

Walker 871

[Chapter 871 - An Annoying Bird's End](#)

A small banquet was currently being held at the Noon Grass sect, and the guest of honor for this banquet were none other than Lin Mu and his companions.

"Ahahah! That annoying howler ostrich finally met its match!" One of the elders laughed out loud.

"I still remember it pecked out my new robes last year. The bastard runs away before we can catch it. He's too fast for most of us!" another elder chimed in.

Lin Mu had been hearing all the complaints that the people had about the Howler ostrich.

"Never thought one beast would cause this much trouble to an entire sect. And this is when it didn't even kill anyone." Lin Mu said.

"Of course, though it has come close to doing that a few times. It has also injured some disciples heavily before." Another elder spoke.

"So it was just an overall nuisance." Lin Mu replied as he took a bite out of a slab of meat.

"Indeed." The elder replied as he munched on a fatty epic of meat.

"A big thanks to Little Shrubby for catching that annoying bird. Eating it is the best revenge we could have had!" the elder who had his clothes torn said with joy.

~Growl~

Little Shrubby responded with a growl as he continued to eat.

Lin Mu simply smiled and shook his head, finding it all to be rather ridiculous. The bird beast called the howler Ostrich was one of the beasts that lived in the southern forest. It usually lived in large herds, but this one wandered off to the sect.

The beast was at the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm and was significantly strong compared to most people from the sect. Not only that, but it was very fast and barely anyone could match its speed in the sect.

The beast would often take advantage of this and raid the sect for spirit herbs and fruits that they grew. It would simply barge into the protective formation arrays and eat whatever it wanted before running away.

The disciples had tried stopping it many times and even killing it, but they were unable to. It got so severe that many missions were issued, only for everyone to fail. In the end, the elders had to act themselves, but even then they ended up failing.

The speed of the Howler ostrich was faster than the average Nascent soul realm beasts and could even reach that of a Dao Shell realm beast. Thus, the only people in the sect that could catch the beast were the high elders that were in the Dao Shell realm or above.

But of course, there were very few such elders and they were mostly busy in their affairs. Plus, the attacks of the Howler Ostrich were random and unexpected, thus having a high elder keeping an eye at all times was unreasonable.

The howler ostrich had only become more and more confident over time, and finally his luck had come to an end. It ended up meeting his match in Little shrubby who had an easy time catching it.

The beast taunted Little Shrubby, and he simply snatched him up before bringing him to Lin Mu. And thus they could all now enjoy a feast of High quality Nascent soul realm beast. Even the elders didn't eat something like this often.

They were incredibly happy with Little Shrubby and even gave him a lot of gifts. The gifts varied from various pills to spirit herbs. Since he was a beast, that was all they could think of that would make sense for a beast to have.

To them, giving a spirit tool or something like that was not the right choice. Little shrubby of course didn't mind it and took everything.

Everyone laughed and talked during the banquet, having an overall great time. This helped relieve the stress they had been under and even Lin Mu felt like he needed this after going through all he had earlier.

His wounds had also started to heal and he reckoned they should be fully healed in a few more days. While it looked like he was fine on the surface due to the healing pills, Lin Mu still had injuries internally.

Plus, he had used some self damaging attacks during his fight and had internal problems due to it.

'That transformation due to the Burning Heart Sutra still makes my bones ache at times...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He had already consulted Senior Xukong and was told that it was the side effect of his body growing rapidly. In a way, it was just growing pains that a person would naturally experience.

And since it was such a large change, even Lin Mu's superior body couldn't help but hurt.

Lin Mu wanted to test it out again, but knew that now was not the time. His body was still recovering and using it now will just cause more problems.

~Sigh~

He secretly sighed to himself and thought, 'guess I'll take a break these few days. At least until the Patriarch and the others return.'

The banquet finally ended after the entire Howler Ostrich had been eaten. Not even bones were left behind as Lin Mu and Little Shrubby munched them down as well. While it was fine when Little Shrubby did that, the others were certainly a bit taken aback by how Lin Mu ate the bones like they were crispy fried dough sticks.

Their teeth hurt just by seeing Lin Mu do that, and they avoided looking at it after the first couple of looks.

After the banquet ended, Lin Mu retired to a courtyard that he had been assigned and took a bath before going to sleep. He had not slept in a long time and finally got the chance to do it.

And of course, sleeping meant he appeared in the Sleepscape.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he looked around the Sleepscape. He calmly walked to the two graves that laid in a serene space and knelt there for an hour.

"It has been a while... Father, Mother..."

[Chapter 872 - Visiting The Graves](#)

It had been a while since Lin Mu paid respects to his parent's graves. He sat there for hours and simply talked about all that had happened. He didn't care about anything and simply wanted to bare his heart.

The loss of his parents was something he had somewhat dealt with, but there were still times when he felt their need. These days he was far too busy to think about something like that, but now that today he had the opportunity, he decided to do this.

Lin Mu didn't even realize when morning came and had talked non stop.

~huu~

"It was nice talking to you again, father, mother... I'll come visit soon." Lin Mu said as he stood up.

~shua~

A few seconds later, his vision faded to black and when it returned, he was staring at the ceiling of the bedroom.

~crack~crack~crack~

Rising up from the body, Lin Mu's joints and bones popped. It was all the pent up stress that had accumulated and resulted in stiffness that was finally being released.

This showed that even if Lin Mu had a decent cultivation base and was even a body cultivator, it didn't mean that his body was fully resistant to fatigue and exhaustion. It only meant that he would not face them as quickly as what normal humans did.

Not to mention, Lin Mu had quite literally been working for over a month without resting. He had gone through harsh battles that brought him close to death. It was more than enough to mentally tire out most people.

Perhaps if it were not for the mentality he had developed over the time, he might not have been in this state.

"Let's read up on some things..." Lin Mu muttered to himself as he took out the books about formations.

He had never stopped improving and after experiencing everything in the Kushao ruins, Lin Mu only felt an urge to get better and better at formations.

