her superiors had failed due to Lin Mu interrupting. While she had indeed added the content that she needed to send, she did not know if it was sent out successfully or how much of it was sent.

Either way, she knew that only by keeping Lin Mu alive and extracting information from him was the option for her here. Any other option would lead to grave danger on their end.

They would not know how their foes were planning against them. In a prolonged war, the most important part was information and once someone had a grasp on it, the war was as good as half won.

'His skills and abilities are also very impressive. He will be something the ancestors will certainly be interested in. Especially his body. How did he make it this strong? He's like a beast.' Ku Waowen thought.

While she thought this all, Lin Mu was struggling in the chains that were restraining him.

~clang~clang~clang~

"Still not giving up? It's useless! The more you struggle, the tighter they will get." Ku Waowen said.

But Lin Mu paid no attention to it and kept on struggling and pulling on the chains.

~HAAA~

"I... Have... To... Get... Out... Of... Them..." Lin Mu said to himself between breaths.

But even his peak Nascent soul realm strength was not enough to break them apart. Not only that, but he felt that the longer he was held by them, the weaker he was getting.

"Without spirit Qi, you are nothing! Every cultivator will falter. You are simply naive!" Ku Waowen scoffed as she walked towards him.

By the time she reached Lin Mu, he had stopped struggling.

"Finally done?" Ku Waowen asked in a teasing tone.

"...not," A? low whisper was heard by her.

She leaned in slightly and asked, "you said something brat?"

"I'm not..."

"Oho? Still got a little kick in you?" Ku Waowen chuckled.

~SLAP~

A fierce slap hit Lin Mu's face as blood dripped from his mouth.

"Let's see how long you can keep up with that." She said in a cold tone.

But at that moment, her heart shuddered.

'Ga...'

"Huh?" Ku Waowen became alert and checked the area with her spirit sense.

Her instincts were telling her that something had changed, but she couldn't tell what.

'Ko... Na...'

~tremble~

But even after checking everything, she couldn't find anything. Everything seemed to be the same.

"Mi..." A whisper was heard.

"Sha..." another appeared after that.

Ku Waowen's ears perked up and tracked the whispers to none other than right in front of her.

'Him?'

"Zu..." the whispers continued.

They didn't make sense to Ku Waowen and seemed to be in a completely different language she had not heard.

"Ge... Yu... La... Di... Mo..." Lin Mu's lips kept on chanting.

Ku Waowen felt the fine hairs on the back of her neck standing. She didn't feel like moving and kept on listening to the faint chanting coming from Lin Mu's lips.

'What is this...?' Ku Waowen was in a strange state.

She felt like she needed to listen to the chants, but at the same time, she felt like her heart was telling her to run away this very instant. Her brain also started telling her that she needed to stop Lin Mu from doing whatever he was right now.

~tremble~

She raised her hand as it trembled, but couldn't bring it to hit Lin Mu. A sense of terror filled her body and paralyzed it.

She didn't know how long she was in a state. It could have been for a few seconds, or perhaps even hours. Time had become a fleeting existence and could not be perceived by her at that moment.

Ku Waowen then felt her vision narrowing and new words starting to sound in her ears. She still couldn't understand them, but the emotion she was getting from them was very oppressive.

'What is this... malevolence?' Ku Waowen thought.

It was then that those words turned into an understandable dialect, but when she heard them, it was as if her entire being shook.

"Ignite thy heart as a furnace, let your rage fuel your strength and unleash rampage upon the worlds!!!"

~DENG~

A loud noise woke her up from the trance and she saw Lin Mu looking up at her. Blood dripped from his face as a malevolent gaze assaulted her. His eyes glowed in a red hue and looked almost filled with blood.

~KAKAKA~

"Impossible!" Ku Waowen said as she saw the chains that bound Lin Mu being forcefully pulled outwards.

Lin Mu's fists were clenched, and his knuckles directly popped out of his skin. The white bony knuckles were stained with blood, looking gruesome.

~CLANG~

Lin Mu pulled on the chains, curling his body and making the chains creak.

