

Walker 891

[Chapter 891 - Wood Element Qi Conversion?](#)

With a new and great discovery, Lin Mu felt even more pleased with his decision of exploring the characteristics of the Sleepscape.

"If it can do this... then there should be a lot more things that we are unaware of. It's obvious that being able to produce wood attribute spirit Qi was not a normal ability that the Purple Sickle Amaranth had before this." Lin Mu said.

"Actually... that might not be entirely true." Xukong interrupted.

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

"Those Bile Cask beetles you saw there in the forest. Those beetles need a certain amount of spirit Qi to reproduce, right?" Xukong replied.

"Umm... yeah they do. But what's that to do with this?" Lin Mu questioned.

"What if the spirit Qi that they need is not just attribute less spirit Qi, but wood attribute spirit Qi?" Xukong revealed.

Hearing this, Lin Mu felt enlightened and pulled out a corpse of a Bile Cask beetle. He probed it with his spirit sense and could really feel the traces of wood attribute less spirit Qi in their carcasses.

"You're right senior!" Lin Mu agreed.

"It might be a qualitative situation. If they don't have enough wood attribute spirit Qi, they can make do with the normal spirit Qi but it will take it longer for them to enter the breeding cycle, but if there is wood attribute spirit Qi that cycle can be shortened." Xukong explained.

"And that would mean that the Bile Cask beetles were only gathered around the Purple Sickle Amaranth because it could produce wood attribute spirit Qi. Even if the original quantity produced was less, it is still higher than the normal concentration in the air." Lin Mu elaborated.

"That's correct. Plus, now that you have planted it here, the Sleepscape had an amplifying effect on the spirit herb, not only making it grow a bit more, but also improving its abilities." Xukong added.

"This is certainly very good. At least now we have a steady source of wood attribute spirit Qi. Even if it is a weak compared to the Billion Flower Meadow." Lin Mu replied.

Lin Mu then went on to see if there were any additional properties in the parts of the Purple Sickle Amaranth. He very carefully plucked a single leaf, a small twig, and one of the tiny flowers from the cluster.

He checked them with his spirit sense and then used a few alchemical reagents to test their medicinal properties. Even if Lin Mu was not as proficient in Alchemical pill refinement, what he did now were just some basic tests that even students that have never learned could do.

It didn't need any specific techniques or control over the spirit sense. All it needed was some basic reagents and add them to the spirit herb to test out what they could do.

Lin Mu noted down the things he learned and would hand them to Elder Pigu later on. He could tell that the portly man was very enthusiastic about the spirit herbs and just alchemy in general.

Some time later, Lin Mu was done with it and started on the next task he had on pending for a while.

~thud~

Lin Mu withdrew the Egg from the ring and observed it.

"It seems to be unchanged, huh..." Lin Mu said after looking at it.

"try to sense its life force. Its vitality is a bit more strong." Xukong

Lin Mu chanted the severing heart sutra to enhance his perception and sensed the Egg's condition again. He opened his eyes after a minute and felt a bit happy.

"It is certainly a bit more vibrant than before. The heat and cold I felt from it has also changed." Lin Mu said.

"That changed too?" Xukong questioned.

"Yes. While the heat is about the same, the cold is not. It used to alternate between the two sides, right? But the difference in intensity was the same for both temperatures. But now, it seems like the cold is stronger than the heat." Lin Mu explained.

"Hmm... seems like that blueish gas helped it in growth but added some new changes." Xukong spoke.

This reminded Lin Mu of the crystals he had obtained and looked in the ring for one.

"Whoa! Where are all of them?" Lin Mu asked, feeling surprised.

"The Egg has been absorbing them continuously. I think only a couple of them are left now." Xukong replied.

"Still... it absorbed a lot in this short time..." Lin Mu said.

Lin Mu took out one of the crystals and asked, "what do you think that gas is exactly senior?"

"Well, it is definitely some kind of a Qi, that much is obvious. The only question is which one exactly." Xukong replied.

"Seeing as how it increased the coldness of the egg and how one of the parents was a Black Water Snake, could it be water attribute spirit Qi?" Lin Mu asked, feeling doubtful.

"No... you've felt that before. The Dao Crystal that you gave to Xiaobao would be the best example of it. It is certainly not water attribute spirit Qi." Xukong replied.

"Hmm... then could it be Ice elemental spirit Qi? It is cold too and the blue color would make sense." Lin Mu guessed.

"That... might be possible." Xukong said after thinking for a bit. "Maybe you can test for it." He added.

"Test? How?" Lin Mu asked.

"Well, if you influence a specific type of Qi with its opposing element, it would either cancel out or suppress the element it's being influenced by." Xukong hinted.

"Of course! Fire elemental spirit Qi!" Lin Mu grasped.

He then stimulated his Dantian and let a small stream of fire elemental spirit Qi flow out to his hand. Then with his other hand he grasped the navy blue crystal and held it over the fire elemental spirit Qi that was being emanated from his hand.

The master and disciple watched closely as something started to occur. The crystal started to directly sublimate and the fire elemental spirit Qi was quickly being consumed by it.

~boom~

[Chapter 892 - The Origin Of The Universe](#)

Suddenly, a small explosion appeared, and Lin Mu's hand was pushed back.

"This... I did not expect this..." Xukong said.

Lin Mu could hear the shock in his master's voice and knew that he probably discovered something beyond what was in the normal scope of things.

"What's the matter, senior? Is it not Ice Elemental spirit Qi?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No... it's not." Xukong said, his voice low.

"Then... what is it?" Lin Mu questioned as he looked at the crystal that was half gone.

The fire elemental spirit Qi in his hand had also been consumed entirely by it. Lin Mu couldn't tell if this was a test that was positive or negative. With no clear conclusion on his hand, he could only wait for the master to answer.

"This Qi... it's actually Yin spirit Qi..." Xukong stated.

"Huh? Yin spirit Qi?" Lin Mu asked, feeling confused.

While he knew about Yin itself, he didn't know about the yin spirit Qi itself. He couldn't recall it being an element either.

"What is that, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Everything in the world was born from the Infinity we call Wuji. Then from Wuji came the Supreme 'Taiji.' And finally, from the Taiji were the Duality 'Liangyi'. This Duality is nothing but the dual aspects of Yin And Yang.

Everything else that we see in the world was said to have come from the duality and can be expressed in their form; Water is Yin, fire is Yang; Hardness is Yang And Softness is Yin. There are an infinite number of examples I can give you.

The common elemental spirit Qi you see can have two forms as well. Even if we consider Water as belonging to the Yin side primarily, it also has Yang aspects to it, such as its ability to give life.

The same can be said about fire. Even if it is primarily of Yang, there are also Yin fires that are associated with death.

