

Walker 881

[Chapter 881 - A New Harness](#)

After Lin Mu went to get the supplies for the journey, which mostly consisted of maps and some records, since actual resources were not really needed for him, Elder Pigu and Hua Langya let out a breath.

~huu~

They started breathing heavily, and it seemed like they had just been through a tough situation. Only after five minutes did they manage to catch their breaths.

"Supreme elder... that—" Elder Pigu wanted to say something but was interrupted.

"STOP! Hold your tongue! Do... Not... Speak a word!" Hua Langya said in a strict tone.

Elder Pigu quickly held his mouth and stopped.

"There are some things that are best not said. Don't ever talk about that and it's best if you forget it." Hua Langya stated. "It is not something we are qualified to even know about." He added.

"I... understand Supreme elder." Elder Pigu said with his head lowered.

Unaware that something had even happened, Lin Mu met with a couple of disciples that handed him the needed records.

"This should be enough for you, senior Lin Mu. And if you need anything more, please don't hesitate to ask." The female disciple said with a smile.

"Sure." Lin Mu replied before the disciple left.

With her gone, Lin Mu closed his eyes and spoke, "did you do something senior?"

"I may have... nothing happened though, it was just a little joke." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows, but didn't know what to say at first.

"Alright... if they're fine, then it should be okay." Lin Mu said at the end.

To him, if senior Xukong had done something, there must have been some reason behind it; even if he said that it was just a joke.

Lin Mu focused on the records instead and read up on the information about the area that he was gonna head to. He also checked the maps and got the sense of the location.

'The distance is reasonable, but it is the obstacles in between that will delay us. Hopefully, I can just avoid them.' Lin Mu thought.

On the map, Lin Mu could see several areas that were marked as being dangerous. While they weren't forbidden areas, they were still areas of concern due to being nests of some beasts or having dangerous topography.

Most of these weren't really problems for cultivators, depending on their cultivation bases. For example, for a Qi refining realm cultivator, a mountain might be a problem, but the same for a core condensation realm cultivator would be easy to cross since they would be able to fly over it.

The same could be said with the beasts. If one had a strong cultivation base, the beasts were just some leeks on a chopping block.

Still, Lin Mu didn't underestimate them and ensure that he knew as much about them beforehand and even cross-reference it with the other records he had. By the time he was done with all this, Hua Yi finally arrived.

"Senior Lin Mu," Hua Yi greeted with cupped hands.

Lin Mu turned around and looked at the man. Hua Yi was middle aged and was far older than Lin Mu or even Jing Luo. Lin Mu checked the man with his spirit sense and realized that his cultivation base had been elevated slightly.

"Oh? Seems like you have had some gains in the Kong Plane." Lin Mu spoke.

"Indeed, senior. It's all thanks to you." Hua Yi replied.

"You had to have worked hard to gain this. No need to be humble." Lin Mu replied, to which Hua Yi nodded his head.

"So, supreme elder informed me that we are heading to the second border?" Hua Yi asked.

"Indeed. We are going to get some spirit herbs." Lin Mu spoke.

"I see. I've been there before. Most recently, to gather some spirit herbs for supreme elder's condition, so I can definitely take you there." Hua Yi said with confidence.

"Very well. We shall head there then. But first, I need to get something." Lin Mu replied.

"Oh? What are we waiting for?" Hua Yi asked.

"Something that will help us get there in less than a day." Lin Mu replied, prompting Hua Yi to feel surprised.

"What is it?" Hua Yi asked, feeling curious.

Lin Mu didn't speak, but just stood there with a smile. A few seconds later, a figure could be seen approaching from the distance.

"You should have said it earlier. I had it ready for the most part, but just needed to add some final touches." Jing Luo said upon landing.

"I knew you could handle it on short notice." Lin Mu said with a chuckle.

"Still... I wanted to add a few more things. Guess we can do that later." Jing Luo replied.

"Just the basics are enough for now." Lin Mu said, making Hua Yi even more curious.

"Go on now, call him." Jing Luo prompted.

Hua Yi looked on in confusion, until he saw a red blur appear next to Lin Mu. He took a step back, but then understood that it was just Little Shrubby.

"What did you get?" Little Shrubby asked, though the others only heard a growl.

"Give it," Lin Mu said to Jing Luo.

The man nodded and took out an object from his spatial storage treasure. Little Shrubby saw it and felt pleased.

"A harness?" Hua Yi realized.

"Indeed." Jing Luo nodded his head. "The old one wasn't really something that can take more than a single person. Plus, it was getting weak due to being strained all the time." He added.

~grrr~

Little Shrubby withdrew the old harness which appeared on his body. Lin Mu swiftly took it off and put on the new one. The latest harness was more appropriate for Little Shrubby's larger body.

After all, compared to when Lin Mu got the first harness, Little Shrubby's size had increased by over twice. Even with the adjustable straps, it was already reaching the limits of what the harness could handle.

If Little Shrubby increased his speed by a little more, the harness might just snap from the force.. Plus, with the new one, another person could also sit on the back if needed; which earlier was not possible since Little Shrubby was smaller too.

[Chapter 882 - A Speedy Ride For Hua Yi](#)

With the harness upgraded with a superior version, Lin Mu was now ready to leave.

"The Harness should be able to bear the speed easily. Plus, even if it gets damaged from any stray attack, it would be able to defend on its own. I added some defensive formations on it too." Jing Luo spoke.

"That's good. The earlier one needed to be protected from attacks." Lin Mu replied.

Jing Luo basically had a mountain of materials to make things from and thus, making a harness like this was rather fast. They had hunted thousands of beasts, many of which were at the Nascent soul realm as well, thus the harness was made from a very good quality spirit beast leather.

"Okay, little shrubby. Link up with it and brand your spirit sense on it." Lin Mu ordered.

"Okay," Little Shrubby replied, and did just that.

He then tested by putting the harness into one of his many spatial storage treasures and withdrawing it again, just to see if it was perfectly fitting or not. Jing Luo had upgraded the belt on Little Shrubby's neck to accommodate more spatial storage tools.