"HOW!?" Ku Waowen shouted in confusion and fear.

"You said I am nothing without spirit Qi... You were wrong... Like I said before... I need no spirit Qi to defeat you!" Lin Mu said, his voice hoarse.

~GRAAAAAAAA~

A beastly growl was let out by Lin Mu as a newfound power filled him.

~KACHA~KACHA~KACHA~

The chains that bound Lin Mu snapped at that moment and he was released.

~THUD~

His body fell to the ground and spread cracks in it.

~BOOM~

Lin Mu slammed his fist into the ground as his body trembled nonstop. Ku Waowen stepped back in horror and felt like she was now facing something that was beyond her comprehension.

The more she watched, the more she got scared.. In front of her, Lin Mu's body warped and turned before starting to enlarge.

[Chapter 847 - I... AM... VENGEANCE!](#)

Lin Mu was feeling a tremendous amount of pain right now. He could only compare it to when he assimilated the Great Slumber Bear's bloodline and was enough to make him cry out in pain.

~RUAAAAAAAAAA~

Though the cry was more like a roar when it came out of his throat and echoed in the entire hall.

But pain was not the only thing that he was feeling. What filled his body even more was pure rage that had no place to go. It circulated in his body and stirred the vital energy in his body.

When he was bound by the chains, he had felt even his vital energy getting suppressed and drained. But now... he felt like he had a volcano inside of him that was ready to explode.

~Dub~DUB~DUB!~

His heartbeats thundered like a war drum and could be heard very clearly. They joined his roar and created a soul chilling symphony.

Vital energy kept on pouring out of the depths of his body and rushing into his blood. All the meat and food he had eaten till now was showing its effect.

The Nameless Technique of the Lost Immortal suddenly became active, and endless vital essence started pouring out of his stomach.

Lin Mu had never felt like this before and could only let things progress as it is.

~CRACK~CRACK~

His bones and joints creaked along with his trembling body. His muscles started to bulge out of irregularity and warped his body. He contorted in pain and looked like a horrifying ghoul at this moment.

Within his Dantian, another change was happening. While the energy that suppressed his spirit Qi was still there, a relentless roar could still be heard coming from Dantian. It was as if it was trying to force its way out, but was still unable to do it.

But the roar resonated within his body and made Lin Mu's blood heat up. Lin Mu could feel something additional happening to him. It was not just the Burning Heart Sutra that was acting now.

Ku Waowen, who was watching the entire change was shaking like she was standing naked in the freezing winter. A Deep Crimson Aura started exuding from Lin Mu and became corporeal.

It looked a bit similar to the red mist that she used, but was far denser than that. Plus, she could tell that it was not made of spirit Qi, but something else entirely.

'Ancestors save me... what is this being...'

She hadn't even touched the aura, but could sense that it was something that would wrench the life out of her. Even though it was just an aura and could not harm her directly, the Malevolent intent within it was very apparent.

The Deep Crimson covered Lin Mu till he could not be seen at all. At the same time, Ku Waowen saw another part of the Deep Crimson aura separating out from it. The aura rose up and started to take a shape.

It grew at least ten meters tall and three meters wide before details started to appear on it. She watched as it turned into a large beast. It was standing on two legs and had two arms with twelve inch long claws that were no less than knives.

It had long canines that were prominently displayed in its mouth and a triangular pattern that was present on its chest.

"A bear?" Ku Waowen finally recognized what the beast was.

But it was not just any bear. It was the largest bear beast she had seen and the gaze with which it looked at her made her shrink back even more. What she didn't notice though, were two small horns that had started to grow out from the side of the bear's head.

The bear raised his head as if it was taking a deep breath and stretched its arms.

~ROAR!!!!~

Finally, an earthshaking roar was let out by the bear that forced Ku Waowen to close her ears with her palms. But even then, a thin streak of blood could be dripping down the sides of her ears.

~EEEK!~

Ku Waowen shrieks in fear as she saw the beast about to pounce towards her. She jumped back but then realized that nothing had happened. Pulling every bit of courage she had, she looked back and saw that instead of attacking her, the beast was instead being sucked back into the main body of the aura.