He spent the rest of the day in this and didn't go out. No one disturbed or visited him either, and he was left alone to himself. This was something he had requested himself and was quickly accepted by the Supreme elder.

Besides, it wasn't like there was anything particular that Lin Mu needed to do right now for the sect. Jing Luo was already setting up the teleportation gate while Little Shrubby was out hunting.

The disciples of the Noon Grass sect had taken a liking to the beast and would take him out to all the spots they knew of. Plus, they could now take advantage of Little Shrubby and get rid of the more problematic beasts that were living around the sect.

Little Shrubby got payment for it as well of course, and a share of the rewards, since the disciples were also gathering some spirit herbs and materials during their ventures.

It wasn't like they could ignore Little Shrubby's contribution and not pay him. After all, he was stronger than every disciple of the Noon Grass sect. This even included several elders of the sect and only the high elders would be able to defend against him.

In that sense, Little Shrubby was practically on the level of an high elder and the disciples had to respect him in that way too. Lin Mu of course had knowledge about Little Shrubby's every move and could sense him all the time.

He could also feel Little Shrubby's cultivation base progressing slowly.

"It won't be long before he reaches Dao Shell realm..." Lin Mu muttered as he laid on the bed.

He stretched out his hand and looked at the ring that quaintly laid on his middle finger.

~Sigh~

"It maybe time for me to proceed on the second stage of the Dao Shell realm as well. Though I need more time to confirm the details of the shape..." Lin Mu spoke before closing his eyes.

A minute later he appeared in the Sleepscape and opened his eyes.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu sorted his thoughts and sat down on the ground with his back to the spirit apple tree. The tree had grown again and now half of it was covered with spirit apples.

"It's been a while. Wonder how they taste now?" Lin Mu said and causally plucked one of the spirit apples.

His use of the spirit apples had become zero a long time ago, as they could no longer help him as much as they could before. Just a single breath of his was enough to replenish many times the amount of spirit Qi that was present in the Spirit apple.

~Munch~

Taking a bite, Lin Mu felt the sweet and sour juices of the spirit apple spreading in his mouth. A sense of nostalgia filled his mind, and he inevitably smiled. Finishing the fruit in a couple more bites, Lin Mu closed his eyes.

He stayed in that state for hours and did not move one bit. His breaths were steady and if one looked at him right now, they would think that he was deep in meditation.

~shua~

A distortion appeared some distance away from him and a Grey orb appeared. The Grey orb split apart to reveal none other than Xukong.

"He's in the Sleepscape and the mental link stopped? How?" Xukong was confused.

While Xukong had been checking up on Lin Mu from time to time, he didn't need to appear for most things now. He knew what Lin Mu was doing and was fine with all that he did.

The only reason he even appeared now was the link between him and Lin Mu stopping again. Something like this only happened when the ring did something or if Lin Mu experienced some kind of a change.

"The altar was still fine and the ring's inside was fine. Which means... he's comprehending something?" Xukong analyzed.

Xukong stared at Lin Mu for a long time, waiting for him to wake up.. But even after an entire day passed, it didn't happen.

[Chapter 873 - The Sleepscape Shakes And Remembering A Dream](#)

"His comprehension state is getting deeper?" Xukong who had been observing all this time, noted.

He could feel the faint aura coming from Lin Mu dim down even more. If before it was like the smoke coming off an joss stick, now it was like the invisible vapors of water that was kept at room temperature.

'It's been over two days now and he hasn't woken up once. It's certain he's not in deep sleep or the Sleepscape would have been broken. But now... it's as stable as before... or rather it has become even more stable with him here.' Xukong thought as he started over the horizon.

His spirit sense expanded and covered the entire Garden of Karma in a single breath.

"It's expanding..." Xukong muttered.

There were not many points of reference for Xukong to see, and the main ones he could see were the Spirit apple tree and the Grave of Lin Mu's parents. Both the objects were getting farther from each other.

Though the speed of this happening was slow.

"If it keeps this up, the space would increase by an entire meter by the weekend." Xukong guessed.

While it seemed like the increase of a meter was small, it was actually not when one considered it was the entire Sleepscape expanding by a meter. The cumulative area that increased was substantial and was about ten percent of its current size.

~Sigh~

"Guess it's a game of waiting again." Xukong said as he came to float in front of Lin Mu. He didn't want Lin Mu to experience some kind of a problem or Qi deviation, and that was exactly why he was there.

More time passed and Xukong could feel the entire sleepscape shake all of a sudden.

~RUMBLE~

"Is it finally time?" Xukong looked at Lin Mu, whose eyelids were trembling.

The shaking continued to increase more and more, until all the spirit apples fell down from the tree.

~thud~

And when the last spirit apple fell, Lin Mu opened his eyes.

~hum~

A faint energy fluctuation spread and calmed the shaking Sleepscape. At the same time, a scene could be seen being reflected in Lin Mu's eyes. Seven colors glittered in a circle and a large ravine could be seen on its back.

The seven colors spun around calmly and looked domineering.

"Are you okay?" Xukong suddenly spoke.

Lin Mu blinked his eyes upon hearing senior Xukong's voice and the scene in his eye disappeared.

"I'm okay... I just remembered something." Lin Mu spoke.

"What did you remember?" Xukong asked, feeling intrigued.

"A dream... one that I don't know when I had." Lin Mu replied.

"Dream? What was it about?" Xukong questioned.

"Hmm... it's hard to tell. All I saw within it was a circle of seven colored lights that spun as if they were dancing and a ravine that reached high up into the sky." Lin Mu answered.

Hearing this, Xukong couldn't help but narrow his eyes.

'A mere dream made the entire Sleepscape shake and stop our link? It is certainly no common dream.' Xukong thought.

He tried to recall if he had heard anything like this before, but could not come to any substantial idea.

"So seven colored lights and a ravine... those are far too vague to find a concrete explanation." Xukong said after thinking for a bit.

"I know..." Lin Mu said, his gaze a bit dull. "Why don't you take a look as well, senior?" he added and sent the memory to the shared mind space.