But the Yin spirit Qi is different from all of them. It encompasses the essence of Yin of all the elements and attributes, reaching the position of top." Xukong explained in detail.

The information was a bit too much for Lin Mu and he had to ponder on it for several minutes to get a grasp on it. But after an hour, he finally felt like he had some understanding.

"Then does this mean... in Yin Spirit Qi, all other types of spirit Qi that fall on the yin side can be found?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes, that's right!" Xukong replied.

Lin Mu thought over it a bit more and several questions popped up in his mind.

"Then if we compare the four categories of the elements or attributes... where do the Yin and Yang fall?" Lin Mu questioned.

"This is a bit difficult to explain and for you to understand. Even great Daoists who have had hundreds of millenniums of cultivation have not understood it fully.

Though if I were to say it in crude terms, both Yin and Yang are considered to be in the category of derivative elements." Xukong answered.

"I see... but seeing as how they encompass all elements and contain them within them, how strong are they? Are they as strong as the three primordial elements?" Lin Mu asked next.

"Hmm... while they do contain all mortal, heavenly and derivative elements, they are still not comparable to the three primordial elements. At most, they can come close to the same level, but they still won't be equal." Xukong replied.

"Why's that? From what you've said, they are the source of everything in the world." Lin Mu asked feeling doubtful.

"Ahaha!" Hearing this, Xukong couldn't help but laugh, making Lin Mu feel strange.

"Did I ask something, wrong senior?" Lin Mu asked, feeling concerned.

"No, no... I just recalled something." Xukong said, as a hint of reminiscence passed through his eyes.

"There was once a time when I had asked this same question." Xukong spoke.

"You did?" Lin Mu asked with wide eyes.

"Indeed. I was very young at that time, and confused too. I was learning my place in the universe and didn't know a lot of things, even if I was considerably strong. It was at that time I met a certain person.

He was the one who guided me and taught me different things. I spent a lot of time with him, until finally the situations changed and we parted." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu felt like this person that Xukong was talking about must have been really special to him.

"Was this person... Your master, Senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"My master? No... but perhaps a teacher. That person has had many disciples in his life but I was not one of them." Xukong answered.

"Oh? Did you not want to become one?" Lin Mu asked.

~Sigh~

"It is not something you can understand now. Perhaps I'll tell you about that in the future." Xukong said in a complex tone.

Understanding that he may have asked something sensitive, Lin Mu decided to hold back.

"Now then... for your question about the three primordial elements..." Xukong said before taking pause.

"There are many stories about how the entire universe came into being and there are many versions of it. Every civilization will have its own version and they will believe in it. But those that pursue the path of cultivation will start to learn the truth.

In fact, there are many experts who cultivate not to live for an eternity and become immortal, but rather to learn the mysteries of the universe and find out about its origin.

There is indeed a common version that most experts approve of though." Xukong continued.

"And what is that, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

He felt a drive to know it more than ever before. He didn't know why, but it was a calling for him. Lin Mu couldn't even consciously tell that he had that. It was simply existing.

Neither Xukong nor Lin Mu noticed the fact that the ring on Lin Mu's hand was faintly glimmering.

"Listen carefully then. This is something that might help you a lot in the future and maybe even serve as a guide." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu watched on with rapt attention and didn't even blink as he waited for him to start.

"Like I said before, everything came from the Taiji which is composed of Yin and Yang. But do you know where Wuji comes from?" Xukong questioned.

"No, I don't." Lin Mu responded.

"It is said that when nothing existed, the void came into existence. This void had nothing in it and there was no quality to it.

Then came into existence what we call as Chaos. But this chaos was different. It did not move or do anything. It was frozen in existence.

Until finally... Time started to flow.

These were the three elements, Space, Time and Chaos. When all three existed together, it was only then that the universe started to be born.

Chaos expanded within the space as time allowed it to move. An unknown amount of time passed until finally the chaos had expanded enough that it could no longer contain itself.

It exploded into an infinite mass that continued to expand more and more. That was nothing but the Wuji. And from that, everything that we know came into being.

Thus, you could say that the three primordial elements are the source of Yin and Yang. They couldn't have come into existence if even one of them was missing. Those three elements compose the base of our universe or even the cosmos itself!" Xukong explained in detail.

Lin Mu could almost see the entire birth of the universe happening in front of his eyes as Xukong spoke.

He could see the vast emptiness filled with nothingness before a 'void' appeared. Then he could see a ball of chaos appeared. Time started to flow and got things working. It was then that the chaos turned into a volatile mix of everything and changed its appearance constantly, making it hard to tell what its color or shape was.

Lin Mu didn't even realize that he had entered a state of trance. But Xukong did discover it quickly.

He didn't stop his explanation then though and finished it, before letting Lin Mu continue his trance.

"This child... his comprehension is monstrous at times..." Xukong muttered to himself.

He simply decided to observe Lin Mu while also checking up on the ring.

'Hmm... the altar is rather calm... this means it's not the ring that's doing anything this time. But rather... Lin Mu himself...' Xukong thought.

Hours passed like this, until an entire day passed. But even then, Lin Mu did not wake up from his state of trance. Xukong couldn't perceive the outside either, thus just kept on watching Lin Mu.

It mattered little what happened outside, and it was more important for Lin Mu to break his trance on his own.

'Who knows what his gains will be this time... though there might not be any apparent gains at all too.' Xukong thought.

"Many have embarked on the path to find the origin, but none have successfully reached the end. Even those old monsters at the top are lost and can't progress any further..." Xukong muttered to himself as a few memories flashed past his eyes.

Silence descended in the Sleepscape as the three plants in it gently swayed. The spirit apple tree kept on growing apples at its own pace while the Wood Spirit Tulip absorbed spirit Qi and cultivated.

Finally the newest addition, the Purple Sickle Amaranth continued converting the normal spirit Qi into wood attribute spirit Qi, increasing its concentration in the air.

[Chapter 893 - How To Hatch The Egg](#)

Two days passed by before Lin Mu finally woke up from his trance.

~shudder~

His eyelids trembled and his body shook as he gained control again.

"W-what..." Lin Mu muttered. "What happened?"

~Grunt~

But just as he did that he felt a rush of memories in his mind. He recalled all that he had learned and soon a calm expression replaced his distressed one.

"Are you fine now?" Xukong questioned.

"I am... Senior." Lin Mu answered after a second.

"Did you see?" Xukong asked.

"I did... everything." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmm... you did see it, but it's not everything. You'll see more later as you grow. But for now that's enough." Xukong said, keeping things vague.

By now Lin Mu understood that the secrets of the cosmos were not to be pried into easily and it was best to keep one's distance, lest one was pulled into it and torn apart. The weight of it was not something light to bear.

Lin Mu instead focused on the thing that had started all this: The egg.

"I now know how to make the egg hatch, senior." Lin Mu replied.