~RUMBLE~

The Deep Crimson aura started to shrink back and turned into a more spherical shape. It stayed in this form momentarily before finally being sucked back into the person that was within it.

~HUUUUUUUU~

A breath that was like the tearing wind was heard and a new being appeared in front of the old woman. It towered over her at over four meters and was ten times the size of a man. Its arms were as thick as tree trunks and so were the legs.

There were three inch long and sharp claws that were red and grey in color. The chest of the being was broad and thick, which made him look like a towering wall. The dense muscles that were packed into it though, exuded sheer strength.

His shoulders were wide and fine lines could be seen going all along with them. They joined up to form a pattern which then spread around his body. The pattern looked like an inverted triangle on his chest but an inverted pentagon on his back.

The hair of the being was also long, reaching his lower back. It was pitch black in color and had a metallic sheen to it as well.

~GRRRRRRR~

A rumbling growl came from the being's mouth as its fangs were revealed. They were beastly and could easily tear any flesh to shreds.

Ku Waowen stared into the eyes of the being and almost collapsed, seeing the crimson pupils and black sclera.

"W-What... What... What are you?" Ku Waowen finally questioned with the last bit of courage that she had.

"I... AM... VENGEANCE!"

[Chapter 848 - Tough Battle](#)

Lin Mu's words rumbled in Ku Waowen's ears and scared her to no end. But at the same time, her flight and fight instincts activated and she started to fly back.

~BOOM~

But before she even went a meter away, Lin Mu appeared to block her path.

"S-so fast!" Ku Waowen was stunned.

Then without caring, Lin Mu swiped his claws at Ku Waowen. The old woman's pupils shrank in fear and she immediately threw out a small ornament that looked like a stick figure of a man.

The stick figure changed its form rapidly and turned into Ku Waowen.

~BANG~

The transformed stick figure exploded instantly the moment Lin Mu's claws stuck it, showing just how much power was contained in that attack. Ku Waowen's heart ached at the loss of the Stick figure, but she was also grateful for escaping.

That stick figure was a high grade spirit tool that was a consumable. It could only be used once, but it could protect one from even a Dao Treading realm cultivators attack. Normally it should be activated beforehand so that it was ready.

But Ku Waowen ended up doing it midway through the fight. If it was done beforehand, the enemy would not be able to tell that the figure in front of them was not a real person. It was a treasure that Ku Waowen had obtained after a lot of work.

'That was given to me by ancestor... But now I had to use it here...' Ku Waowen thought while gritting her teeth.

She continued to fly back, but at the same time, she knew that this fight was not something she could avoid.

~CLANG~

Lin Mu shot out of the smoke made by the explosion and attacked Ku Waowen again. His attacks were crude and no longer had any particular skill that they did when he was in his normal form.

Right now, Lin Mu could only think of a limited number of things and was mostly controlling his body through his instincts. There was a river of pure rage flowing in his mind which muddled his thoughts.

He didn't even think about himself and what he had become at this moment.

His claws rubbed against Ku Waowen's lance and pressured it to bend. The old woman pushed back with all her force but was still being unable to move Lin Mu. The claws on his feet dug into the stony floor, locking him in a place like an immobile wall.

~HUMPH~

Lin Mu blew out hot steam through his nose and jumped up using one of his legs, while his other leg swiped at the lance in one spinning motion.

~DENG~

The lance was kicked out of Ku Waowen's hand and sent flying into the wall where it became embedded. Taking the opportunity while Ku Waowen was unbalanced, Lin Mu slammed his foot down on the ground like a sledgehammer.

~KABOOM~

~CRACK~

The floor that had managed to maintain its integrity for the most part was directly split apart from the attack. Large cracks spread through it and the floor exploded. Dirt and debris shot everywhere, injuring Ku Waowen as well.

The small stone fragments were like bullets, not to mention the ground that had been shaken. It made the Old woman stumble and almost fall, but she managed to maintain her balance at the last moment.