Xukong closed his eyes and accessed the memory. The moment he did that, he felt the surrounding change. It felt like his body had disappeared and only a fuzzy feeling existed in place of it.

He opened his eyes and looked in front of him, only to find darkness. He looked up and saw that the darkness was not as strong above him. It actually weakened and allowed him to see that the darkness was due to the wall that existed in front.

His gaze kept on going further upwards and soon spotted the end of the wall.

"Huh... so we're at the bottom of a ravine?" Xukong understood. "But where's the seven colored lights?" he wondered.

Just as he thought this, he felt a humming sound and a circle with seven colors appeared in the sky. The circle had two layers now that Xukong looked closely. They simply spun too fast and thus it was hard to tell that there were actually two layers.

The first layer had five colors in it; blue, red, brown, yellow, and green. While the second layer only had two colors, Azure and Purple.

"Elemental lights?" Xukong muttered to himself.

~shua~

The moment he said that though, the dream ended and he found himself back in the Sleepscape.

"Did you learn anything, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... like you said, it's hard to tell. But I think they were elemental lights." Xukong answered.

"What're those?" Lin Mu questioned with a tilt of his head.

"They are simply the colors that represent the elements. Red for fire, blue for water and so on and so forth." Xukong answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu rubbed his chin and muttered to himself. "The five colors pertain to the five mortal elements, but then what about the other two?"

"Those belong to the wind and lightning. Azure for wind and Purple for Lightning element." Xukong stated.

"I see... but why would I get a dream like this?" Lin Mu couldn't help but ask.

"We can't really tell. The seven colors are common and anyone can dream about them. The same could be said for that ravine, it was simply tall." Xukong said, "but what can't be considered being normal is the entire Sleepscape growing and shaking." He added.

"Huh? What do you mean, senior?" Lin Mu asked.

Xukong then told him what happened while he was in the strange state. His guess about Lin Mu being in a comprehension state turned out to be wrong and even Lin Mu didn't know what he had comprehended.. Instead, he had just remembered an old dream.

[Chapter 874 - A Calling?](#)

Having heard everything from Senior Xukong, Lin Mu didn't know what the issue was behind this.

"I don't even feel like I've been dreaming for that long. To me, the dream was very brief, being less than a minute long." Lin Mu said.

"That's a bit problematic." Xukong replied.

"Why so senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"If the dream was that short and you were in that dazed state for this long, it means something else happened during that period which you are unaware of." Xukong replied. "And the other option is that you saw something more, but you forgot it already; like people do after waking up from a sleep." He added.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and wondered what could be behind this. Usually for a dream, there needs to be a basis and depending on that, there was a chance one might forget it or not.

"Maybe I'll remember the dream I forgot now, later sometime in the future." Lin Mu said, feeling unsure.

"Perhaps... if it really was a dream." Xukong spoke in a doubtful tone.

Realizing that this was a mystery they could not really do much about, Lin Mu decided to shelve it for now.

"Ah yes, in that dream, what did you feel? Do you remember that? A dream is more than just seeing things, there area often feelings involved; varied sensations and much more." Xukong questioned.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and started to think. A minute later, he opened his eyes that had only gained an even more confused look.

"I remember feeling something... something strange and confusing." Lin Mu answered.

"Can you describe it a bit better?" Xukong inquired.

"Hmm... it was like a message... No, a calling! Yes, a calling! It felt like those lights were calling to me." Lin Mu stated.

"A calling huh..." Xukong said and started to think.

Several ideas came to his mind, most of which he did not like and was not comfortable with.

"What do you think, senior?" Lin Mu asked. "Could it be related to the Xiaofan world?"

"Perhaps... seeing as you are the world's ordained, there is a very significant chance that it was related to it. It wouldn't be out of the blue for someone like you to be called.

Like I said before, one of the benefits of being a world's ordained was the help it can provide which can even be something as simple as fortune." Xukong explained.

"Then we should go after this, shouldn't we?" Lin Mu said, feeling curious about it now.

"If we can figure out where that place is, it would be for the best. But the question is whether you still have that calling?" Xukong replied.

Lin Mu pursed his lips as he tried to recall that feeling. But even after ten minutes, he couldn't tell anything.

"I don't feel it anymore." Lin Mu said finally.

"If you don't feel it anymore, then going after it will be a wild goose chase. You will need some clues to find that place and for now, we only have that ravine as a clue." Xukong stated.

"I'll try and see if I can find a ravine like that anywhere in the records." Lin Mu said.

"Mm, maybe not now. You can ask others and ease the task." Xukong suggested.

"Ah yes, perhaps others might know more." Lin Mu agreed.

He then turned to look at the graves of his parents that had gotten about a meter far from where he was sitting and the tens of spirit apples that were lying around him.

"This place really shook hard huh... Even the spirit apples fell down." Lin Mu said as he picked up one of the apples that was still raw.

"The laws of this plane are getting a bit more stable. If it was before, you would not be able to eat the apple while in here and neither would they have been able to fall this easy. Your cultivation base has affected it and now this growth might also add to that." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu simply nodded his head in response as he collected all the spirit apples. Even if he didn't really have a cultivation use for the spirit apples, he could still use them as a flavoring ingredient for dishes that Little Shrubby and he cooked.

'And eating one every now and often is nice too... makes me think back to when I was still a child...' Lin Mu thought to himself as a hint of nostalgia appeared in his eyes.

He was now over twenty years of age and while it was short in terms of a cultivator; it was still quite long for a commoner. Lin Mu had progressed very quickly in that time and thus it still felt rather substantial to him.

Most experts would bitterly cultivate for hundreds if not thousands of years before they reached the same level that Lin Mu was at right now. Thus, they would have the temperament to resist the sense of nostalgia.

But for Lin Mu, that was still a long time ago.

"What's the time outside now?" Lin Mu wondered.

"It's night time, so far no one has come to ask you anything." Xukong informed.

"Hmm... so it's already night time. May as well stay here then." Lin Mu muttered.