This was so that Little Shrubby could store the other beast corpses he hunted down and some extra things that he had like spirit stones and pills. Of course, none of those spatial storage treasures were as

good as the ring that Jing Wei had repaired, but having a multiple of them fixed the storage space problem.

"We'll take our leave now." Lin Mu said with a nod.

"Very well. I'll inform you if something comes up. The jade slips should work even at that distance." Jing Luo replied.

With their goodbyes complete, Lin Mu and Hua Yi strapped onto Little Shrubby's back and he started moving.

"Hold on tight, it might be a bit fast at first, but you'll get used to it." Lin Mu said.

"Okay senior." Hua Yi replied and prepared for it.

He was a Nascent soul realm cultivator and was thus not afraid of injuries, but he was still a bit unprepared for the speed that Little Shrubby was about to display. He started off with a light run, which soon turned into a full blown sprint.

~WHOOSH~

After a certain point, a gust of wind tore through the trees and made them bend when Little Shrubby ran over them.

"This... is... really... fast..." Hua Yi said with difficulty as wind poured into his mouth.

"We're just starting." Lin Mu said, unaffected by the buffeting wind.

Hua Yi looked at him and saw a faint brown light encasing him. The mortal Strengthening Scripture could even protect Lin Mu from the air resistance while traveling fast.

Though Hua Yi didn't expect it to be even faster than this.

'Just how fast will he go? This is already more than my speed...' Hua Yi was shocked.

~BOOM~

Little Shrubby's powerful and muscular legs gathered power before pressing down onto the grounds and shooting ahead with even greater speed. Craters were created where ever his feet landed from the force, but his speed only increased more.

"GAH!" Hua Yi was forcefully bent backwards from the inertia and barely managed to straighten back up.

If it were any normal human or even a cultivator at the Qi refining realm, they might have just broken their backs from this. A hint of fear appeared in Hua Yi's eyes for the first time as he shut his mouth and held on tightly to the harness.

Even if the harness was holding him securely, he still felt a little afraid that he might be sent flying. His Nascent soul realm cultivation base might not be enough to bear the force of this and he would still get injured.

He certainly did not want to happen and used all his power to make sure of that.

Lin Mu knew what was happening to Hua Yi, but let it happen. There wasn't much he could do other than trying to block as much of the wind as he could with his body. After all, not everyone had a Body cultivation at the two treasured organs stage of the Five Treasures realm.

Just Lin Mu's bare body was enough to bear the attacks of a Adult Soul Stage Nascent soul realm cultivator with no damage and even exceed their strength by a certain percentage.

Perhaps if Lin Mu was not sitting in front of Hua Yi, the man might have already passed out or fallen off Little Shrubby's back. Still... there was nothing the man could complain about and simply gritted his teeth to keep on holding.

About an hour later, Hua Yi felt a lot better and had gotten acclimatized to the speed.

~huu~

He took a relaxed breath and slumped his back. The tenseness he had from the fast travel finally made him tired. Hunching his back slightly to make it a bit more comfortable, Hua Yi started to look around.

He had also gotten used to seeing the surroundings moving at a great speed and could now guide Lin Mu on the paths.

"Go north east from here Senior." Hua Yi informed.

"Okay," Lin Mu said, and relayed the information to Little Shrubby.

Even if he was scanning the area with his spirit sense, it was still a little hard to match the real directions with a map. Thankfully, Hua Yi could guide him rather well. In the end, six hours passed and they finally reached the second boundary of the Great Southern forest.

"We're close now, senior Lin Mu. We should slow down from here or we might miss them." Hua Yi stated.

"Alright." Lin Mu said and transmitted the information to Little Shrubby, who changed direction accordingly.

~BOOM~ BOOM~

But even something as mundane as changing direction while running made craters in the ground and thus, the control needed for this was higher.

About ten minutes later, the first forbidden zone finally appeared in Lin Mu's eyes.

"So this is it..." Lin Mu muttered as he saw the damp and stuffy air.

[Chapter 883 - The Rust Wood Bog And Acid Dart Toads](#)

~thud~ thud~

Little Shrubby came to a stop as his paws dug into the ground, creating four long gullies in the ground.

~clack~

Lin Mu unhooked the straps and got down from Little Shrubby. Hua Yi did the same and took a minute to reorient himself after the speedy journey.

"This really was under a day... this kind of travel is simply marvelous and fast." Hua Yi couldn't help but praise.

~Grrr~

"I know it of course!" Little Shrubby replied, which Hua Yi could estimated what was said.

"The Rust Wood bog does suit it as a name. There are a lot of trees here and also some dead decaying bodies there." Lin Mu said as he looked around.

The trees were all of a medium height, but the most eye catching feature of the trees was the rusty colored fuzzy layer on them. It looked a bit creepy and would make one's skin tingle if one got too close to it.

~fizz~

"Ugh, I don't like this." Little Shrubby said as his paws started to boil the moisture in the soil.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and looked at his boots, that had started to corrode as well. This was a bit surprising since his boots were mid grade spirit tools.

"We shouldn't stay here for long. The outer area is still fine, but the deeper you go, the stronger the corrosion gets." Hua Yi said.

He himself was floating in the air and avoided touching the soil.

~SKREEE~

Just as he said that, a loud screeching sound could be heard coming from the bog. Lin Mu and Little Shrubby both became alert as a brown blur shot towards them.

~WOOOO~

Little Shrubby spat out a large fire ball that burned everything in its path and blocked the brown blur.

~Sizzle~

It could now be seen that the brown blur was a liquid of some kind that had been sprayed toward them.

"Acid Dart Toads!" Hua Yi noticed.

Lin Mu had already read about the beasts and knew that they were native beasts of this area. Even though they were only at the core condensation realm, their spit was still corrosive enough to hurt and kill Nascent soul realm beasts.

~Ptui~ptui~ptui~?

Multiple sounds were heard coming from all around Lin Mu and the others. Lin Mu furrowed his brows and waved his hand. Spirit weapons appeared all around him and his spirit sense expanded in a circular radius.

~Deng~deng~deng~

The incoming corrosive spit was blocked off by the spirit weapons all at once, and not even a single drop managed to reach them.

~fizz~

Lin Mu heard bubbling sounds coming from some of the spirit weapons and felt his link with them weakening.