"You do?" Xukong asked, feeling surprised.

"Indeed. The egg is certainly special... it absorbed the impure yin spirit Qi from the crystals and grew. But that is not enough... only half of the progress is done.

If it is to be hatched, it will need something to balance the Yin spirit Qi." Lin Mu replied.

"Yang spirit Qi..." Xukong muttered.

"Exactly. Only after the egg is fed a certain amount of Yang Spirit Qi would it regain the balance and hatch.

From what I understood, if we had never given it the crystal, it might have not needed Yang Spirit Qi. But at the same time, it would have taken an exponentially longer time to hatch on its own.

But this will help shorten that time. As long as we can feed it some Yang spirit Qi, it will hatch eventually." Lin Mu explained.

"That will not be an easy task. While Yin and Yang Spirit Qi are literally everywhere in the universe, the problem is in refining it. Even that impure Yin spirit Qi from those crystals would take hundreds of years of refinement to obtain." Xukong said.

"Yes... it will be a tough task. But thankfully we are in no rush for it. We simply need to continue on and wait for the right opportunity." Lin Mu said a smile.

This was a fact, since there was nothing really dependent on the egg hatching. It was just an extra thing that Lin Mu was keeping with him, hoping that something good would come out of it, eventually.

Plus, Lin Mu had far too important things to deal with currently.

"How long has it been, senior?" Lin Mu asked, knowing that he had lost track of time when he was in trance.

"It should be a little over two days," Xukong answered.

"Hmm... not too much. This is far more reasonable." Lin Mu said before standing up.

He then checked the plants in the Sleepscape and found the small change.

"It seems to be slowly increasing the wood attribute spirit Qi in the air too. This might really be a good place to cultivate the five treasures realm, perhaps." Lin Mu spoke, finding it pleasant.

"Actually... you might not even need to consciously cultivate for this." Xukong said and saw that Lin Mu wanted to know more. "I don't know if you've felt it. But the spirit Qi that is generated here is automatically taken in by your body after a certain point."

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and tried to remember if he had felt anything like that.

"I can't tell." Lin Mu admitted.

"That's understandable. Your natural speed of absorbing spirit Qi passively is already quite high, thus the addition of this is almost impossible to spot for you. But this place has been adding additional spirit Qi to you all this time.

And keeping that in mind, I think the same would have with the wood elemental spirit Qi eventually. Though cultivating in here directly would still be a bit higher than the passive gain." Xukong explained.

Lin Mu had an expression of realization and felt pleasantly surprised.

"That will be very good. No matter how small the increase, every little bit helps." Lin Mu said.

"You will still need to find an appropriate body tempering technique of the wood element though." Xukong added.

"Hmm... I'll try. Though we do have the one that we got in the Kushao ruins." Lin Mu stated.

"The True Gold Body Forging arts will take a lot out of you. Are you sure you want to use that?" Xukong questioned.

"I might as well if I have nothing else. I do have enough gold for it. And if it's about the refinement, I have the assistance of Jing Luo's notes about weapons forging and refinement.

Compared to that, this refinement is far simpler and I can take help of him as well." Lin Mu answered.

"Very well. You can try it out when you feel like it. Though you should also get started on finalizing the shape of your Dao Shell that you have been designing all this time." Xukong spoke in a concerned tone.

"Ah that... I am indeed close. I just have a few minor changes to make and I should be fully ready to enter the Shell Genesis stage of The Dao Shell realm." Lin Mu said with confidence.

Xukong nodded in agreement before disappearing into a Grey orb of light.

~Sigh~

"Let's go back... the Patriarch and others might have already returned as well." Lin Mu said before he controlled his body to leave the Sleepscape.

~shua~

His vision darkened for a moment and when it returned, he had already woken up.

Lin Mu immediately spread his spirit sense around and found several people standing near his courtyard.

"Seems like I am a bit late..." Lin Mu said as he rose from the bed and walked out.

[Chapter 894 - Three Elders Of The Long Cloud Sect](#)

"Senior Lin Mu!" someone called out.

"He's out!" a disciple spoke,

Lin Mu walked towards the small group of disciple that were waiting near his courtyard and could guess why they were here.

"Has the patriarch arrived already?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Y-yes Senior! They arrived yesterday. Senior Jing Luo tried to contact you but you were unresponsive thus they sent us here to wait for you." The disciples answered.

"Alright. Where are they now?" Lin Mu asked.

"They are at the main hall, senior. They've been there since they arrived and have been waiting for you." The disciple directed.

"Thank you." Lin Mu said before flying to the main hall of the sect.

The courtyard that he was living in was on the same peak as the main hall, thus he didn't have to go far. In fact, the main hall could be seen from the courtyard itself, since it was located at the very top.

In just a minute, Lin Mu was already at the front of the hall.

~CREAK~

The doors of the hall opened for him automatically, and Lin Mu walked in.

Several pairs of eyes looked at him upon entering, a variety of expressions visible in them.

"Welcome Junior Lin Mu!" Patriarch Hua greeted in a loud voice.

"Welcome, Senior Lin Mu!"

"Welcome Brother Lin Mu!"

One by one, everyone started to greet him in their own method and according to the rank they had. Lin Mu could see that there were some people that were not of the Noon Grass sect here too.

Those people didn't greet him right away and seemed to be watching in silence instead.

"Were you busy? You didn't respond yesterday." Jing Luo asked with concern.

"You could say that, yes. I was working on something and learned a few things." Lin Mu replied.

"Oh? You did?" Jing Luo asked feeling interested.

"Yes. I believe Elder Pigu would like this." Lin Mu said before withdrawing a jade slip from his ring.

"OH! Is it what I think it is?" Elder Pigu asked with excitement.

"Yes, it's the details about the Purple Sickle Amaranth." Lin Mu replied.

"Excellent! I can't wait to read it." Elder Pigu replied and took the jade slip from Lin Mu.

He briefly scanned through the jade slip and felt pleased at the new information.

"This will be a very important contribution to the study of spirit herbs and alchemy. I'll ask the disciples to add this to our library right away." Elder Pigu said in a content tone.

This conversation had pulled the attention of the three people that were not from the Noon Grass sect. Lin Mu couldn't tell if they were from some other sect or not, since they were not wearing a uniform.

"Oh? May we ask what kind of discovery this is?" One of the men questioned.

"Ahahaha, you might be pleased to know that Brother Lin Mu discovered a new kind of spirit herb. This should be the characteristic and proprieties of that spirit herb." Supreme elder Hua Langya spoke.

"And who might you all be?" Lin Mu questioned, wanting to know more about the three guests.

"Allow me to introduce them, Junior Lin Mu." It was at this time that Patriarch Hua spoke up.

"Please," Lin Mu gestured to continue.