His body would automatically cultivate while he was asleep due to the Well of Slumber and he didn't need to particularly activate the bloodline ability now. At least not in the full force.

Lin Mu had already eaten quite a lot of meat in the past couple of days before he slept and during the banquet which had allowed him to replenish all that he had lost when he transformed using the Burning heart sutra.

The sense of hunger that stayed in his belly had finally disappeared after that. But to satisfy that, Lin Mu had to eat over ninety Nascent soul realm beast carcasses.

If anyone else were to hear this number, they would be utterly shocked.. But for Lin Mu, who had a stock of ten times as much as this, it was nothing.

Chapter 875 - A Runaway Sword

~thud~

~Thud~

~clang~

"Phew~ I didn't even realize I had gathered so much trash in there." Lin Mu said as he looked at the various piles of items.

"Well, the space within the ring is... immeasurable, so it doesn't even matter if you remove these things." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu had decided to sort through all the items that there were in his ring. He had not done so in a while and the things had become a bit messy. While he could access them with just a thought and they would appear, there were still things in there that Lin Mu had no idea or memory of.

He had stored a lot of things in passing without thinking much and thus didn't know what they were. Not to mention there were even a few resources and treasure that he had not checked properly and didn't know what they were.

Like before, Lin Mu had separated them out into piles of useful and useless things. The useless things were mostly composed of things like, literal trash and scraps along with a lot of soil, rocks and other materials.

The useful things were in a single pile and were then divided into several, depending on their purpose. Some were things that could be used for cultivation, like pills and spirit stones, that were sorted in one pile.

Then there were other things like metals, ores, crystals, spirit herbs and more things that were also useful for cultivation, but not directly. They were divided into other piles of their own.

By the time Lin Mu was done, he had ended up with over fifteen different piles of things. The spirit apple tree couldn't even been seen now, due to being hidden behind a couple of item piles.

"Seems like we are done." Lin Mu said as he looked around.

"Hmm... no wait, we got a couple more things." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Oh? I thought we have everything here." Lin Mu replied.

"Well, the things that were together are here, but there are a few things that move around on their own in the ring too." Xukong reminded.

Upon hearing this, it struck Lin Mu.

He closed his eyes and sensed the items in the ring before brining out the first one.

~DENG~

In the next second, a large great sword appeared in front of him and fell to the ground. The stand that it was originally on was broken, and now there was nothing to hold it.

Lin Mu's eyes reflected the glitter of thousands and thousands of runes that swam on its surface. Every single inch of the great sword was covered in formations and it was the most, if not one of the most complex specimen of formations Lin Mu had ever seen.

"I almost forgot about this great sword." Lin Mu said as he looked at the sword intently.

He had gotten this from Jing Luo and had not gotten to study it much. Jing Luo had been at loss with the sword and had spent a great deal even acquiring it. The sword was strange and had a certain will.

It would run away if anyone touched it, and neither Lin Mu nor Jing Luo could understand why. And since it did that, Jing Luo couldn't touch it and study it. Lin Mu had not done much with it either, since he didn't want to lose it somewhere if he took it out in the real world.

"It should be fine to touch it here, right? Not like it can escape anywhere, plus it will return to the ring when I leave the Sleepscape automatically." Lin Mu said before deciding to do it.

"Just be careful. Even I can't tell what kind of a sword it is. It has a strange defensive barrier around it that can prevent out spirit senses from touching its main body." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu nodded his head and understood the danger.

'If even Xukong can't use his spirit sense on it, then it must be something really powerful.' Lin Mu thought.

Xukong was having some thoughts about the sword as well.

'With the avatar's current level, I can't do much. That barrier on it is certainly not simple... is it an immortal weapon or something more?' Xukong wondered.

Normally, even Immortal Weapons wouldn't be able to hide from his perception and spirit sense, but this sword had managed to do that. This was certainly was surprising and only made Xukong more interested in it.

Lin Mu looked at the great sword and extended his hands towards it.

"Let's see..." Lin Mu muttered and wrapped his fingers around the handle of the great sword.

~hum~

The moment he did that, the runes on the great sword lit up and a powerful aura emitted from it. The aura only appeared for a fraction of a second and disappeared quickly, but it was enough to startle Lin Mu and make him loosen his grip on the great sword.

~SWOOSH~

And just like that, the great sword flew out of Lin Mu's hand and went in the distance.

"Damn, it really is impossible to hold." Lin Mu said as he watched the great sword go far before circling around the entire Sleepscape and return.

~thud~

Having done an entire turn, the sword felt like it was enough and went to sleep. It fell to the ground, making a small indent below it.

"Let's try one more time." Lin Mu said as he went to grab the great sword again.

~WHOOSH!~

"Whoa!" This time the response was even faster and the great sword flew out like a marksman's arrow.

Lin Mu flew behind it and tried to catch it, but astoundingly it only sped up more. Even after using Blink to assist him, he could not catch up to the great sword.

"This is certainly not something I can hold." Lin Mu said after giving up.

He had tried for five minutes and it was evident to him that this much time was certainly not enough.

[Chapter 876 - The Spirit Apple Tree Is Sentient?](#)

Lin Mu had given up on the great sword and knew that it was something he would have to store away for the time being.

~Sigh~

"No use." Lin Mu said with a shake of his head.

~shua~

The Great Sword flew past him and finally crashed into ground some distance away. Lin Mu didn't even bother looking at it and left it as it is. The sword would return to the ring when he left the Sleepscape anyway.

Lin Mu decided to focus on the second object that could move around in the ring. Though it hadn't done that as much.

"Is that Wood spirit tulip still failing around?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It did at first, then it found some soil and buried itself inside it. But later it moved and found some spirit stones. It then pulled them into the soil and moves around every so often once the spirit stones run out of spirit Qi." Senior Xukong answered.

"Huh... it became a scavenger." Lin Mu muttered and withdrew the Wood spirit tulip from the ring.

~smash~

"Huh?" In front of Lin Mu, a pile of dirt had just fallen.

~wiggle~

It then started to move, before something very fast shot out of it.