~CLANG~

A handful of the spirit tools fell to the ground lifelessly as their surfaces started to melt in a bit. The ones that were made of weaker materials had already been melted through, and holes were now seen in them.

"You were right, low grade spirit tools and weapons don't stand a chance against this." Lin Mu said as he saw the state of the weapons.

He had used a variety of weapons in blocking the attack and wanted to see the extent of the effects on different ranks of spirit tools. The high grade spirit tools and weapons were able to resist it, while the medium ones could resist it slightly, but the low grade ones were directly molten.

Lin Mu didn't mind the weapons that had been destroyed, as he had more than enough of them.

"This is enough. Now begone!" Lin Mu said and pointed out with his hand.

~SHING~SHING~SHING~

The spirit weapons all shot towards multiple locations and soon throngs of death were heard coming from there.

~REEEEEEEEE~

Five seconds later, silence descended in the area and no more attacks came towards them.

"That should take care of it." Lin Mu said before making a curling gesture.

~WHOOSH~

The various spirit weapons returned to his side. Some of them impaled the Acid Dart Toads that they had killed and brought them back, allowing Lin Mu to get a closer look at them.

Lin Mu briefly glanced at them before storing them along with the spirit weapons, thinking he might learn a bit more later when he was free.

"How do we get to the location of the Bile Cask Beetles from here?" Lin Mu asked.

"There is a side path that goes from the edge of the Rusty Wood Bog. Follow me," Hua Yi said and guided Lin Mu and Little Shrubby.

On the way, they were attacked a few times but different beasts, but Lin Mu defended them every time.

"This is too bothersome." Little Shrubby said, feeling pissed.

~ROAR!~

He raised his head and let out a thundering roar that echoed throughout the entire area. It was filled with his bloodline aura that Little Shrubby let freely flow as a warning to every beast that was in the area.

Little Shrubby had learned to contain his bloodline aura for the most part recently and kept it like that so that others did not detect him as easily. But there were times when it was more useful to just let it erupt.

~Grrr~

A few other beast cries were also heard in response to Little Shrubby's roar, but they were simply of a warning nature. Hua Yi who saw it all, could only hold his breath. The pressure exuding from Little Shrubby was a bit oppressive for him too.

'As expected... of Senior Lin Mu's tamed beast.' Hua Yi thought.

"Humph, we can go without being interrupted now." Little Shrubby said smugly.

Lin Mu could only smile and shake his head, hoping that it would be correct.

'Though there might be some beast that might not take this well.' Lin Mu thought and kept his spirit sense extended to the max so that he would know if anything came close to them.

Thankfully nothing happened, and an hour later they had successfully left the Rust Wood Bog.

[Chapter 884 - Bile Cask Beetles](#)

"There it is! That's the Cask Bile Beetle's territory." Hua Yi pointed.

Lin Mu observed the area in front of him that was vastly different from the other forests. In addition to the trees, there were thousands upon thousands of vines covering them. In some places, the vines were dense enough that one could not differentiate what was a vine and what was a tree.

The sky was almost entirely hidden as the vines covered the canopy of the trees and made a dense network.

"This is certainly different..." Lin Mu said as his spirit sense extended.

It was not just the appearance of the area that was different, but its feeling was different as well. While Lin Mu could feel the common vitality and life of a forest from the area, the silence that was filling the area was unsettling.

"Don't be mistaken Senior Lin Mu. This is just because it is day time right now. The Cask Bile beetles are sleeping at this time. But once it is day time, they will start pouring out in droves and you will find yourself irritated by the constant noise." Hua Yi explained.

"I see..." Lin Mu replied, recalling the information that he had read about the said insect beasts.

"They are also rather foul smelling, aren't they?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Oh, they are indeed." Hua Yi said, wrinkling his nose, as if the memory offended him. "I still feel nauseous when I think of them."

"I can understand... I recently had an encounter with something that was rather foul as well." Lin Mu said in sympathy.

The two checked the area with their spirit sense before proceeding.

"We should try to get as close to the center as possible before night. It will be very difficult after that." Hua Yi said.

"Very well," Lin Mu said before withdrawing several spirit weapons.

~WHOOSH~

All of the spirit weapons shot out and chopped all the vines that were obstructing their path.

"These vines... they aren't normal, are they?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes. They are actually a form of a low grade spirit herb too, but they are mostly not used for anything. They cause bad reactions when refining pills, thus they are not worth when there are more compatible ingredients available." Hua Yi replied.

Lin Mu nodded his head and continued onwards. Their path was straight for the most part, but the number of vines they had to chop was immense. Plus at the same time, they needed to constantly check the area for the presence of the sentient spirit herb.

"This spirit herb; you've seen it before haven't you? Tell me more about it," Lin Mu asked.

"While I did see it, it was just a momentary glance. The spirit herb disappeared before I could observe it properly. Senior already knows how they can be, thus we might have to look in all directions including underground, since they can hide there.

Though about the spirit herb, I can tell this one thing... it is not small." Hua Yi answered.

"It's not small? How big is it exactly?" Lin Mu questioned.

"At least two meters tall... from what I could tell from its blurry silhouette." Hua Yi answered.

"Hmm... I see. At least that narrows it down for us. A bigger target will be easier to sense than a small one." Lin Mu responded.

~sniff~ sniff~

"I smell something bad," Little shrubby said with a growl.

"What's the problem?" Lin Mu asked, turning to Little Shrubby.

"There are a lot of bad smelling things nearby. I can't smell anything else due to it." Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and let his spirit sense extend as far as possible. But even at the full range, he could not find anything.

"Senior?" Hua Yi looked on in confusion.

"There might be Bile Cask Beetles nearby." Lin Mu informed.

"How far do you estimate?" Hua Yi asked as a serious expression appeared on his face.

"At least eight kilometers away." Lin Mu replied.

"Eight kilometers? That's strange... the last time I came here they were more spread than this. They seemed to have moved more to the depths." Hua Yi said.

"Oh yeah, from what I read, we were supposed to encounter them by now, weren't we? Even if they are sleeping, we should still see them on the trees." Lin Mu responded.