"This is Elder Boqin, Elder Peizhi and Elder Wenyan." Patriarch Hua Introduced.

"I am the external affairs elder of Long Cloud sect." Elder Boqin stated.

"I am the guest elder of Long Cloud sect." Elder Peizhi spoke.

"I am also a guest elder of Long Cloud sect." Elder Wenyan spoke.

"Greetings to the three elders of the Long Cloud sect." Lin Mu said while cupping his hands.

The three elders seemed pleased at the respectful attribute shown by Lin Mu and had felt far better than before.

"Since you three are here, I'm guessing Patriarch Hua managed to convince the sect?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... we are almost there." Patriarch Hua said, surprising Lin Mu.

While he had expected obstacles in this, seeing three elders from the Long Cloud sect made him think otherwise.

"What is the issue?" Lin Mu asked straight away.

"I'd like to speak about this." Elder Boqin stated.

Patriarch Hua gestured for the man to go ahead and he nodded.

"We've heard the concerns of Patriarch Hua and the stand of the Noon Grass sect but we still have some doubts. The request for an alliance will not be made until those doubts are resolved." Elder Boqin spoke.

"Might I ask what these doubts are?" Lin Mu questioned. "I'll try my best to resolve them."

"Elder Peizhi," Elder Boqin gestured to the next man.

The elder took out a long scroll in response to this and opened it for everyone to see. On it, Lin Mu could see a portrait of none other than himself. But that was not all, there was a lot of text written underneath it and at the bottom, two more smaller portraits could be seen.

Upon seeing those two portraits though, Lin Mu's expression tensed and a slight frown appeared on his face.

"While Patriarch Hua did explain to us that you have been framed and that there is a conspiracy from one Gu Yao. We still cannot help but be careful." Elder Peizhi spoke.

"Didn't Patriarch Hua give you the proofs of all that has happened? Even the formation of your alliance was only due to the machination of Gu Yao." Lin Mu replied.

"Our sect is not that stupid that it would play according to the whims of some random man." Elder Wenyan scoffed.

"Junior Lin Mu didn't mean that, Elder Wenyan." Patriarch Hua hurriedly said.

"No, the Long Cloud sect is not stupid." Lin Mu said, before continuing. "It is simply ignorant."

"You!..." Elder Wenyan and the other two seemed rather upset upon hearing this.

"The sects have become far too complacent after years of peace. They do not see danger even when it's right in front of them.." Lin Mu said frankly, agitating the three elders even more and stunning the rest in the hall.

[Chapter 895 - Complacent And Ignorant](#)

Nobody had expected that the relatively mild mannered Lin Mu would have some fierce words to say today.

Every one other than Jing Luo had the same surprised expression. Jing Luo on the other hand, had a straight expression, as if he was fine with it all.

"Truer words have never been spoken." Jing Luo chimed in.

"What is the meaning of this disrespect!" Elder Wenyan said in an elevated voice.

"Patriarch Hua, is this the thing you brought us here for?" Elder Peizhi said in an antagonistic tone.

"See... this is exactly what I'm talking about." Lin Mu said out loud. "The sects think only they are right, and everyone else is wrong!"

"What do you know? Our Long Cloud sect has rich history and has been a prominence power for thousands of years. Even if you might have some background, it cannot be compared to our sect, or the other top ten sects for that matter." Elder Peizhi stated.

"Humph, what background! Elder Peizhi you are too genial." Elder Boqin said and pointed to the open scroll.

"We know very well what kind of a background he has. See this, his parents are nothing. A mortal father that was barely at the Seventh stage of the body tempering realm and an orphan mother that doesn't even have a family name.

This is the lowest of low. You have no standing other than some random master you have." Elder Boqin said crudely.

"ELDER!" Hua Langya shouted at this point, his face a mix of anxious and concern. "Watch you words. Do not say things like that!"

Some of the elders felt like Hua Langya was being a bit more fearful that he should have been, which made them confused. But Elder Pigu knew exactly why and had the same expression.

"ENOUGH!" Patriarch Hua thundered.

He then looked at Lin Mu in an apologetic manner before speaking, "seems like I failed you this time, junior Lin Mu. We were clearly not prepared for this."

Everyone looked at Lin Mu, wanting to know what his response would be, but only saw a still expression on his face as if not even the falling sky would shake him.

~Sigh~

"If this is how the Long Cloud sect truly is... then we have no need for an alliance." Lin Mu said firmly.

"Senior Lin Mu! Please think it through!" the other elders quickly said.

A strange silence descended in the hall and no one spoke for a minute; everyone simply stared at each other, not knowing what to do. The limbo was very uncomfortable for two people in the hall, Elder Hua Langya and Elder Pigu.

Those two were as if scared for their lives and wanted nothing more for this to end.

"Patriarch, please do something. We cannot let this go on. Brother Lin Mu, he... he cannot be disrespected like this." Hua Langya sent a transmission.

The patriarch was a bit surprise upon receiving the message like this.

"I understand that, but why are you so anxious? I've never seen you like this." The replied.

"You don't understand. They insulted brother Lin Mu's background... that... that... I cannot tell you like this. Just trust me on this; if this goes unresolved nothing good will come out of it." Hua Langya stated.

Patriarch Hua's brows furrowed and knew that there was more to it than he knew. While he wanted to understand why Hua Langya had said this, he trusted his junior brother and agreed for now.

"Elders, we should not leave things at a sour stage like this. Even if you are doubtful about it all, you have to admit that there have been very strange situations lately. If anything, the Long Cloud sect must know of the Kushao ruins and the beasts that rose from it." Patriarch Hua tried to persuade.

"What has the ruins got to do with anything?" Elder Boqin questioned.

~DENG~

"I'll explain it!" At this moment, another voice interrupted as the door at the side opened with a bang.

In walked in a man who seemed a little weak and his complexion was pale. It was evident that he was not well and had possibly suffered from injuries.

"Elder Liqiang!" the other elders recognized.

~step~step~step~

"Why are you all acting like this when we have the best evidence of it all!" He said out loud.

"BRING IN THAT WOMAN!" He shouted with venom in his voice.

The people were a bit confused, but then they saw an injured woman being brought in. She was in a very bad condition and had injuries all over her body.

"What is the meaning of this?" Elder Wenyan asked.

"Who is this mortal woman?" Elder Peizhi questioned.

To everyone in the hall, Ku Waowen just seemed like a commoner and had no spirit Qi fluctuations coming from her. Her vitality was rather weak too and felt like a candle flame in the storm that could go out at any time.

"Ku Waowen," Lin Mu spoke lightly and looked at the foe he had fought just a few days ago.

The old woman weakly lifted her head and looked towards the man who had just said her name. But upon seeing it, her weak face turned horrified.