~slap~

Lin Mu blocked the incoming attack with his hand and grabbed onto it.

"It hasn't changed one bit..." Lin Mu said as he gripped the roots of the Wood Spirit tulip.

"Come on out!" Lin Mu said and pulled hard.

~zip~

The Wood spirit tulip started to flail its roots around as it was pulled out of the soil. But it was now that Lin Mu saw something peculiar.

"Is that... a peak grade spirit stone!?" Lin Mu said with surprise.

The Wood Spirit tulip had wrapped its roots around a block of peak grade spirit stone that Lin Mu had extracted a while back. It was holding on tightly and didn't seem like it would let go easily.

"Hmm... it has certainly grown a bit more than before. The spirit Qi fluctuations coming from it are almost at the Nascent soul realm now..." Lin Mu muttered.

But as Lin Mu was holding the wood spirit tulip in his hand, something happened to it.

~rustle~ rustle~

Its leaves started to tremble and move. A few seconds later, its stalk bent towards a certain direction and it started to exert more force.

"It wants to go there?" Lin Mu was confused.

"You may as well let it free and see what it does. Not like it can leave the Sleepscape." Xukong suggested.

"Ah, right," Lin Mu said before letting go of the Wood spirit tulip.

~whoosh~

The wood spirit tulip rushed out like a gust of wind and directly went to the Spirit apple tree. Seeing this, Lin Mu was intrigued and wanted to see what exactly was it that the Wood spirit tulip wanted.

~slap~

But just when the Wood spirit Tulip was about to touch the Spirit apple tree, it was ruthlessly slapped down.

~thud~

~rustle~

"What the..." Lin Mu and Xukong were both surprised.

The Wood Spirit tulip that had been slammed into the ground tried to stand up and went towards the Spirit apple tree again, but then a branch of the tree moved and slapped it down again.

~SLAP~

This time, the slap was far more powerful than before and directly buried it into the ground.

"The Spirit apple tree... it moves?" Lin Mu was confused.

"Seems like it is sentient too..." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu approached the Spirit apple tree, wanting to see what was up with it. His spirit sense extended towards the Spirit apple tree, but couldn't sense anything. It was as if the spirit apple tree was just air and his spirit sense passed through it unimpeded.

"It is the same as before... I can't even sense anything from it." Lin Mu spoke.

"Same here. It is different from before though." Xukong said as they watched the Spirit apple tree beating the Wood Spirit tulip down.

The Spirit herb tried to attack the tree, but to no avail. It was as if a chick was trying to attack a wolf. The only result of that was it getting beat down ruthlessly.

Lin Mu approached them and touched the Spirit apple tree with his hand, finding it to be the same as before. He even touched the branch that it had used to attack the Wood Spirit tulip, but didn't find anything different.

~SLAP~

A different branch moved to slap the Wood Spirit Tulip when Lin Mu was holding onto the earlier branch. It seemed like no matter what happened, the Spirit apple tree wouldn't let the Wood Spirit Tulip get close to it.

~Sigh~

Lin Mu shook his head and looked at the Wood Spirit tulip that was rather sorry looking now. Its leaves seemed down and its stalk was bent.

"Will it die if this keeps up?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It's a spirit herb, so its tenacity should be high. Even if it looks injured, it should heal itself after a while. It can't die this quickly unless severe damage is inflicted onto it, or its body is cut apart." Xukong answered.

"That's good. Don't want it to die before we get some benefit from it." Lin Mu said and looked at the spirit apple tree.

"Can you understand me?" Lin Mu asked the Spirit apple tree.

He watched on in anticipation but received no response.

"Can you hear me?" Lin Mu asked again, but received no response.

"Hmm... shake a branch if you can hear or understand me?" Lin Mu suggested something else.

He waited for a minute but still didn't receive any response.

"Does it not want to answer?" Lin Mu wondered.

"I don't know either. Technically, this is a Garden of karma and it's under your ownership. Anything that happens here should be under your sense, but this apparently is not." Xukong replied.

"Mmhmm... it's certainly strange. Maybe this is due to the growth of the Sleepscape?" Lin Mu guessed.

"It could be possible. Maybe we'll see more things later on.." Xukong agreed.

[Chapter 877 - The Wood Spirit Tulip Grows! New Discovery!](#)

The discovery that the Spirit apple tree was sentient was rather interesting to Lin Mu. He tried to test out some things with the Spirit Apple tree and learned more about it.

The first thing he learned was that it didn't like spirit herbs getting close to it. It wasn't just the wood spirit tulip, but some spirit herb that Lin Mu placed near the Spirit apple tree would get either smashed into the ground or pushed away.

Though there was also a rule to that. The Spirit apple tree only responded if there were spirit herbs that were either newly harvested or still had enough vitality to be considered 'alive'.

"Hmm... so basically it doesn't want competition from other spirit herbs?" Lin Mu guessed.

"That does seem understandable. Even normal trees in nature will reject other plants that grow near them and will try to suppress their growth if not kill them. They usually do this by covering the area with their trees or sucking out the nutrients from the soil." Xukong replied.

"Could be possible. But doesn't this also mean that the spirit apple tree thinks other spirit herbs and plants can grow in this place?" Lin Mu realized.

"That... might just be possible. It didn't work when you last tried planting spirit herbs here, right?" Xukong said.

"Yes, the soil would just push out the spirit herb or the seed, whatever I planted. The Sleepscape would oppose the changes I made. Only the Graves of my parents and the spirit stone vein were freely taken in by it." Lin Mu spoke.

"If it took the both of them, then it means there is a certain level of sentience to it. It can listen to you, but only in certain conditions it seems like." Xukong stated.

"Hmm, then we need to figure out what those conditions are." Lin Mu replied.

"Well, the first test can be done right away, after all you have a test subject right here." Xukong pointed to the Spirit Wood Tulip.

Lin Mu smiled and went to grab the Spirit wood tulip. He then brought it some distance away from the Spirit apple tree and dug a hole in the ground. Unlike what normally happened, the hole didn't fill up automatically and he could finish digging a sufficiently deep hole.