"Exactly senior. There might be some change we are unaware of." Hua Yi replied.

"Let's be a bit more careful then." Lin Mu said before looking at Little Shrubby.

"Watch your fire, we don't want to burn the sentient spirit herb thinking it was an attacking beast." Lin Mu warned.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied with a nod.

The party of three continued onwards and finally reached a foul smelling area after fifteen area.

"Ugh! This is disgusting." Lin Mu said as he scrunched his nose.

~GRRR~

~POOF~

Little Shrubby huffed in irritation and directly ignited a flame on the tip of his nose. Once the flame started burning, his expression eased up.

Hua Yi who saw it, couldn't help but feel envious.

'Smart,' he thought.

Lin Mu decided to try copying the idea and closed his eyes.

~shua~

He opened his eyes a few seconds later as another flame burned under his nose, covering the nostrils fully.

"Whoa! You can do that too, senior?" Hua Yi was surprised.

"It looks a bit tricky, but as long as you can control your nasal meridians, and know how to use fire attribute spirit Qi, it's easy." Lin Mu said.

The flame on his nose burned away the foul smell selectively, yet allowing him to breathe as normal. Hua Yi understood the concept but couldn't replicate it. He was neither that skilled nor did he have control over the fire attribute spirit Qi.

He could only wrap a cloth around his nose that was rubbed with some aromatic oil. With the precaution taken, the trio walked ahead and finally saw the source of the stench.

"So these are the Bile Cask beetles..." Lin Mu muttered as his eyes gazed over the creatures.

[Chapter 885 - Foul Smell And Wild Fire](#)

There were hundreds of them all sleeping in front of him. The beetles were as big as a palm and were covering the ground, the trees, and even the canopy above, hanging upside down.

Their bodies were unlike any other insect beast that Lin Mu had seen till now. There was a cylinder shaped growth on the beetle's back that seemed to be filled with some kind of a fluid.

The 'container' or the 'cask' was translucent, like that of a mosquito's belly, and the liquid inside could be seen.

"So that's their 'bile'." Lin Mu pointed.

"Indeed, senior. They will explode that cask when they are attacked and spray the bile everywhere. While it is not corrosive or toxic, it is still strong enough to knock a person out.

Even Nascent soul realm cultivators have fallen prey to these beetles, despite them being weak." Hua Yi informed.

Lin Mu raised his brows as he felt the cultivation base of the beetles, finding them to be barely at the Qi refining realm. There were a couple that were at the core condensation realm and biggest of them all.

"How do we proceed from here?" Lin Mu asked.

"Usually we would go around an area like this, but unfortunately for us the area that we want to go is beyond them." Hua Yi spoke. "They aren't this concentrated like a wall and we would have been able to find an empty path out, but we can't in the current condition." He explained.

"Hmm... I see." Lin Mu replied and tried to think of a solution.

His spirit sense scanned the area and checked if there was anything else in there. After a minute, Lin Mu made up his mind.

"Little Shrubby... Burn it all down." Lin Mu stated.

~BOOM~

Not even a moment later, the beast obliged and spat out a stream of flames that burned through everything that was on the path.

~CHIIIIIIII~

The loud chitter of the Bile Cask beetles could be heard as they were very rudely awakened. But before they could move or fly around, the flames devoured them and reduced them to ashes.

The foul bile in their bodies was also rapidly burned before it could spread in the area and cause them any trouble. The trees were not safe either and burned down with the beetles that were living on them.

"Enough," Lin Mu said, after sensing that all the beetles had been burned.

~Crackle~

~Thud~

But now another problem had presented to them... the trees were burning and the flames would not stop spreading.

"Senior Lin Mu! This..." Hua Yi was a bit taken aback.

He had certainly not expected Lin Mu to take such a crude yet direct approach to the problem.

"We can't let the fire spread!" Hua Yi urged.

The Great Southern Forest was important to everyone in the world, right from the commoners to the cultivator since a lot of resources were brought from there. The commoners didn't know this but a lot of formation arrays that protected the villages and towns they lived in needed materials that were often sourced from here.

Thus if a wild fire broke out, it will cause a lot of problems. Not because it would harm the forest, since that was almost impossible. The forest had a strong vitality and the trees would grow back again soon.

The main problem was in fact, due to the beasts that lived there. If a fire spread, while it would stop after a certain point, the beasts that lived in the area would be angered. Some might die and some might leave their habitats.

And when something like that happened, it was called a migration. A large scale beast migration that would be caused due to a wild fire could lead to even more serious consequences... such as a Beast tide.

The Noon Grass sect was located right next to the Great Southern Forest, thus a beast tide would be something they would have to deal with. If they were lucky, a beast tide would only have some Nascent soul realm beasts, and a majority would be weaker beasts.

But if they were unfortunate and some more sensitive areas were burned, Dao Shell realm beasts might even appear. If that happened, the sect might lose some of their disciples.

And that... was something they certainly did not want to happen.

This is why the sect had rules about causing wildfires in the forest.

"Don't worry, I'll take care of it." Lin Mu assured.

He flipped his palm, and the short sword appeared in his hand.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu closed his eyes. A few seconds later he opened them and they were filled with a sharp aura.

"Sever," Lin Mu lightly said and swung the short sword.

~shing~

An arc of energy shot out of the short sword and expanded as it traveled outwards. If one looked closely, they would realize that the arc of energy was actually just there for an instant and a few meters after that, it was just wind that was spreading.

Still, the wind was sharp enough to cut through all the trees that were in its path, while also blowing out the flames that were burning on them.

~crash~ crash~ crash~

One by one, all the trees that had been cut, collapsed to the ground, creating a demarcated area that separated the burning trees from the normal trees.

Hua Yi, who witnessed the fine display of swordsmanship, couldn't help but feel impressed.

'Such control... and power.' Hua Yi thought.

Once the final tree fell to the ground, their path was cleared, and they were now free to continue.

~poof~

The flames on Lin Mu and Little Shrubby's nose disappeared and they could breathe normally again. The foul smell tainting the air had been purged by the flames, providing them relief.

"That was amazing!" Hua Yi said.

"Let's go on now.." Lin Mu said with a smile and took the lead once again.