"NOOO!! NOOO!! GET AWAY FROM ME! DON'T COME CLOSE!" Ku Waowen shouted with new found strength.

She clawed at the disciples that were holding her, but they only increased their grip on her instead.

"Shut up!" Elder Weimin who had also appeared, said fiercely.

Ku Waowen held her mouth forcefully, even though the fear in her eyes had not disappeared yet.

"I think you will be more than convinced after you hear what she has to say." Elder Liqiang said.

The three elders of the Long Cloud sect seemed confused, but showed some willingness in knowing more.

Elder Weimin looked at Ku Waowen and yelled, "SPEAK WOMAN! SAY EVERYTHING YOU HAVE TOLD US TILL NOW!"

The old woman anxiously looked around but only met the cold gaze of Lin Mu.

"I... I'll speak.." She said fearfully.

[Chapter 896 - Convinced](#)

Ku Waowen's explanation lasted a long time, and the three elders were rather serious after hearing it all. It didn't take them long to verify a lot of facts, since Ku Waowen could also tell some of the secrets of the Long Cloud sect.

These secrets were enough to send them into a tizzy. They couldn't help but want to inform the sect right away about the potential spies there were within them.

~huu~

Everyone couldn't help but take a deep breath, having heard everything.

"Now, do you understand what kind of a situation our world is in?" Lin Mu asked. "This is not the time to be involved in petty squabbles of the sects. We need to focus on the important parts!"

The three elders stayed silent and did not speak. Their silence lasted for five minutes after which Elder Boqin was the first to speak.

"Fine... we'll inform the others in our sect." Elder Boqin said. "But on one condition," He added.

"Ask away." Lin Mu replied.

"We need that old woman. The elders of the Long Cloud sect would like to do a more thorough interrogation." Elder Boqin stated.

"Sure. Feel free to take her with you. We are done with her here, anyway." Lin Mu replied. "Just make sure she doesn't try to kill herself, she's already tried that before." He added.

"You don't need to worry about that, we have our means to ensure she lives..." Elder Boqin assured.

"Besides... we don't even need her to be able to speak. All that we need is her brain." Elder Wenyan said as a cold glint appeared in his eyes.

To them, if all this was even half true, it would be the greatest scandal that would have happened in the cultivator world of Xiaofan world in a long time. They knew that if everything turned out to be true, the very fabric of sects would have to change.

And this was just in the case of the alliances; once the Top three sects found out, they would be in an uproar and would want to get back the face they had lost. A war would be the smallest thing that would happen.

They were potentially looking at an entire upheaval.

"Very well. Considering the implications of it all, it is best we leave for our sect as soon as possible." Elder Boqin spoke.

"That's right. But you won't be leaving alone." Jing Luo suddenly spoke.

"What do you mean?" Elder Peizhi questioned in confusion.

"You three have already seen the Kong plane, right?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Ah yes! That was something we had not expected for you to have." Elder Boqin replied.

"So you already know the advantage it has in covering large distances. For that, I want to establish another teleportation gate in the Long Cloud sect. This way we would be able to travel to our allies quickly and provide support when needed." Lin Mu spoke.

"Hmm... While that is indeed useful, I'm not sure the sect would allow that to be placed inside due to the security aspects of it." Elder Boqin replied.

"That is already in our considerations. No one can enter the Kong plane without my approval or without the key they need for it. Besides, I will be demanding an oath from everyone involved, just to ensure that Gu Yao does not control them and to weed out potential spies." Lin Mu said.

"An oath like that cannot be taken lightly. Besides, there are ways to break them and even fool it." Elder Wenyan said with concern.

"Not if I'm the one who heads the oath," Lin Mu said in a strange tone.

The moment he said that, a pattern appeared on his forehead and a pressure exuded from his body. The pressure descended on everyone in the hall and made them feel as if they were being watched from every inch.

They couldn't express it easily and felt like the air had gained eyes.

"This... what is this?" Elder Peizhi said, feeling a bit scared.

The three of them were simply Adult Soul stage nascent soul realm cultivators, thus they had not felt Lin Mu's cultivation base yet. But now it was in full display, along with the ordainment of the world itself.

"Dao shell realm..." Elder Boqin muttered before swallowing his saliva.

The three elders gazed at each other before looking at Patriarch Hua, who looked at them with knowing smiles.

"Patriarch Hua certainly likes to tease us. Why did you not inform us that Senior Lin Mu was a Dao Shell realm expert?" Elder Boqin said with a wry smile.

While patriarch Hua looked like a genial old man, he was still very experience and shrewd. If not for that, there was no way he would have been able to run one of the top ten sects and still maintain its position.

He had very cleverly held back certain bits of information which he knew could be used as leverage later on. One such thing being Lin Mu's cultivation base. If the Long Cloud sect knew he was at the Dao Shell

realm, they would have sent other elders who were equivalent to that to negotiate, but now they couldn't help but be in a passive position.

And it was not like they could have expected this either. In no reality would they have thought that Lin Mu would be at the Dao Shell realm. To them, he was at most in the Nascent soul realm, which was still a bit understandable.

There were a lot of questions that arrived in their mind including the fact that Lin Mu was very young. While there were a lot of false rumors at the start about him being an old expert disguising as a teenager, they sects would be very stupid to believe them without verifying it on their end.

That was the reason why they had the information about Lin Mu's parents as well, since they had actually gotten everything about his background verified.

'This... the high elders won't be able to resist now...' Elder Boqin thought.

[Chapter 897 - Onwards To The Long Cloud Sect](#)

"Patriarch Hua certainly played his cards right." Jing Luo spoke.

"Indeed. It was the right decision to let him handle that." Lin Mu replied.

Jing Luo and Lin Mu were sitting in his courtyard currently. The meeting with the three elders of the Long Cloud sect had ended six hours ago, and they were now preparing to leave for the sect.

"Never thought I would have to make up an act like this today." Lin Mu said, finding it all a bit embarrassing.

"If anything, you were good. Thankfully, Patriarch Hua had already informed us of the negative inclination of the elders beforehand. Being a little strong handed was necessary." Jing Luo replied with a chuckle.

"But what Senior Lin Mu said was not false either. If anything, that was the greatest truth." A third person said.

This was none other than Elder Liqiang, who was helping Jing Luo in making the components for the teleportation gate. While most of them were already prepared, there were still some minor adjustments and finishing touches to be done.

"Hmm... perhaps. Still, this is not the end. We still have to meet the actual elders of the Long Cloud sect and perhaps even their patriarch before we can come to a final decision. Hopefully everything goes well and we can start the next step." Lin Mu spoke.

"Yeah... I'm ready on my end with the entrance token as well." Jing Luo stated.

"Oh? You finally finished it?" Lin Mu said with surprise.