~SHING~

She took out another spear from her spatial storage tool and counterattacked. Lin Mu didn't care for it at all and directly met it with his hands.

~Clench~

The spear tip was directly clasped in his palm, and he squeezed it.

~CRACK~

~SHATTER~

The spear was not high grade like the lance from before and was only at the mid grade. It could not bear Lin Mu's strength and directly shattered.

"This..." Ku Waowen's eyes went wide at this and before she could react to it anymore, a bone crushing kick hit her chest.

~KACHA~

"AAAAAHHHH!" Ku Waowen cried out in pain as several of her ribs were cracked.

~splat~

She spat out a mouthful of blood as the impact rocked her insides. Five bloody holes could also be seen on her chest, formed by Lin Mu's claws. The claws in Lin Mu's feet, while not being as long as his fingers, were still very sharp.

Blood spilled from the five holes and weakened the old woman. Lin Mu lunged forward and directly bashed into the old woman, who was still not able to control herself.

~BANG~

She was sent flying once again and crashed into the wall. Spitting out more blood, she looked at Lin Mu with dread in her eyes.

'What is this... thing? That is no longer human...' Ku Waowen thought.

She took out a few healing pills from her spatial storage tool and ate them. While they couldn't heal her injuries right away, they could still reduce the bleeding and heal them eventually.

~WHOOSH~

But she could only spare a second as Lin Mu attacked her right away.

~BANG~ BANG ~BANG~

She was barely able to dodge Lin Mu's attacks that kept on pushing her back. The non stop attacks were tiring her out far faster than she would prefer, not to mention the injuries were only slowing her down.

'I need to do something, can't let this go on for long. If I do that, my injuries will only get worse and he'll be able to kill me.' Ku Waowen thought.

Various thoughts went through her mind, but in the end, she could only come up with one solution.

Lin Mu was mid way through a punch when suddenly he was sent flying by a strong impact.

~BOOM~

His body created a deep imprint on the wall and he could not even be seen clearly. When the dust faded away, one could see a large sphere in front of Ku Waowen. The sphere was nearly four meters wide in size and was a pale white color.

"ENOUGH!" Ku Waowen yelled as she wiped the blood from her lips.

"THIS ENDS NOW!" Ku Waowen shouted as she threw out her Dao Shell again.

[Chapter 849 - Dao Shell... BREAK!](#)

Summoning her Dao Shell was the final gambit that Ku Waowen could use. All of her techniques and skills had already been used, and none of them were effective against Lin Mu.

His strength was certainly superior to hers and their speeds were almost the same. But the more she fought, the more Lin Mu was gaining an advantage. The only thing she could not rely on was something that was far more powerful than everything that she had used until now.

And that thing was her Dao Shell. One must know that she was at the Shell expansion stage of the Dao Shell realm and thus the full power of her Dao Shell could be used.

This was significantly different from when Lin Mu had faced the Dao Shell of the Troll Demon beast. That was incomplete and this one was completed as well as expanded.

Ku Waowen raised her hand and gestured for the Dao Shell to rise as well. Then pointing forwards with her index and middle finger, she shot the Dao Shell straight towards where Lin Mu had been located.

~BANG~

The Dao Shell slammed into the same place where Lin Mu's had been embedded and further pushed him into the wall. Despite being five meters thick, the walls of the ruins were unable to bear it and Lin Mu was pushed deeper into the soil outside.

~ROAR!!!!~

An unwilling roar could be heard coming from the wall and a second later a blurry figure shot out of it.

"Oh no, you don't!" Ku Waowen sent the Dao Shell to hit Lin Mu.

~BANG~

~SHUDDER~

Lin Mu bashed into the Dao shell and shook the air. Visible tremors could be seen going through the ground as the clash of two powers spread.

~THUD~ THUD~

Lin Mu's feet exerted power and thruster into the ground for support. Having anchored himself, Lin Mu held his ground and even started to resist the Dao Shell this time.

"IMPOSSIBLE!" Ku Waowen was stunned.