[Chapter 886 - Breeding Cycle And Finding The Spirit Herb](#)

Lin Mu and the rest had to travel for a few more kilometers beyond that place where they had burned the Bile Cask Beetles. On the way, they encountered more of the beasts, but they got rid of them the same way.

"There has certainly been some kind of a change. The Bile Cask beetles have all gathered in here. Usually there shouldn't be such high numbers of them." Hua Yi stated after Lin Mu burned down the fourth such group.

"Hmm... do you think that sentient spirit herb might have something to do with it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"That may be possible. Other than that, I don't know what else could cause something like this." Hua Yi replied. "Though... there is also a chance that it might be their breeding season?" he guessed.

"Their breeding season? Oh yeah, insect and other beasts do have that don't they?" Lin Mu realized.

"Indeed. But I don't know what that is for the Bile Cask Beetles." Hua Yi replied.

"Let me check if I have anything about them." Lin Mu said before taking out a few records and going through them.

He had already checked a few of them before coming here, thus knew which ones to skip and which ones he had already read.

"Should we take a break, then? It's already sun set and the beasts will start getting more active. It's best we form a camp." Hua Yi spoke.

"Yeah, we should do that." Lin Mu agreed.

"I'll set up a defensive circle while Senior can find the information about the bile Cask Beetles till then." Hua Yi offered.

"Sure." Lin Mu agreed. "And Little Shrubby can make some dinner for us." He added.

~Grrr~

Little Shrubby replied with a growl, agreeing to the work. It was something he did out of his own desire everyday thus he didn't mind it at all.

"I have some new beasts I caught, that I wanted to cook. I can use them now," Little Shrubby said and took out a few beast corpses from his own storage and prepared them.

Hua Yi went on to set up the defensive circle which was just a formation array that was per built using components. It was a common one that was used for camping by many cultivators and was available in many versions, depending on the level of defense one wanted.

The one that Hua Yi set up was enough to repel beasts up to the Nascent soul realm and defend up to Core condensation realm. After all, they didn't really have a need for a defensive array as much as they needed something that could hide them.

All three of them were strong enough to kill the Bile Cask beetles with ease, but what they didn't want was for them to overwhelm them with their bile. Thus, it was better for them to just hide in a formation array like this where they won't be detected by the insect beasts.

Hua Yi was done setting it up in just ten minutes and then watched Little Shrubby cook instead.

"No matter how many times I see this, it's still amazing." Hua Yi muttered to himself.

He could smell the pleasant aroma of the dish that Little Shrubby was cooking and felt tempted to taste it. Still, he was a cultivator and his will power was strong enough to resist it.

Though the average cultivator might not find that easy, since the ingredients being used for cooking were anything but average. There was Nascent soul realm beast meat, spirit herbs being used as spices, and several spirit fruits being used as side ingredients along with just some normal vegetables.

While Hua Yi was watching Little Shrubby cook, Lin Mu finally found the information he was looking for after about an hour's search.

"Here it is!" Lin Mu spoke, "The Bile Cask Beetles will have a breeding season once very three to five years depending on certain conditions such as the availability of food and wood attribute spirit Qi.

If there is surplus of them, the breeding season will arrive early and if there is a deficit, it will take longer."

Hua Yi who heard this, furrowed his brows and Lin Mu could tell that there was some problem now.

"What is it?" Lin Mu asked.

"This information is either incorrect, or there is certainly something influencing the beetles. As far as I know, the last breeding season for the Bile Cask Beetles was last year. I remember there being missions assigned to clear out their population that was spreading to our usual harvesting areas." Hua Yi replied.

"You're right. If it was just a year ago, it doesn't satisfy the minimum or the maximum condition. This is simply too early." Lin Mu agreed.

"Looks like we'll only know once we reach the depths." Hua Yi said, to which Lin Mu nodded.

With the cause still unknown, the trio ate their dinner, which Hua Yi enjoyed a lot and felt a slight improvement in his cultivation base as well. He couldn't help but wish he would get to eat food like this every day.

'This is no less than eating alchemical pills.' Hua Yi thought.

The three of them spent the rest of the time doing their own thing, and time quickly passed. When morning finally arrived, the forest went silent again, and the Trio were free to move.

"We should continue now." Lin Mu said and Hua Yi took down the formation array.

Their travel lasted for two more hours and they encountered one more cluster of Bile Cask Beetles before they finally reached the suspected location of the sentient spirit herb.

"Be alert from here, we don't know what kind of a spirit herb it is and if it is violent, it might hurt us." Lin Mu warned.

If a spirit herb could survive in an area filled with Bile Cask Beetles, there was bound to be something that allowed it to do that and its strength would not be low at all. If anything, the spirit herb might be quite strong.

[Chapter 887 - Successful Capture](#)

~sniff~ sniff~

"I can smell it!" Little Shrubby suddenly said.

Lin Mu looked towards him in anticipation and asked, "where?"

"Follow me," Little Shrubby said, and brought them through the maze of trees and vines.

The heat radiating from his body directly dried out and burned the vines that came in front of him and proved to be no obstacles. A minute later, they finally reached a clearing of the forest.

"Whoa!" Hua Yi said as he looked at the area in front.

There were no normal trees for about half a kilometer diameter, but at the very center a different kind of a plant could be seen.

"Is that the spirit herb?" Lin Mu wondered.

"That... does seem similar to the silhouette I saw. But... it's a bit bigger than that too." Hua Yi answered.

Lin Mu narrowed his eyes and used his spirit sense to probe the spirit herb in front of him.

The herb was over two meters tall and had leaves shaped like sickles. It also had flowers that were located in clusters and were rather small. They were purple in color and let out a pleasant fragrance.

But in addition to the flowers, there were a few pod shaped things hanging from the spirit herb as well. Lin Mu could see smaller versions of the pods growing from the flowers that were starting to wilt, prompting him to think that they were actually the fruit of the spirit herb.

"It's actually bearing fruits..." Lin Mu muttered as he tried to probe the spirit herb.

But the moment his spirit sense touched the herb, it trembled.

~Rustle~

~whoosh~

Then in the next moment, all its leaves curled and wrapped around its stem, pulling the the flowers as well before it shrank into the ground.

