

Walker 901

[Chapter 901 - Imminent Death](#)

"HAAA!!!!!"

"BLOCK IT!"

"NO! NO! THIS CAN'T BE!"

Various voices could be heard shouting and crying at the scene. One could see at least ten disciples that were wearing the robes of the Long Cloud sect fighting a certain beast that was running around them.

Then there were at least double the number of disciples dead on the ground. It was hard to tell how many there were exactly since some of them did not have complete corpses and some were just turned into mush.

The beast that the disciples were fighting was over three meters tall and looked vicious. Its skin was covered in a dark layer that wiggled like some kind of a fluid, making one's hair tingle.

It had three tails like that of a scorpion that had long barbs on the tips, but its body was that of a horse. It had claws like that of a water lizard and the head of a lion. Its fangs were long and looked terrifying.

There were six bony horns that covered his head that were covered with blood and flesh. It was evident they had been used to gore the disciples several times. The beast's eyes were bloodied and had square pupils.

Steam came out of its nose with every breath, and it looked restless.

~GUO!!!!~

Its cry was strange and didn't seem to belong to any animal that was known. It raised its head and cried before charging towards the disciples that were already weakened and filled with injuries.

Their faces were filled with tears as they watched the beast about to end their life.

~THUD~

The first disciple was hit with the horse and directly exploded into a mass of minced meat. But the beast didn't stop there and continued to charge. The disciples did their best to dodge and a couple did manage to slip away.

~SHING~ SHING~

Unfortunately for them, the relief of escape was short lived as two tails came from the back and stabbed through their chests. Vitality drained out from their bodies and they fell down lifelessly.

~GUO!!!!~

The beast cried out as if in joy and continued its attack. Another disciple that was a unfortunate and missed a step, fell to the ground. The beast directly stomped onto her and flattened it into the ground like pancake.

"RUN!!!"

"I DON'T WANT TO DIE HERE!"

"ELDERS SAVE US!!!"

The disciples shouted, but the time was not on their side.

By now, only five of the disciple were left surviving, and they were still trying to run. They had given up on attacking, as it would take their stamina and they would miss the opportunity to dodge, since the beast basically received no damage from them.

The small group of unfortunate men and women reached a dead end and were unable to go any further. There was a steep cliff in front of them and trees around them.

"Quick! Fly!" one of the slightly stronger disciples shouted before taking out a spirit sword and jumping on it.

Unfortunately, not all of the disciples could fly or were not in the condition to do so. Their spirit Qi had been exhausted and their will broken. Two of them managed to fly away to the side, but three were still left.

It was two girls and a boy that were left to watch their death approaching.

"The girls didn't even have the will to cry and only had still faces as they watched the beast running at them. They were the more weaker ones out of the group and had only survived till now due to either being the farthest or being lucky enough to dodge on time.

But luck could only support one for so long. Their hope was for the elders to come rescue them, but that would still take some time. They were over a hundred kilometer away from the sect and even Nascent soul realm elders would take ten to fifteen minutes to reach them.

It had barely taken the beast two minutes to kill half of them and in total, it had not even been five minutes since they encountered the beast. Their time was ticking away with each step that the beast took towards them.

The fury in the beast's eyes was terrifying and it looked no less than a monster that had walked out of the depths of hell to them.

All hope was lost to them and the beast was at a mere meter's distance when something shocking happened.

~GUOOOOO!!!~

The beast cried with thrill, enjoying the feeling of killing the humans. But just as it was about to do what it liked the best, something blocked him.

~DENG!~

The beast saw another human appearing in front of him. The human directly took the charge of the beast to his chest as the horns slammed into him.

~THUD~

The disciples watched in shock as the man bore the full impact of the attack. They could only imagine him exploding into a rain of flesh or being thrown away. But in the end, neither of things happened.

A brown illusory armor appeared around him and easily bore the full brunt of the attack.

~GUO!!!~

Feeling as if it had been challenged, the beast was furious. It swung its scorpion tails at the man, but they were quickly caught in his hands. The third tail that could not be caught due to a lack of hands was then blocked in a different manner.

~CLANG~

The man directly head-butted the barbed tail, snapping its needle like tip and knocking it away to the back.