She knew just how strong her Dao Shell was. It was not only many times tougher than her own body, but the impact from it was enough to destroy a mountain. She had killed a Shell Genesis stage Dao Shell realm beast with a single hit of the Dao Shell before.

Its force was enough to crush the beast into a pancake. And yet, Lin Mu barely seemed to be injured. It was both confusing and terrifying to her.

'Such offense and defense... no normal technique can offer this... is he using a sacrificial technique?' Ku Waowen wondered.

"HAAAAYAAAAAAA!" Lin Mu who was still resisting the Dao Shell, increased his power and halted the Dao Shell in its place.

No longer was he being pushed back and was like a sturdy peak instead.

A Ferocious expression appeared on Lin Mu's face as he extended his claws and gripped onto the Dao Shell. Hugging it like a large ball, Lin Mu let his vitality burst forth.

"BREAK FOR ME!" A Demonic Voice was let out by Lin Mu's lips as a stunning power exuded from his body.

Ku Waowen anxiously tried to pull the Dao Shell back, but was unable to.

"He can't just hold on to the Dao Shell like that. RETURN!" Ku Waowen ordered.

~WEENG~

The Dao Shell tried to heed her call and move back, but couldn't escape Lin Mu's clutches. Lin Mu and the Dao Shell were almost the same size, with Lin Mu being a head taller.

He could grasp the Dao Shell in its entirety and hold it in place like an anchor. No matter how much Ku Waowen tried, the Dao Shell was stuck. Lin Mu gazed at her maliciously and a chill spread through the old woman's body.

A premonition appeared in her heart and her fear grew.

"GRAAAAAAAA!" Lin Mu let out a Demonic Cry and used as much of his power as he could.

The vitality overflowed and nourished his body, letting his muscles exert more strength than they normally could. His body glowed in a crimson light and made him appear like a demon that had stepped out of a bloody sea.

"DEMONIC MIGHT!" Lin Mu uttered.

~BADUM~

In that moment, it was as if time had frozen, and everything stood still. Ku Waowen watched on unwillingly as cracks started to cover her Dao Shell. With each fraction of a second, the cracks spread more and more until finally, the Dao Shell was reduced to fragments.

~SHATTER~

"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!" Ku Waowen let out a blood curdling cry as a deathly pain spread all over her body.

The loss of a Dao Shell was not something that a cultivator could bear easily. While there was still the possibility of them being able to remake it, there was a higher chance for them to simply run out of longevity before that.

A Dao Shell realm cultivator could live for about two thousand years on an average and even if one became one at the age of eight hundred years, which was still an early estimate, they would only have twelve hundred years left to live.

But for Ku Waowen, that number was far less. After all, she had spent many years in cultivating her Dao Shell and expanding it. Her current appearance was actually natural, and she possibly had less than a hundred years left to live.

This number would have been higher if not for the skills that used up her lifespan in exchange for power. The Xieye Yun Frost Cage was once such a skill and had taken at least fifty years of her longevity to be used.

It was a gamble she had taken, but now it had only proved to become her bane. Plus now that she had lost her Dao Shell, she couldn't do much.

~HUU~HUU~HUU~

Lin Mu took deep breath as he looked at Ku Waowen. He seemed to be quite tired than before and it was evident breaking the Dao Shell had taken him a lot to do.

"Time for my vengeance..." Lin Mu muttered as he walked towards Ku Waowen.

[Chapter 850 - Interrogating](#)

Ku Waowen could barely move at this moment. The backlash from the destruction of her Dao Shell had sent a surge of pain that all but paralyzed her meridians. Moving even an inch made her body cry out in pain.

But the pain didn't bother her as much as the deadly gaze that Lin Mu was giving her. It was now that she realized she didn't even know the name of her foe.

"W-who... are... you..." she asked with difficulty, feeling lost at this moment.

But Lin Mu could not care for that. All he wanted was for his own questions to be answered.

~SLASH~

"AAAAAARRRHHHHHG!" Ku Waowen yelled in pain as tears streamed down her face.