"It got startled!" Hua Yi exclaimed and tried to detect the spirit herb.

Little Shrubby sniffed the air and quickly found the position of the spirit herb.

~SHUA~

He raised his right leg and clawed out in the air, creating a claw imprint the blazed the ground some distance away.

~RUSTLE~

~THUD~

The sentient spirit herb shout of the ground in fear and changed its direction. Little Shrubby's attack had created a deep cut on the ground that was now burning. It was at least five meters deep and was enough to stop the sentient spirit herb from retreating.

"It can't go deeper than five meters, it seems. It has a limit to how far it can dig. We just need to stop it from going away from this area!" Lin Mu quickly understood.

"I'll block the left!" Hua Yi said and quickly flew.

Little Shrubby didn't speak anything and just ran in a circle quickly, creating a wall of fire around the area.

"That'll make it a bit easy." Lin Mu said as his spirit sense entered the ground, searching for the spirit herb again.

"THERE!" Lin Mu lunged towards a certain spot before punching down.

~BOOM~

His fist directly created a crater in the ground, spreading cracks around the areas.

~THUD~

About a meter from the edge of the crater, a bulge appeared and a certain spirit herb was pushed out.

"Now I got you!" Lin Mu said before he quickly blinked to the spirit herb and firmly grasped it.

~sha~sha~sha~

Upon doing this though, Lin Mu infuriated the spirit herb, and it unfurled its branches and leaves.

~shingling~

The leaves suddenly turned rigid and sharp before slashing at Lin Mu.

~DENG~ DENG~ deng~

Sparks were created as the sickle like leaves hit the Mortal Strengthening Scriptures armor. Lin Mu was unaffected and simply watched on in amusement as the spirit herb struggle.

"This thing isn't weak at all..." Lin Mu said as he felt the pull of the spirit herb.

It was trying its best to escape, but could not leave Lin Mu's grasp.

Hua Yi approached Lin Mu, feeling surprised at the pace at which Lin Mu caught the spirit herb. He recalled how it had taken their sect over a month to catch a spirit herb like this before.

At that time, he had just joined the sect and was barely at the body tempering realm. It was a long time ago, and he only learned all of that due to being a disciple of the Patriarch.

"At what level do you estimate its strength to be senior Lin Mu?" Hua Yi questioned.

"Hmmm... it is at least equivalent to a Nascent soul realm creature. Those leaves are very sharp too and will cut through steel. Even a Nascent soul realm beast might be injured." Lin Mu answered.

~gulp~

Hua Yi couldn't help but swallow his saliva hearing this. The spirit herb's spirit Qi fluctuations seemed to be far weaker than what its actual power was. It could very well make a cultivator lower their guard and then kill them.

"Let's get this over with." Lin Mu muttered and stored the spirit herb into the ring.

He specifically put it in an area that had some soil and spirit stones that had been kept together. Lin Mu had learned from the Wood Spirit Tulip and knew what the spirit herbs liked.

'That should keep it fine for the time being.' Lin Mu thought.

~phew~

"That was way quicker than I thought it would take us." Hua Yi spoke after taking a breath of relief.

"Indeed. This plan went just as I had hoped it would." Lin Mu said, feeling pleased. "Not many of my plans have been going as I expected these days, so one going perfectly feels good." He added.

"Plans are always subject to change and fate will often gamble with our plans... this is something I often heard Master say." Hua Yi stated.

"That is true." Lin Mu said with a nod, recalling the words of senior Xukong as well that were rather similar.

"Do we go back now?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"Indeed. We head back. And this till we'll be even quicker, since we don't have to be on the ground." Lin Mu answered with a smile.

"ALRIGHT!" Little Shrubby said before the upgraded harness appeared on his back.

[Chapter 888 - Speedy Return And A Pleasant Reception](#)

Lin Mu and Hua Yi were now on Little Shrubby's back, heading to the Noon Grass sect.

"What was that spirit herb though, senior? Do you know of it?" Hua Yi questioned.

"I thought you would know more," Lin Mu replied instead.

"Hmm... I don't know. I've never seen or read about it before." Hua Yi answered.

"We'll take a closer look once we're back at the sect then. It shouldn't take long." Lin Mu said to which Hua Yi nodded.

But while Lin Mu said this, he still started to check the records on his own. There were plenty in the ring that he had still not read and it was literally a hill of them placed there.

'I should get some shelves perhaps...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Still, he could use the jade slips with little to no problem and thus just held them while Little Shrubby carried them back. Lin Mu's spirit sense would read through them and he would gain more information.

They traveled for about half a day before they finally reached the sect. The disciples from the sect were quick to detect them, simply due to the fact that there was just one beast they knew that could move that fast.

"They're back!" someone called out.

Jing Luo who was working on some things, heard the commotion as well and looked out of the hall he was in.

"Oh? That was rather fast." Jing Luo said and left the hall to meet up.

~thud~ thud~

Lin Mu and Hua Yi got off Little Shrubby, and the latter stretched his body. Sitting on a fast moving beast for that long would cause some tenseness in his body even if he was at the Nascent soul realm.

"That will certainly take some time getting used too." Hua Yi said. "But still, thank you for this experience, senior Lin Mu. I got to learn quite a few things." He added.

"And thank you for guiding me. It would have taken me quite a long time if I were to go there on my own." Lin Mu replied.

~step~step~step~

"Welcome back seniors!" The disciples finally gathered around them.

"Greetings." Lin Mu causally said.

"I honestly thought that it would take you way longer than this." Jing Luo appeared from the crowd.

"I did too. But for the first time in a long while, a plan went as I wanted it to." Lin Mu replied.

"That's good. At least luck is on our side again." Jing Luo said in a relieved tone.

"And... the harness was helpful, too. I doubt I would be able to reach the location without Hua Yi guiding me and he would not be able to keep up without the new harness. Thus you were a big help in this as well." Lin Mu didn't forget to praise where it was deserved.

"That was nothing. Give the harness back to me. I'll add the remaining things to it as well. It will be even better then." Jing Luo said with a chuckle.