~GUGOGOGOGOO!~

The beast cried in pain as dark red blood dripped from the broken tip.

The disciples watched as the man saved them from imminent death. His back was tall and his shoulder broad. To them, he was no less than an angel who had descended from the heavens to save them.

The girl could look at the man's face from the angle they were standing and were mesmerized by his face, forever burning it into their memories.

[Chapter 902 - In The Nick Of Time](#)

Lin Mu's decision of going on ahead alone with Little Shrubby was the correct one. But even then, he was still a bit late.

By the time he arrived, most of the disciples were already killed and their remains were strewn across the ground.

This incited anger within Lin Mu that even Little Shrubby could feel. The beast knew his master didn't get angry often, but when he did, it meant something truly bad had happened. And since his master was feeling angry, he too felt angry.

In his fury, Lin Mu directly jumped off Little Shrubby's back and blocked the strange beast that was about to kill the three disciples that were unable to dodge.

"Foul beast!" Lin Mu said in anger as he blocked it.

~GUOOOOO~

The beast growled at him in anger, but Lin Mu cared little for him. The beast continued to push forward, but Lin Mu was like a thick iron tower; immovable!

Lin Mu was holding onto the beast's tail and pulled on them, passing them onto just one of his hands.

"DIE YOU BEAST!" Lin Mu said, his voice filled with rage.

Raising his freed hand, he slammed his elbow into the head of the beast.

~THUD!~

The beast felt his head spinning as it slammed into the ground at breakneck speed. Of course, when its head slammed into the ground, his body did the same.

~ROAR!~

Little Shrubby let out a dominating roar that sent fear drilling down the beast's bloodline.

~BOOM~

Little Shrubby's claws lit up in a blinding flash as he swiped at the beast's back, severing all the tails and burning away the flesh!

~GUO!!!!~

The beast woke up due to the searing pain coming from its back and opened its eyes again. The momentary unconsciousness faded away and the familiar rage reappeared.

Lin Mu could peer into the beast's eyes and understood that the beast was not in control at all.

'Any beast should have run away at this point, either due to me or simply due to Little Shrubby's presence. Especially after being injured this much, it would prefer to retreat. But it does not have the same level of intelligence it should anymore.' Lin Mu analyzed.

The beast stood up and wanted to attack again, but Lin Mu would never give it that chance.

Raising his fist, Lin Mu hammered it back down onto the ground.

~BOOM~

His punch directly exploded the bony horns of the beast and reduced them to fragments before burying into the head.

~THUD~

The head of the beast created a crater in the ground as spiderweb like cracks spread from it.

But Lin Mu didn't stop there.

Raising his fist high up in the sky, Lin Mu brought it down again, this time like a sledgehammer that was hammering a fence post into the ground.

~KACHA~

~BOOM~

The beast's skull certainly could not bear the force and directly exploded into bone and flesh fragments.

With its life thereby ended, Lin Mu took a slight breath of relief. Even if this had not taken him much to do, the situation was stressful, and he did not want the disciples to die for no reason.

"Little Shrubby," Lin Mu called out, and the beast knew exactly what he meant.

~Shua~

From the corpse of the beast, a mass of swirling light came out, which then materialized into a miniature form of the beast.

~GRRR!~

But before it could fly away and escape, Little Shrubby's jaws closed around it, snuffing it out of existence.

~thud~thud~thud~

The three disciples collapsed onto the ground as the stress of death passed over.

"WE'RE SAVED!"

The three of them directly started bawling and cried their eyes out. Thinking that something was wrong, Lin Mu went to check up on them.

"Are you okay?" Lin Mu questioned the three with a look of concern.

"UWAAAAAA!" but unexpectedly for him, the three disciples directly hugged his legs and continued to cry.

"THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!"

"THANK YOU FOR SAVING US!"

"I felt like I was going to die for sure!"

The two girls and boys said while crying. It was a little hard for Lin Mu to make out what they were saying but still managed to in the end.

~Sigh~

"They are too traumatized to speak normally..." Lin Mu muttered as he let his spirit sense scan the three.

In a few seconds he was done and found that they were not in any life threatening condition. While they certainly had injuries and their spirit Qi was depleted, they were relatively fine.