Her left arm had just been ripped out as copious amounts of blood flew out. Lin Mu's claws were no less than knives right now and could sever anything from flesh to metal.

"Speak." Lin Mu stated.

But Ku Waowen was far too busy writhing in pain to answer that.

~CRACK~

Seeing it, Lin Mu simply frowned and stepped onto her foot, crushing it entirely.

"ARGH!"

~THUD~

The old woman directly fell to the ground and rolled in pain, unable to bear so much all at once. Normally, a cultivator of her level would be able to bear such pain with relative ease and won't show such a reaction.

But with the destruction of the Dao Shell and the backlash she received, the pain right now was amplified much more than normal. Not to mention, spirit Qi served a big role in suppressing the pain and healing the damage caused.

But her spirit Qi could not work at all right now. Her Dantian was effectively empty and the Dao Shell which was the main source for her was destroyed. In simple terms, she was all but crippled and only the Nascent soul was keeping her alive.

Even the Nascent soul could not do much for her, since the Dantian was more like a jail for it right now. And She didn't dare release it either as it would be her last saving grace if she died here today.

Her Nascent soul would at least allow her to escape... even if that chance was minuscule.

"Speak! Who are you and what was your goal here?" Lin Mu shouted in a hoarse voice.

Seeing that he received no answer even now, he raised his leg and was just about to stomp it down on the leg again.

"NOOO! WAIT!" Ku Waowen hurriedly said, snot and tears streaming down her face.

"I'll speak! Just... give... me a moment," She requested.

Lin Mu simply stayed silent and stared at her with a killer gaze that stirred the fear in her heart again.

"I'm... Ku Waowen, the chieftess of the Ku Clan of the Northern Tribes and one of the outer members of the Great Tribal Council." The Old Woman spoke with difficulty.

She tried to regulate her breathing so that she could suppress the pain somewhat and focus on answering.

"I'm here to repeat what we did five hundred years ago and also obtain the inheritance of an Immortal Ascension realm expert that was hidden here by my Ancestor Kushao." She continued.

~CRACK~

"More... tell me everything in detail." Lin Mu said as he stepped on her shin, crushing the bone into fragments.

This time Ku Waowen didn't cry out and simply gritted her teeth to bear the pain. Her breath got labored and her chest started to heave. She took a deep breath and used whatever vital energy there was within her body to try and reduce the pain.

After that, she started to speak. She knew there was no use bargaining with Lin Mu. She had seen a lot in the years that she had lived and knew which people could be bargained with.

And Lin Mu in front of her was certainly not one of them. To her, he was no less than a monster and even looked like one, though she didn't know how this was all possible.

'Just what skill is this... even the Berserker Totem Ancestor Lugan has doesn't allow this kind of a transformation.' She wondered.

Lin Mu simply stood there and continued to listen to all that Ku Waowen had to say.

She started from the past and how the Northern Tribes had lured all the sects and their people into the ruins before trapping and killing them. They had done this for over thousands of years and only in the last five hundred years did the sects decide to do an in depth operation.

Seeing so many of their disciples die had made them understand that there should be something sentient controlling it all. They thought that if this thing could be controlled, the danger would be eliminated and they would obtain all the fortune that was in the tomb.

Unfortunately for them, it was not some sentient formation or anything like that,? but rather the Northern Tribes themselves. And thus when they found out about this, they only got happy.

In this operation, a lot of strong members of the sect would be taking part. And thus, if they could kill them all, it would help weaken them even more. Their plan even went as they had decided, but at the very last moment, a problem happened.

They had miscalculated the damage that might happen to the formation array for it to contain so many cultivators with high cultivation bases all at once. The way of containment was the same as what Ku Waowen had used on Lin Mu right now.

The formation array could fully immobilize the spirit Qi in this hall. It was an ancient formation array that was an original part of this ruin, and Ancestor Kushao had simply modified it so that they could use it.

The damage to the formation ended up causing the ruins to sink back into the ground uncontrollably.. The Northern Tribes did manage to escape, but their means of harassing the sects and the inheritance of the immortal ascension realm expert was lost in that.