"Here goes nothing..." Lin Mu muttered as he placed the Wood Spirit tulip in the hole.

~creep~

The roots of the Wood Spirit tulip moved again, but didn't attack Lin Mu this time. Instead, they withdrew into its body and then drilled into the ground. At first it was slow, but then, as if it had found something good, it started to rapidly grow.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu exclaimed as the Wood Spirit tulip started to change.

The two leaves on top that were wilted, became healthy looking and the bent stalk became straight again. The stalk then started to grow upwards as more leaves sprouted on it.

One, two, four, eight, sixteen, thirty two!

Only after the number of leaves reached thirty two and the stalk became a meter tall did the Wood Spirit Tulip stop growing.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and checked the Wood Spirit tulip with his spirit sense.

"So it broke thorough... its equivalent to a Nascent soul realm being now." Lin Mu said after sensing the spirit Qi fluctuations.

~rustle~

The leaves of the Wood Spirit tulip peacefully swayed in the air and it looked to be happy. Lin Mu carefully extended his hand and touched the Wood Spirit tulip.

"Huh, it actually doesn't attack now." Lin Mu said with surprise.

"It has probably found a steady source of spirit Qi from the soil." Xukong spoke.

"Oh yes, the spirit source vein! It is probably providing it with spirit Qi that caused this breakthrough." Lin Mu realized.

"This should have accelerated its growth by at least a coupled hundred years." Xukong reckoned.

"Maybe. The one that the author of that book saw only had ten leaves. But it also had a flower." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmm... perhaps the flower's growth depends on something else." Xukong guessed.

"Hopefully it grows. Though.. Now that we know this works, let's try with other herbs too." Lin Mu stated.

"Go on," Xukong prodded.

Lin Mu took some of the recently harvested spirit herbs and seeds that still had a lot of vitality and tried to plant them. While he was able to make a hole in the soil, the planted spirit herbs and seeds were pushed out by the Sleepscape's soil.

~Sigh~

"This doesn't work." Lin Mu said, feeling a bit disappointed.

"Well, this is another learning point. Now we know not just any live spirit herb or seed will work." Xukong replied.

"Mm... perhaps only those that are sentient like the Wood Spirit tulip can be grown here." Lin Mu guessed.

"You'll have to find another such spirit herb to confirm that point." Xukong stated.

"Yes, we are near the Great Southern forest, so we have the best chance of finding one. I'll ask the elders of the Noon Grass sect to see if they have any clues." Lin Mu said.

"That will make it a bit easier." Xukong agreed.

Having learned these new things, Lin Mu felt good and finished sorting all the items before putting them back into the ring. It was safe to say, Lin Mu had enough fortune right now to build an entire sect on his own if he never needed.

Not only did he have the direct cultivation resources like spirit stones and other materials, but he also had a substantial number of cultivation techniques and various Qi skills.

He even had auxiliary cultivation knowledge like alchemical pill refinement records, formation creation records and the weapon forging records.

While Lin Mu had no intention of making a sect and neither had he really thought about it, he wouldn't be averse to doing something like that in the future. Though he didn't know if putting down roots and settling was something for him, since he wanted to explore and learn about the many worlds.

The universe was vast and he had many worlds to walk on...

[Chapter 878 - Asking Elder Pigu](#)

The next morning, Lin Mu left the Sleepscape upon waking up and went to look for the supreme elder. He reckoned the best person to ask about something like this might be the man currently in charge.

"Oh? Brother Lin Mu is ready to finally go out?" Hua Langya questioned.

For the past couple of days, Lin Mu had not appeared in the sect and had stayed in the courtyard assigned to him. To others, it was just Lin Mu resting and thus they didn't mind it at all.

"Ah yes. I've had enough of rest and think it's time for a little outing." Lin Mu answered.

"That's good. Hopefully, it was enough for you to recover. But if Brother Lin Mu says so, it is alright." Hua Langya spoke. "Though where do you intend to go?" he asked.

"That's what I am here for. I wanted to ask you if you know of any spirit plants or herb that are sentient." Lin Mu questioned.

Hearing this, Hua Langya raised his brows.

"Hmm... a sentient spirit herb is very rare and hard to find." The Supreme elder said while rubbing his beard.

"Does the Noon Grass sect have any?" Lin Mu asked, just in case.

"Ahaha, if we had any, I would have gladly offered you them. But unfortunately we don't. We did have one a long time ago, but it was used in the refinement of a pill and no longer exists.

After all, the most common reason for obtaining such a spirit herb would be to refine a pill. Rearing them on our own is not something the Noon Grass sect has the capability to do. We aren't specialized in pill refinement, thus we don't grow any spirit herbs or fruits that are of high quality.

Rather, we just go and harvest them from the forest since we live next to it. That's one of the benefits of being so close to the Great Southern forest." Hua Langya replied.

"That's understanding." Lin Mu said with a nod.

"Though, do you have any clue as to where one can be found? I mean, there should be some in the forest, right?" Lin Mu questioned.

The supreme elder furrowed his brows before pulling out a communication jade slip. He held onto it and closed his eyes for a few seconds before opening them again.

"I've called Elder Pigu to help you. He handles the spirit herb farms that we have in our sect and is also the head of the Pill pavilion. He is more knowledgeable in this regard than me, since I'm mostly in seclusion or handling internal matters of the sect." Hua Langya answered.

"Very well." Lin Mu replied and waited for the Elder to arrive.

He had already met Elder Pigu before during the banquet and was thus acquainted with the man.

Five minutes passed as Elder Pigu finally arrived at the hall.

"Greetings Supreme Elder, Brother Lin Mu." Elder Pigu spoke.

Elder Pigu was a portly looking man and had a rather round face. He had no beard, but had a long mustache. He was middle aged and had light black hair with some Grey mixed in. Over all he looked like a neighborhood uncle who one would see watering their plants.

"Greetings," The Supreme elder And Lin Mu replied in greeting.

"So, Supreme elder says Brother Lin Mu needs my help with something?" Elder Pigu questioned.