A frown then appeared on Lin Mu's face as he scanned the surroundings.

"1... 2... 10... 18... 24..." Lin Mu counted the dead bodies.

He looked back at the three disciples, wanting to ask them some things, but gave up seeing that they had not stopped crying.

'Guess we'll wait for them to arrive.' Lin Mu thought and waited.

In the mean time, he let his spirit sense wander in search of the other two disciples that had managed to fly away.

"There they are... and they're passed out..." Lin Mu said as he sensed the two of them laying on the ground three hundred meters away.

He quickly checked their condition as well and saw that they were actually in a worse condition than the three with him. They had worse injuries and had also strained their meridians.

'They are not even at the core condensation realm. Flying like this would be very taxing for them even if they are the disciples of a top sect.' Lin Mu thought and sent a message to Little Shrubby.

"Bring them here and be careful." Lin Mu ordered.

"Okay!" Little Shrubby responded before running away.

He reappeared twenty seconds later with the two fainted disciples on his back. They were being held on by the five prosthetic hands just so that they would not fall off while he ran.

Lin Mu's attention was pulled back to the three crying disciples and he shook his head. His lips lightly moved, and some faint chants were heard.

The three disciples became still upon hearing it and then quickly fell asleep.

"They'll be fine after they wake up now."

[Chapter 903 - The High Elders Arrive](#)

Having put the disciples to sleep, Lin Mu could finally put his attention on the corpse of the beast he had just killed. He stepped closer and came to kneel beside it.

"Hmm... it is certainly similar to the beast corpse we found earlier, but this one is even bigger. And it doesn't have as many bone spurs or just exposed bones in general." Lin Mu said as he probed the beast with his spirit sense.

He couldn't find any apparent vitality in it, which made him think that the invader did more than just take over a beast's body.

"Though what beast is this? I don't think I've seen one like this before." Lin Mu muttered.

~whoosh~

~whoosh~

At the same time, the sound of wind could be heard and Lin Mu sensed a few people appearing in his range.

"Finally they're here..." Lin Mu muttered and stood up to look at Jing Luo and the three elders.

"ARE YOU OKAY!?" Jing Luo called out loud.

"I'm good... the disciples not so much." Lin Mu replied.

"This..." the elders took a look at the scene of massacre and their expressions darkened.

Elder Boqin had a cold face as he walked towards the corpse.

"Is this the beast that did all this?" Elder Boqin questioned.

"Yes... it had already killed everyone else by the time I appeared, and only those five were left." Lin Mu answered.

Elder Boqin clenched his fist, and anger was visible in his eyes.

"They made a mistake sending Qi refining realm disciples... the beasts will always be stronger than that due to the influence of the invader. This beast was probably at the Infant Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm, but I could tell its strength was at least two stages above that." Lin Mu commented.

"They did indeed. And the cost will be ours to bear as well..." Elder Boqin replied.

"Though... do you all know what beast this is? I don't think I've seen one like this before." Lin Mu questioned.

"Let me take a look," Elder Wenyan said as he approached.

He scanned the beast from top to bottom and furrowed his brows as a thought came to his mind.

"It has certainly changed in appearance and has two extra tails, but I think this beast used to be a Horse Manticore." Elder Wenyan answered.

"A Horse Manticore?" Lin Mu said in confusion and looked at the beast again.

"Hmm... yes, if we remove the bony horns, the dark slimy skin and the two extra scorpion tails, it is certainly one of the lesser hybrid manticores." Lin Mu confirmed as he recalled certain information.

He knew about the beast known as Manticores and had read about them before. In fact, even the Lost immortal had encountered them before in his travels. There were many types of them and since they could breed with a lot of beasts, there were even more hybrids.

They were similar in this aspect to the dragons and had great libido and drive to have as many offspring as possible. But then this presented another question to Lin Mu.

"Where is this type of a beast found on our continent, though? I'm very sure that it certainly does not live near the Hong Lin kingdom. That previous beast was quite likely to be a green tailed howler monkey and those are native to the kingdom, but this beast certainly is not." Lin Mu questioned.

"I know about them." Jing Luo chimed in.

"Please tell us," Lin Mu requested.