~Grrr~

Little Shrubby turned around to let Lin Mu remove the Harness before it was handed to Jing Luo.

"You should go meet up with the supreme elder. The patriarch and other elders might be arriving by tomorrow." Jing Luo added.

"Very well." Lin Mu replied.

"I'll take my leave too, senior. Please don't hesitate to ask for me if you need any help." Hua Yi said.

"Will you be going to the Kong Plane?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, I'll wait to meet master first. Plus, I think the others will be coming here as well for them." Hua Yi answered.

"Hmm, makes sense. Once the patriarch arrives, it will be time to start the next step of our plan." Lin Mu said as a complex expression appeared on his face.

"I shan't take any more of your time then, senior." Hua Yi said before taking his leave and flying away.

Lin Mu also made his way to the Supreme elder's hall and reached there in a couple of minutes. Little Shrubby on the other hand, was surrounded by a few disciples who were asking him questions.

Ever since they found out Little Shrubby could understand them, they were interested in finding out more. A couple of elders had taken notice of this too and encouraged for the disciples to learn from Little Shrubby.

They hoped that they would gain some insights into beasts which could help them in taming a beast for themselves as well.

Having a tamed beast was a good way to increase their potential power and was the same as increasing their numbers. Plus, depending on the type of beast they tamed, they might get some extra things like beast materials in the form of hair, feathers, fur and horns too.

While there were a few disciples that had tamed beasts in the sect, they were a very small number, being able to be counted on two hands. Plus the beasts they tamed were not strong either and were just used for convenience or materials.

The most common was a bird beast that helped them in surveying an area where their spirit sense didn't reach. It could also be used to send messages or small items.

Thus, Little Shrubby was a bit popular in the disciples, even if he couldn't outright speak. The disciples found other means to talk with him. For simple yes or no answers, he could just nod and for others, they would just write and show him.

Which was even more shocking, as they just didn't know how Little Shrubby learned to read. They even thought that it was Lin Mu who had taught the beast this, which he never did.

In fact, Lin Mu didn't even know that part.

Back at the Supreme elder's hall, the old man had also found out that Lin Mu returned.

"I hope you were successful in your venture?" Hua Langya questioned from the inside.

"I did indeed," Lin Mu said upon opening the door.

[Chapter 889 - An Excited Elder Pigu](#)

"Would you like to see the spirit herb, Supreme elder?" Lin Mu questioned upon seeing the curiosity in the old man's eyes.

"Why not?" Hua Langya replied.

"Sure, but before that..." Lin Mu said as he looked around. "I think it would be better if this place is locked up, just in case." He added.

The supreme elder simply made a few seals with his hand and runes appeared in the air.

~shua~

The runes turned into formation arrays that secured the hall.

"That should be enough." Lin Mu said before making some distance.

~thud~

In the next second, a blurry distortion appeared in the air before it turned into the figure of the spirit herb. Seeing it, Hua Langya's eyes went wide.

The spirit herb was currently rooted in some soil that was covering a block of peak grade spirit stone. It gently swayed in the air and looked to be calm. Even Lin Mu was surprised upon seeing this.

"It has certainly become comfortable..." Lin Mu muttered.

Hua Langya approached the spirit herb and extended his hand towards it.

~SLAP~

But before it could even get within a meter of the spirit herb, it was ruthlessly slapped away.

"That's a strong spirit herb," Hua Langya said as he looked at the scratch on his hand that was just made by the spirit herb.

"Yeah, you need to be careful around it. As long as you don't try to touch it, it should stay calm." Lin Mu reckoned.

"I see..." Hua Langya said and gazed at the spirit herb.

"By any chance... does supreme elder know about this spirit herb?" Lin Mu asked, hoping that the man would know.

"Hmmm... I've read about something familiar but I don't know for sure." Hua Langya said with furrowed brows. "I'll call in Elder Pigu. He'll be more than happy to figure that out." He added.

"That'd be good," Lin Mu accepted, and the other elder was called.

~WHOOSH~

"I'm here! I'm here!" Elder Pigu's voice was heard in less than thirty seconds. "Where's the spirit herb! Where's the sentient spirit herb!?" he said with excitement.

It was very evident that the man was very passionate about seeing the spirit herb.

"Come in," Hua Langya said before waving his hand and opening the barrier temporarily.

~Creak~

The doors slid open and in walked the portly elder. As soon as his eyes settled on the spirit herb, the pupils in them went wide.

"MARVELOUS! AMAZING! THIS... THIS..." Elder Pigu exclaimed out loud and approached the spirit herb.

"Wai—"

~slap~

Lin Mu wanted to warn the man, but it was a bit too late.

~thud~

Elder Pigu was slapped away and hit the wall of the hall.

"Are you okay, Elder Pigu?" Lin Mu asked with concern.

"I'm fine!" Elder Pigu replied and quickly stood up, a smile on his face.

He didn't even mind the whip like mark that was on his face now. It was turning red very rapidly but it didn't seem like he felt any pain.

~drip~

A drop of blood slid down the elder's lips.

"Are you sure you're okay, Elder Pigu?" Lin Mu asked again.

"I'm good! Don't worry, I just want to take a look at this marvelous specimen." Elder Pigu said.

"Umm, as long as you don't get within a meter of the spirit herb, it won't attack you." Lin Mu informed.

"Ah, I see. So it's responsive to distance too. I'll note that." Elder Pigu said before making circles around the spirit herb and observing it in detail.

He didn't even blink for five minutes and simply nodded to himself while whispering something under his breath.

"Um... do you know what spirit herb this is then, Elder Pigu?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I don't." The man admitted.

"You don't?" The supreme elder said in confusion. "I could recognize some of the features, but I wasn't sure if it is the same plant." He added.

"I mean, I can tell that too. But the reason I don't know about this spirit herb is because it has never existed before." Elder Pigu replied.

"What?" Lin Mu was confused.

"This spirit herb... it has the features of a couple of different spirit herbs." Elder Pigu informed.

Hearing this, the supreme elder was surprised even more.

"You mean to say a new hybrid?" He questioned.

"Possibly. Though it could just be a species, we never encountered as well." Elder Pigu answered.

"Can you explain more, Elder Pigu?" Lin Mu questioned.