"Indeed, I need to find a sentient spirit herb." Lin Mu replied.

"That's... a bit too wide of a term. What exactly do you need it for?" Elder Pigu questioned.

"Hmm... it's to experiment on something. I need it for some techniques as well." Lin Mu answered.

"I see... well, there is indeed no shortage of such spirit herbs in the Great Southern Forest, but acquiring them is a difficult task. Brother Lin Mu must already know that sentient spirit herbs are usually herbs that have lived a long time and have gained cultivation bases rivaling that of at least Nascent soul realm creatures.

But most will have strength equaling that of Dao Shell realm creatures at the very least. The areas they live in are not really good to enter either and are very dangerous. Death is looming in every corner and harsh environments are plenty." Elder Pigu explained.

"I understand that. I don't mind the danger, I am confident in being able to take care of myself. I just need a location." Lin Mu stated.

"Very well. Then I do have three options for you." Elder Pigu said, surprising Lin Mu and Hua Langya both.

"There are actually three sentient spirit herbs we know of?" Hua Langya asked.

"Yes, supreme elder." Elder Pigu replied.

"Then why has no mission been issued for them yet?" The supreme elder asked, as this was the normal course of action that the sect followed.

If something good was found, even if there was danger, the elders would formulate a plan that would allow them to acquire the said item as safely as possible. If the disciples were not enough, the elders themselves would join in on the mission.

This was something that was done even now when the supreme elder was suffering from Qi deviation and the disciples were sent out to search for rare herbs that the sect didn't have. They had already scoured the depths of the southern forest for some of them and were thus experienced.

"There are several reasons for that Supreme elder. All three herbs are located beyond the second border of the forest, and two of them are located in forbidden zones. Only one of them is somewhat accessible and even that is guarded by a beast.

We only got the information about them because the disciples went to look for spirit herbs that would heal you." Elder Pigu answered.

"I see... this will be a tough venture then." Hua Langya muttered.

"It doesn't matter. I'll try to see if I can get one.. Can you tell me their locations exactly and what those herbs are?" Lin Mu asked.

[Chapter 879 - Three Spirit Herb Options](#)

Elder Pigu took out a scroll from his spatial storage tool and opened it on the table.

"Like I said there are three such sentient spirit herbs that we know of right now. We don't know what their strength is though, and that will be a potential point of caution for you.

For Brother Lin Mu, I reckon something at the Shell Expansion stage of Dao shell realm will be manageable, but I doubt you would want something at the Dao Treading realm." Elder Pigu spoke.

"Indeed. I would like to avoid that." Lin Mu nodded his head. "Though are there really such spirit herbs there in the forest?" he asked.

"There are yes. The most famous one in recent times was a Two faced Poplar that is now reared by the Rainbow pill sect. It has the strength equivalent to that of a Dao Treading realm cultivator.

This was obtained by the Rainbow Pill sect about six hundred years ago, so its current strength has probably increased." Elder Pigu spoke.

"Hmm... they haven't refined it for pills?" Lin Mu asked.

"No. Since the Two Faced isn't a usual Spirit herb and is an entire tree, it is best used in a different manner. The leaves of the tree are used in pills, its wood and branches are used for the creation of spirit tools and its flowers are used in special inks that are used for talismans.

It is far more beneficial for the Rainbow pill sect to make use of it in this way. The value of the Two Faced Poplar is also far higher than the usual sentient spirit herb because of all this." Elder Pigu explained.

"I see." Lin Mu understood.

"Now for the spirit herbs. The three that I'm talking about are located beyond the second border of the Great Southern forest." Elder Pigu spoke.

Lin Mu knew about the borders of the forest. The borders were not actual demarcation, but just something the people had set as a way to determine the danger level. The very first border was the place where the Noon Grass sect was located.

The second border was located several hundred kilometer beyond the Noon Grass sect while the third and final border was located half way to the end of the forest. The area beyond the third border was the largest and also the most dangerous.

It was said to have never been fully explored and only those at the Dao Shell realm would dare to enter it. Anyone below that had a great chance of dying before they even reached the border.

Of course, the number of Dao Shell realm cultivators in the empire was limited, and they were all people of great status, being either the elders of sects or heads of various organizations and clans.

"The first one that is the closest is located in a forbidden area called as the Rust Wood Bog. It is an area filled with wet soil that can corrode you skin if you are not careful enough. The beasts that live in the area have similar properties and can easily kill most creatures.

The second one is the safer option that is not located in a forbidden area. This is located further in from the Rust Wood bog but is filled with Bile Cask Beetles. We don't know what these three spirit herbs are but they were seen moving around, so we do have confirmation that they are sentient.

The second herb is likely being protected by a guardian beast, seeing as how it still exists despite the many Bile Cask Beetles that live there. Those beetles have a tendency to chew up most trees and plants they come across.

The third spirit herb is located five hundred kilometers from the second spirit herbs locations and is in another forbidden area. It's called as the Black Spire Tar fields and is dangerous for obvious reasons.

Even breathing there is difficult, as the air is filled with toxic gases. The spirit Qi there is contaminated and thus staying there for long periods is also not possible." Elder Pigu explained in detail.

Having listened to all three options, Lin Mu knew that this would not be an easy task.

"Hmm... how long does it take to reach the spirit herb, the Rust Wood Bog?" Lin Mu asked.

"If you fly there, it will take you about two days." Elder Pigu answered.

'Hmm, so for Little Shrubby it will take a little less than half a day. That's doable.' Lin Mu thought.

While it was fine for Lin Mu to go and find the spirit herbs, he also didn't want to be away for too long. He wanted to be here for the arrival of patriarch Hua, so that they could get started on the other parts.

"And what about the second location?" Lin Mu asked.

"That location doesn't have a particular name, but is just identified by the Bile Cask beetle nest. It's about a day's travel from the Rust Wood Bog." Elder Pigu replied.

Lin Mu felt like that was a very viable option as well and had already decided on that one, but still decided to ask for the final option.