"Yes, I did it yesterday. Now we can head to the ancestral grounds at anytime and meet with grandfather." Jing Luo said in a slightly emotional tone.

It had been over fifty years since he had seen him and he had been yearning for his family now.

"You will be going to meet Ancestor Jing Wei?" Elder Liqiang said with surprise.

"Yes we will." Lin Mu replied.

"I've heard stories of him before, though I've never met him myself. But he is a great expert." Elder Liqiang said with veneration on his face.

"Once we get in contact with him, you will be able to meet him too if you want to." Jing Luo replied.

"Really?" Elder Liqiang asked.

As a formation master himself, he had heard a lot about Jing Wei and his skills. Even if his specialty was in weapon forging, the man was a formation grandmaster too. Only if one was well versed in formations, would they be able to make strong spirit weapons and tools.

"We'll definitely go there. Plus, with the teleportation gates we will be able to make travel very efficient. It won't make it hard for us to travel between the different locations." Lin Mu added.

"Then I'll look forward to that day." Elder Liqiang spoke with faith in his voice.

Lin Mu nodded his head while Jing Luo continued to work on the components. They spent the rest of the day getting everything ready and finally night arrived.

Elder Liqiang felt the communication jade slip on his waist hum and he held it for a moment.

"They are ready now," Elder Liqiang spoke.

"Time to leave then..." Lin Mu said as he stood up and sent a message to Little Shrubby.

"Let's go, no use in tarrying." Jing Luo said.

The three of them left the courtyard and made their way to the main hall of the sect. In less than two minutes, they were inside where everyone was waiting for them.

"Don't hesitate to inform us if you need anything, junior Lin Mu." Patriarch Hua said.

"I will if the need arises, Patriarch Hua." Lin Mu replied with a smile.

~WHOOSH~

And just as he said that, a red blur appeared next to him.

"There you are," Lin Mu said to Little Shrubby, who had rushed in.

~step~

The three elders of the Long Cloud sect were a bit taken aback by the beast and couldn't help but take a few steps back.

"What is this?" Elder Wenyan asked.

"This is my tamed beast, Little Shrubby." Lin Mu answered.

"That is a tamed beast?" Elder Boqin said in a stunned voice.

The three of them could very well feel the spirit Qi fluctuations coming from Little Shrubby that were far stronger than them. Even if all four of them were at the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm, it was very apparent that Little Shrubby was still beyond them.

'The man was already enough, now even his beast is stronger than us...' Elder Peizhi thought, finding it all rather absurd.

They could only accept it for now and continue to what they were doing.

The entourage entered the secure hall where the Teleportation gate was set and quickly entered it.

~shua~

One by one, five people and one beast passed through the gate. The three elders felt their bodies going through a strange tunnel and their vision darkened for a moment. When it returned, they found themselves standing in a rather large cave which was carved out into an elaborate hall.

"Even if this is my second time, it is still strange." Elder Peizhi said in an amazed tone.

"I still can't tell what formation arrays these are... they are simply marvelous. Such intricate spatial formations are hardly ever seen." Elder Wenyan added.

Lin Mu and Jing Luo calmly heard their praise but did not respond to it much. They could tell that it was their way of gaining back a little favor, seeing how they had acted with Lin Mu earlier.

'Senior was right... as long as one has power, everyone would want to respect them. And if not respect... fear works too.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"This way," Lin Mu said as he activated another gate.

This gate was for the Hong Lin kingdom and the elders had come through there before as well. Lin Mu quickly sent a message informing the Adviser that they were coming there.

~shua~

They walked through the gate and finally arrived in the secure hall of the Hong Lin royal palace.

"Welcome! Senior Lin Mu.." Adviser Liu greeted.

[Chapter 898 - New Traces Of The Invader](#)

Lin Mu and the group were met with the adviser Liu and quickly brought to the main hall.

"Forgive me Adviser Liu, but we cannot stay here for the time being and it's best if we go on to our mission at once." Lin Mu spoke.

"Of course, senior Lin Mu. That is not the reason why I brought you here, there is something else." Adviser Liu replied.

"Oh? What is it?" Lin Mu asked curiously.

In response to this, Adviser Liu went to the side where something was kept under a sheet. He lifted the sheet and revealed a closed box underneath it.

~Crack~

He pulled on the lid and the nails were pulled out along with it, before he placed it at the side.

"This was found by our guards at the border of the kingdom. We don't really know what this is and it is certainly suspicious. I wonder if you know what it is?" Adviser Liu said as he pointed to the contents of the box.

"This... can it really be that..." Lin Mu said in disbelief.

~thud~

He tilted the box and let the object fall out of it, which was then revealed to be a beast's carcass.

"Heavens... what kind of a beast is this?" Elder Boqin couldn't help but exclaim at the grotesque appearance.

The beast looked like a monkey beast, but it seemed to have horribly mutated. It had black slimy skin and bone spurs protruding out from everywhere, and teeth that grew haphazardly out of its mouth.

Its nails had grown to unnatural length and were nearly a meter long. Its tail had changed too and no longer covered with flesh and skin. Instead, there were bones fully revealed and had some small patches of flesh on the joints of it.

A frown appeared on Lin Mu's face as he saw the beast and he had a bad feeling.

~SHUA~

Suddenly, a character appeared on his forehead and shone brightly.

"What's happening, Lin Mu?" Jing Luo asked in a concerned tone.

"Invader..." Lin Mu said in a low voice.

"INVADER?" Elder Wenyan exclaimed.

Jing Luo finally understood what Lin Mu was talking about and looked at the beast closely.

"What do you mean Invader, Senior Lin Mu?" Elder Boqin asked.

"You were told about the invader that was brought on by the Northern Tribes, right?" Lin Mu asked.

"Of course... You don't mean to say..." Elder Boqin realized.

"Yes... as much as I don't want it to be, this is another host of the invader." Lin Mu stated.

~gasp~

Loud gasps could be heard coming from everyone as they finally knew what kind of a situation this was.

"When did they find this?" Lin Mu asked.

"The guards found it about two days ago and it just arrived this morning. I would have informed you earlier but since you were coming here anyway, I reckoned it would be better to just show it to you." Adviser Liu replied.

Jing Luo furrowed his brows and kneeled beside the corpse to check up on it.

"I have no way of estimating the time of death of this beast. This... it is horribly mutated that I can't tell if the flesh has decomposed or not." Jing Luo said.

"Mmm... I've come across a few examples of them before. They too were mutated rather strangely, but this... this one certainly takes the top spot." Lin Mu spoke.

"What do think caused its death?" Elder Wenyan asked.

Lin Mu extended his spirit sense and probed the beast to see what could be the issue, since there were no physical wounds on the corpse. But even after checking it thoroughly he could not grasp it.