He had read a few more records, but didn't find anything matching this spirit herb. thus thought that elder Pigu might have some more insights into it.

'If he can tell just the name, I should be able to find it on my own too.' Lin Mu thought.

"This spirit herb, I can see the traces of at least two other spirit herbs in it. The first one is the Sickle Leaf Grass and the second one being the Purple Amaranth Herb." Elder Pigu answered.

"Oh? What are they good for?" Lin Mu asked further.

"The Sickle Leaf Grass is actually a sentient spirit herb, too. Just not on the same level as the usuals one. It can attack whatever gets near it with its sharp sickle like leaves. They attack beasts with it and the blood that drips down is absorbed by them as nutrition.

In a way, you could say that it is a carnivorous spirit herb. Though other than this, it actually has little to no medicinal value.

The Purple Amaranth herb is completely opposite to this one, though. It is a very good spirit herb that is rich in wood attribute spirit Qi and is used in a lot of different alchemical pills.

Since it is so rich in wood attribute spirit Qi, it is often used as a substitute when there are weaker ingredients used, or they need to counteract a strong ingredient with the Earth attribute." Elder Pigu explained.

Elder Pigu explained a few finer details which intrigued both the supreme elder and Lin Mu, making them think that this spirit herb was rather unique.

[Chapter 890 - Purple Sickle Amaranth](#)

Having understood the properties of the base spirit herbs, Lin Mu was now feeling a bit better about the plant.

'At least I might be able to use it for cultivating if the need so arose.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"I think it is now time for a very important thing." Elder Pigu spoke.

"What is it, Elder Pigu?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The name for this new spirit herb, of course. You were the one that captured it thus you have the right to name it." Elder Pigu answered.

Lin Mu raised his brow upon hearing this and wondered what he should name it.

"Once you name it, I'll make an official record of the spirit herb. Though for the special properties of the spirit herb, you will have to check for that. Or if you want to, I can do it for you too, but it would mean leaving the spirit herb with me." Elder Pigu added.

"I'm sure brother Lin Mu would prefer to do it on his own. This is a unique opportunity that doesn't come that often." Hua Langya chimed in.

"Hmm, yeah. I'll learn more about it myself." Lin Mu agreed since he needed to try planting this spirit herb in the Sleepscape.

"That's fine. Though have you decided on a name Senior Lin Mu?" Elder Pigu questioned.

Lin Mu responded with a little nod.

"I'll name it, Purple Sickle Amaranth. Keeping it simple will be the best and allow us to relate it with the basal spirit herb it was formed from." Lin Mu stated.

"That's a good name!" Elder Pigu agreed.

"Great Choice brother Lin Mu." Hua Langya agreed as well.

"It is decided, then. This spirit herb shall now be known as the Purple Sickle Amaranth and Senior Lin Mu's name will go down in history as the person who obtained and named it!" Elder Pigu declared.

After this was done, Elder Pigu took some notes about the spirit herb and then let Lin Mu leave. They had to prepare for the arrival of the Patriarch as well and thus they were busy.

Lin Mu quickly returned to the courtyard he was assigned and lied down to sleep. There were still a couple of hours before it would be night time, but it was not really a problem for Lin Mu to sleep if he wanted to.

In just a couple of minutes, Lin Mu fell asleep and appeared in the Sleepscape.

~shua~

A Grey orb of light appeared on his side and from it came Senior Xukong.

"Time to see if your hypothesis is correct or not now." Xukong said.

"Here goes nothing..." Lin Mu replied before digging out a hole in the ground some distance away from the Wood Spirit tulip.

He knew that there was a great chance the two plants would act violent towards each other and considering the strength, the Purple Sickle Amaranth would beat up the wood spirit Tulip pretty easily.

After a sufficiently deep hole was dug, Lin Mu withdrew the Purple Sickle Amaranth.

~Whip~

The spirit herb flinched and attacked Lin Mu due to the chance in scenery, but Lin Mu blocked it easily.

~whoosh~

But that attack was just momentary as the spirit herb quickly moved towards the hole that was dug in the ground. It felt like her purple sickle amaranth had found its calling and couldn't wait to fulfill it.

Its roots quickly drilled into the ground and it pulled the peak grade spirit stone with the soil it was holding onto with it.

~tremble~

The ground moved slightly, and it looked like there was something wiggling in the soil.

'The roots are spreading...' Lin Mu understood.

The two of them watched as the spirit Qi fluctuations coming from the spirit herb started to increase little by little.

~SHUA~

Then, as if a dam had broken, a strong spirit Qi wave gushed out of the Purple Sickle Amaranth. Its stem started to grow more before it split into two. Then on the new stem, more leaves grew and purple clusters of flowers appeared as well.

Its height increased by a few of centimeters? finally and reached two and a half meters.

"It had the same effect." Lin Mu muttered.

"Seems like the Sleepscape does have a slight enhancement effect on sentient spirit herbs." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu nodded his head and started to observe the Purple Sickle Amaranth. His next task was to learn what the plant could do and what its uses would be. This was not just for the records that the information would be added to, but also so that it would be of a benefit to him.

He started by touching the spirit herb, and did not get a violent reaction from it.

'It certainly calmed down by a lot...' Lin Mu thought.

He then felt each and every part of the spirit herb with his spirit sense to see if he could discover any properties that were not obvious, like the sharpness of the leaves and the rich wood element in the flowers.

Lin Mu observed the spirit herb for a couple of hours and finally had the biggest discovery of all till now.

"Hang on... did the spirit Qi in the air change?" Lin Mu asked.

Xukong spread his spirit sense and analyzed the air before nodding.

"It did change... while the concentration of the spirit Qi in general is the same... the composition is not." Xukong stated.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and felt that there was more than just attribute less spirit Qi in the air now.

"I can't believe it... Wood elemental spirit Qi!" Lin Mu said out loud.

"You seem to have found a really good spirit herb. Its value is a lot more than just a normal spirit herb that can provide materials. This can provide a sustained source of wood elemental spirit Qi." Xukong replied.

"Indeed... I can sense that it is absorbing the normal spirit Qi and converting it into the elemental from.."
Lin Mu understood.