"How far is the third one?" Lin Mu questioned.

"That... will take a month to reach." Elder Pigu answered.

"What? Isn't that too much of a difference?" Lin Mu asked, feeling surprised.

"Yes, the first two locations are barely in the first five percent area of the Great Southern forest but this one is at the fifty percent mark." Elder Pigu replied.

"Ah, so that's why. Yeah, that one is definitely out of option." Lin Mu confirmed.

"Well then... which one will you go to? I'll send someone to guide you. Finding it on your own will take you longer." Elder Pigu suggested.

Lin Mu thought over the option and reckoned that having someone guide him there would be a better option, even if he wanted to go there alone first.

"Sure, but they will have to be strong enough to keep up with me." Lin Mu stated.

"Haha, you won't have to worry about that.." Elder Pigu said with a laugh.

[Chapter 880 - Connecting And Startling](#)

"So who is it that will be coming with me?" Lin Mu questioned.

"For this, Hua Yi will be the one guiding you. He's been there before and is also at the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm, thus he will be able to handle himself." Elder Pigu answered.

Lin Mu of course knew Hua Yi, who was the first disciple of Patriarch Hua and had met him before.

"Ah, him. Yeah, I'll be fine with him." Lin Mu accepted.

"Very well. I'll inform him then." Elder Pigu said before contacting Hua Yi with a communication jade slip.

Hua Yi and the others were currently cultivating in the Kong Plane. With the new teleportation gate ready, they could be contracted at any time. Jing Luo had finished setting it up just a day ago.

Though with Lin Mu here, they could have gone to the Kong Plane at any time they wanted to.

"He's coming," Elder Pigu said after a few seconds.

"Hmm... I'll call Little Shrubby as well then." Lin Mu said before standing up.

~WHOOSH~

Not even five seconds passed before Little Shrubby's aura could be felt outside the hall.

"Oh, seems like the beast is here already." Elder Pigu spoke, some surprise present in his eyes. "It's almost as if he read your mind."

"Yes?" Lin Mu responded.

"Huh?" Elder Pigu said in confusion. "What do you mean, yes?" he questioned.

"He did read my mind... in a way." Lin Mu responded.

"Wait, what? How's that possible?" Elder Pigu was taken aback.

"He is brother Lin Mu's tamed beast, so it is expected of course, haha." Hua Langya chuckled.

"No, I don't mean that. I mean... how is that even possible? Even if it's a tamed beast, they need verbal orders." Elder Pigu said.

"Ah, I don't need that. I just have a link with him, so we can share our thoughts." Lin Mu replied.

"That... just what kind of a beast taming technique is that?" Elder Pigu couldn't help but question.

Even the supreme elder seemed interested this time.

"They don't know about the deeper connection that a tamer can have with their beasts. They won't understand it. They use shallow beast taming techniques, so it's understandable." Xukong suddenly spoke.

Lin Mu thought over it and realized that explaining it was not really a useful venture.

"It's a technique I got from my master." Lin Mu said as an excuse.

"Oh, brother Lin Mu has a master too? I didn't know that." Elder Pigu said.

"And neither did I," The supreme elder chimed in.

"Ah yes. I think Patriarch Hua knows about it. Maybe he didn't tell you yet." Lin Mu replied.

"Where is your master though, brother Lin Mu? I mean... you are, or rather we are, in a rather sensitive situation currently with Gu Yao and the Northern Tribes. He should be helping you out, shouldn't he?" Elder Pigu questioned.

Supreme elder raised his brows in regards to this question and spoke, "Elder Pigu, you should frame your words better."

"It's fine." Lin Mu responded, having expected such a question long time ago.

He had already been asked the question several times before by several different people and was not bothered by it.

"My master is usually in seclusion and will only come out when the time is right. He wants me to deal with the trouble on my own so that I can learn and grow. In his words... he doesn't want me to be a 'flower in a greenhouse'." Lin Mu answered.

"That is an admirable approach from your master." The Supreme elder said in a content tone.

"Though we don't need to worry as he is watching everything." Lin Mu added.

"He is? Even now?" Elder Pigu asked.

"Indeed." Lin Mu nodded his head.

Elder Pigu couldn't help but feel a bit nervous and check the area with his spirit sense. He was a hundred percent sure that there was no one other than them here.

"How is that possible?" Elder Pigu asked, feeling doubtful.

"I don't know that either." Lin Mu simply replied.

"Huh?"

"My master is reserved and only speaks when necessary. I don't know how he does it or what technique he uses, but he can observe my every move." Lin Mu explained.

"Brother Lin Mu's master must be a peerless expert for him to be able to do this." The Supreme elder praised.

"He certainly knows when to flatter. Guess it comes with his age and experience." Xukong said with a chuckle.

Having known that Xukong was watching the entire time, Hua Langya knew what he said could matter and thus giving free praise like this was beneficial potentially.

Lin Mu who heard Xukong's words, couldn't help but chuckle internally as well.

"Haha, you could say that." Lin Mu spoke, knowing that it was a fact.

Even he didn't know what Xukong's cultivation base was. But he did know it was above that of the Immortal Realm. He had seen Xukong's true form in the Grand Void and knew that beings known as celestials would be nothing in front of him.

If anything, Lin Mu could understand that the word celestial was powerful and beyond what he had learned till now. It was such that he couldn't even speak the word due to the restrictions of the world.

While this was happening, the gaze of the supreme elder and Elder Pigu went dull. Then the next second, horrified expressions appeared on their face.

~thud~

Elder Pigu stumbled a little and had to grab onto the table for support.

"Are you okay?" Lin Mu asked, seeing their strange condition.

He found it to be a bit familiar but couldn't tell what it was exactly.

"I'm fine! I'm fine. Brother Lin Mu need not worry." Elder Pigu hurriedly said.

"Yes, yes. It's all fine. Brother Lin Mu should get ready to leave now, I think. I'll ask the disciples to prepare some supplies for your journey." The Supreme elder added.

Lin Mu found it to be a bit strange seeing the change, but nodded his head and headed out.