"I can't tell how it died. There are no wounds nor any internal injuries in its body. There is no vitality left in its body either, which is strange since there should be some lingering vitality left in the flesh." Lin Mu spoke.

"Can we get the exact location where this was found?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Of course. I had the guards cordon off that area and there are a few of them watching over it as well." Adviser Liu answered.

"Good... If this thing has appeared, it means there is more than one of them out there. After all these years... they are finally starting to appear again." Lin Mu said in a straight voice.

"The last beast you saw who was infected was the bear, right?" Jing Luo asked.

"Indeed. Your grandfather and Duan Ke wiped out all the other beast's back then. We thought all the traces were gone, but it is certain now that it is not true." Lin Mu replied.

"If it has spread this far south, then..." Jing Luo muttered. "Someone brought it here."

The three elders of the Long Cloud sect furrowed their brows and looked on in confusion.

"Could it be the Northern tribes?" Adviser Liu wondered.

"Hmm... that might be possible." Lin Mu said before he turned to look at the unconscious old woman who was tied up on Little Shrubby's back.

"She never said anything about it, did she?" Elder Peizhi asked.

"No, she didn't." Lin Mu replied.

"Could she have hid it?" Elder Wenyan wondered.

"I doubt... but we can't say for sure." Lin Mu replied.

"We'll know more at the sect. We have certain means to extract information that the person didn't even know they had." Elder Boqin chimed in.

Lin Mu nodded his head and thought that it might be the proper choice.

"This is where the corpse was found." Adviser Liu said before handing them a map.

Jing Luo took a look and realized that it was in the north western side of the kingdom.

"This is just slightly away from our path. We can take a look there on our way to the Long Cloud sect." Jing Luo suggested.

"Hmm... yeah, we'll do that. This is not something we can ignore." Lin Mu agreed before looking at the three elders.

"We're fine with that. I want to see what it exactly is too." Elder Boqin approved.

"Very well. Let's leave then." Lin Mu stated before he pushed the beast's corpse back into the box and then stored it in his ring.

They left the hall and flew up from the outer gardens directly.

Lin Mu had a frown on his face the entire duration of the journey and no one could tell what he was thinking. Jing Luo looked at him with concern but knew that there was not much he could see right now.

It took them about seven hours before they reached the location where the corpse was said to have been found.

"That should be it." Jing Luo said, spotting the soldiers who were guarding a barricaded area.

The guards spotted them very quickly and were alarmed, but then realized who they must be.

"Elders," All the guards saluted with cupped hands that were raised above their head.

"At ease." Lin Mu said as he looked at the barricade.

"Show us the site." Lin Mu spoke.

"At once, please follow me." One of the guards said and brought them to the inside.

They walked to a small clearing where there were no signs of any physical conflict or something else.

"This is where the corpse was found, elders." The guard pointed to a spot on the ground.

Lin Mu could see the traces on the ground that looked like footsteps and an indent, which showed that the beast had collapsed on the ground there.

"Did it rain before?" Jing Luo questioned, seeing the indent which normally would not be found since the soil was dry.

"Yes senior, it rained about a week ago. But there has been no rain after that." The guard replied.

"Hmm... so it died here about a week ago. The traces in the mud would not have been here otherwise." Jing Luo estimated.

Lin Mu let his spirit sense wander and scan everything in the area. It went deep into the ground as well, making sure he didn't miss anything. After about five minutes, Lin Mu opened his eyes that had slight confusion in them.

"Did you find anything?" Jing Luo asked.

"No... there is nothing." Lin Mu replied. "I can't tell where this beast came from or went."

~Sniff~ sniff~

It was at this time that Little Shrubby moved. He sniffed the area and turned towards a certain location. Lin Mu looked there as well, and his expression eased.

"Looks like we have something to go on, after all." Lin Mu spoke in a pleased tone.

"Oh?" Elder Boqin inquired.

"Little Shrubby found a trace of its scent." Lin Mu spoke.

"Really? That's good then." Jing Luo replied.

"Hmm... but this also means that there is another such beast." Lin Mu said, which confused the three elders.

"The invader infects and corrupts the bodies of its host. And since this one died for some reason, the invader would try to find another host. Which means... it has been carried away by something else.." Lin Mu explained.

[Chapter 899 - Tracking The Invader](#)

Hearing the explanation of Lin Mu, the three elders felt enlightened.

"Um, elders... do we need to do something?" The guard asked, understanding that this must be far more troublesome.

Even though they did not have the same level of knowledge as that of the ministers, they could still asses that there was a great problem from Lin Mu's words. They also knew Lin Mu's identity as the guest elder of the Hong Lin Kingdom and that his status was right next to their own king, thus his words held great weight.

"Yes," Lin Mu said, looking towards the guards. "Inform adviser Liu about this and start to increase the number of soldiers guarding the borders. Do regular patrols and inform if you see anything like this." He ordered.

"I shall do as you ask, elder." The guard responded.

"Another thing... if you all encounter a beast or being similar to that... either kill it entirely and burn away its corpse into ash. If that does not happen, and that thing injures you, make sure the person who is injured is isolated and quarantined.

If you don't do that and they were infected by any chance, we would have a far greater problem on our hands." Lin Mu instructed.

"Yes, elder!" The guard said before quickly heading off to pass on the instructions.

The three elders of the Long Cloud sect looked at Lin Mu and didn't know what to say. To them, it was proving to be more and more serious as the time passed.

"These being's infected by the invader... just how strong are they?" Elder Boqin questioned.

"Hmm... their strength depends on several factors, the main one being whether their 'host' accepts them completely or not. If they do, the power of the host will increase by a lot compared to their normal cultivation base.

For example, a Nascent soul realm beast, the Blight Dust beast, was infected by the invader several years ago. That beast could produce dust that could poison things. Normally this was limited to a close range, but... once it was infected by the invader, its toxicity increased and the range of it increased exponentially as well.

It caused a plague in my hometown which was over seven hundred kilometers from its nest." Lin Mu explained.

Jing Luo's expression turned strained as he knew what Lin Mu had lost in that plague.

"I think I know about it. Wasn't it the Tri Cauldron peony sect that destroyed that beast? But they just told everyone that it was a mutated beast." Elder Wenyan spoke.

"No... that is false. The Tri cauldron peony sect barely managed to resist the beast and even then, many of their men died. It is only because of Jing Luo's cousin Duan Ke, who intervened to get rid of the beast did they survive.

Perhaps if it were not for her, we would have had an even bigger disaster several years ago." Lin Mu said in a cold tone.

"I see... then we should deal with this quickly." Elder Boqin replied.

"Indeed. That is why I've been telling you that all this is beyond our petty squabbles. This means the survival of the entire Xiaofan world." Lin Mu stated.

"Xiaofan world?" Elder Peizhi repeated, feeling unfamiliar.

"That... is the name of our world." Lin Mu answered.

"What?!" Elder Boqin and Wenyan were surprised.

"I've read the records of the history of the world, but there are no such words for our world." Elder Peizhi replied.

"Then do you think our world has always been nameless?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes, we just called it our world." Elder Peizhi replied.

"No... that might have been correct a long time ago. But not anymore... the world has spoken... and its name is Xiaofan world!" Lin Mu declared.

~shua~

The character of ordained glimmered on Lin Mu's forehead once more in approval and dimmed down in a couple of seconds.

The three elders clearly had some understanding about the world's ordained and had already seen the character a few times on Lin Mu's forehead. They were a bit disinclined to give into all of Lin Mu's demands since they didn't consider that a fair balance.

Back when there were other ordained in the past, everyone strong power had at least one person of their own. But now... there was just Lin Mu, which greatly tilted things in his favor.

Even if this had to do with the survival of the world, the sects would still be hesitant about giving up their benefit and power. But if others like Lin Mu appeared within their midsts, they would then cry out for a 'fair chance'.

It was highly hypocritical, but that was just how the sects had built up their power over the thousands of years they had lived. The generation that withstood the invasions had long since passed away and there were only a few that knew the true reality of it.

Thus, they were disillusioned and thought that they could do as they want to, thinking that they had enough power to support themselves.

The three elders had been instructed accordingly to negotiate the terms in their favor. Even if Lin Mu was the world's ordained, he was just one man, and they were an entire sect. According to them, there was no way he could go against them alone.

~Grrr~

Little Shrubby growled and gestured towards a certain direction, telling Lin Mu something.

"We need to hurry. Whatever it is, the scent is getting faint." Lin Mu said as brows furrowed.

~whoosh~

Then without a word, everyone followed behind Little Shrubby as he led them towards the source. Everyone had their spirit sense probes at full range and were keeping an eye for anything unusual.

The path they followed was not straight and there were a lot of curves and turns. But after about a day's travel, they realized that the place they were heading towards was their original destination anyway.

"Why... is this going towards our sect?" Elder Wenyan questioned.

[Chapter 900 - Long Cloud Disciples In Distress!](#)

The Long cloud sect was located a thousand kilometer away from the Hong Lin Kingdom and it would take a Nascent soul realm cultivator two to four days to reach it. Of course, if someone had faster speed or greater spirit Qi stores they could reach it far quicker.

In the case of Lin Mu and his entourage, everyone was at least at the Adult Soul stage of the nascent soul realm. Thus a journey this long was easy for them to cover without much strain.

They were a day in with their search when the elders realized that they had gone half way to the sect already.

"We are near the sect?" Lin Mu questioned.

"We are about half way there." Elder Boqin spoke and pointed to a set of hills in the distance. "Those are the four sister hills, a half way marker to the sect."

"Hmm... little Shrubby, how much father is it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The strength of the scent is about the same, so it should be farther." Little Shrubby answered.

The others looked on, wanting to get the answer from Lin Mu as well.

"The intensity of the scent is still the same so we are definitely not close." Lin Mu stated.

"If it really is like that and seeing as we are half way to the sect... perhaps the infected being is really near the Long Cloud Sect?" Jing Luo analyzed.

"Impossible. If it were really anywhere close to the sect, our people would have long since detected it. Our formation arrays can detect each and every being that is within a hundred kilometers from the borders." Elder Boqin stated.

"While that might be true, there is a chance that the beast is still out of that range. Plus, we don't know if it has some other abilities that hide it from the perception of a formation array. Remember, the invader can enhance their abilities depending on what they had originally." Lin Mu reminded.

These words tensed the three elders, and they couldn't help but think negatively.

"Let's continue onwards then." Elder Boqin spoke.

"I'll inform the sect to keep an eye out for someone suspicious as well." Elder Peizhi added.

He took out the communication jade slip and contacted the people at the sect in a few seconds.

"They are sending out disciples to increase the patrol radius." Elder Peizhi informed.

Lin Mu nodded in approval and they continued flying. This time they sped up even more, knowing that the situation might not be as good.

While they were flying, Lin Mu was having some thoughts.

'How could the Invader appear after all this time, if its traces were removed?' Lin Mu wondered.

"The most obvious reason should be the Northern Tribes. Perhaps they found some traces of the invader and released them back here? Or they might have even gotten more of them." Senior Xukong suggested.

"Hmm... but if they really got some new sources of the invader, then it means they have a way to interact with other worlds. That merchant who was killed by Gu Yao was the original one who brought the invader along with the Great Slumber Bear.

But he was forced to release the invader during the fight and even lost the beast storage treasure that broke and released the Great Slumber bear, which then lead to the subsequent events.

They might have really gotten someone else to arrive in this world if they are really serious." Lin Mu understood.

"Another thing we can take note of is that they only did it after so many years passed, which means they have a restriction on using the teleportation formation that connects to other worlds.

They probably can't activate it as they want and needed to wait this long." Xukong analyzed.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows as a few scenarios formed in his mind.

"If they intentionally spread the invader, it would mean they are intensifying their efforts and are bringing their final gambit out soon." Lin Mu said.

"Possibly. And... it would also mean that they have some means to restrain the invader. Otherwise they won't be safe from being infected either." Xukong inferred.

"Hang on... if they really have something that can prevent the invader from controlling and infecting someone... then doesn't that mean it could also be used to break people out from Gu Yao's control?" Lin Mu guessed with excitement.

"Hmm... it might be possible. Not right away of course, and we might need to modify it, but it would be a good point to start from." Xukong said after thinking for a bit.

"That's it! We will definitely seize whatever they have that they used to protect themselves." Lin Mu declared.

The people that were traveling with him didn't know that Lin Mu just had such a revelation, nor that a big decision had been made in his mind already. If they did, they would be rather taken aback seeing the train of thought that led to the decision.

It was made from a lot of assumptions and derivations, but it was still significantly important and was not easy to come up with.

Eight more hours passed, during which the team didn't find anything. But just a few minutes after that, they heard something shocking.

"No!" Elder Wenyan suddenly yelled.

"What happened?" Everyone looked at him with concern.

"The disciples are under attack!" Elder Wenyan said, holding the communication jade slip.

"What?!" Elder Boqin and Peizhi said in shock.

"The ones who were patrolling met someones that was suspicious and didn't respond to them when they talked with them. When they tried to get close, they were attacked and some of them were killed.

More disciples are gathering there, but they cannot hold back." Elder Wenyan informed.

"Little Shrubby!" Lin Mu shouted as the beast quickly turned and the harness appeared on his back.

"I'll head on first!" Lin Mu said before he strapped in and shot ahead at a blinding speed.

~WHOOSH~

The three elders could only watch on with grave expressions and muttered, "heavens save our sect..."