"If my memory serves me correctly, Horse manticores are usually found in the great southern forest. It is very rare to find them out of there. Unless... it was under the ownership of someone else." Jing Luo spoke.

"You mean to say... this was a beast being reared by some cultivator?" Lin Mu asked.

"It is certainly possible. The beast's fur and claws can be used for making spirit tools, while its fangs and poison are used in alchemical pills." Jing Luo replied.

"Rearing a Horse Manticore like this is not easy. At the very least, the person who owned it would need to be stronger than it, which would mean they need to be at the Child Soul stage or above in the Nascent soul realm." Elder Boqin spoke.

"Hmm... that narrows down the number of targets to a handful if we think of it." Lin Mu added. "It is unlikely that this was owned by some individual cultivator. Plus, since it was infected by the invader in the Hong Lin kingdom, someone had to have been transporting it for some reason."

Hearing Lin Mu's words gave a lot more to think for the three elders.

"We'll have to investigate more later. First we need to get the disciples to the safety... and prepare a funeral for the ones that died." Elder Wenyan spoke.

"That is right." Lin Mu agreed and looked towards the distance.

"Why are the people from the sect not here yet?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I don't know... let me check in." Elder Boqin said as he took out the jade slip.

But just before he was about to send a message, the jade slip hummed on its own.

"Oh?" Elder Boqin listened to the message that he had just received before looking towards the direction of the sect.

~BOOM~BOOM~BOOM~

The sound of air exploding could be heard and strong spirit Qi fluctuations came from the distance.

"They're here." Elder Boqin stated.

Lin Mu and Jing Luo then felt spirit Qi fluctuations that were at least at the Dao Shell realm, mixed in with some weaker ones that were at the Nascent soul realm approaching.

"WHERE IS THE BEAST!?" A domineering voice was heard roaring.

A couple seconds later, Lin Mu could finally see the people in his vision. It was two elders that seemed to be at the Dao Shell realm and six more that were in the Nascent soul realm.

Over all it was a strong party, but unfortunately they were still later.

[Chapter 904 - The Invaders Screech!](#)

"Greetings! High elders!" Elder Boqin and the other two greeted out loud.

The two Dao Shell realm elders were the first to land and gazed at the dead bodies. Then without speaking to Lin Mu or the three elders, he gave out an order.

"Gather the remains and send them to the sect. The five disciples will be sent to the healing pavilion right away." One of the Dao Shell realm elders ordered.

"Yes, High Elder!" The six Nascent soul realm elders responded before they quickly got to work.

With this done, the Dao Shell realm elders could focus on Lin Mu and his entourage.

"Now tell what happened here, Elder Boqin." The High elder questioned.

"It is simple High Elder Sunsen. The disciples were being killed by the beast, and Senior Lin Mu here rescued the ones that were still alive and killed the beast." Elder Boqin answered in short.

"Hmm..." High Elder Sunsen looked at Lin Mu but did not speak.

"So you are the Lin Mu that Patriarch Hua was negotiating about." High Elder Sunsen said, his thoughts unknown.

"And the beast? This is the one I presume?" the other high elder asked.

"Yes, this is the one." Lin Mu replied.

"Very well. It shall be taken as well." The second High elder said. "Take it away!"

One of the six Nascent soul realm elder responded to his order and came to stand near the beast corpse. But just as he was about to touch it something happened.

~SCREECH!!!!~

An inhuman screech was heard coming from the beast's corpse. The screech was powerful enough that even the High Elders were forced to shut their ears.

~GRRR~

Little Shrubby felt danger and growled towards the corpse, ready to act.

"What is this?" The Nascent soul realm elder couldn't help but say as he felt the headache from the screech.

~shua~

Then in front of them, a strange presence was felt emanating from the corpse of the Horse Manticore. It was repulsive and a sense of disgust filled everyone that was present near it.

Lin Mu was very familiar with it and had felt it several times before, knowing exactly what it was.

"Invader..." He muttered.

The presence only increased more and more, until a dark black smoky aura rose up from the body of the beast. The black slimy layer that was covering the beast started to evaporate and formed a black mass in the air.

The mass wiggled and twisted, turning into an irregular figure that had bone spurs and skulls embedded in it everywhere.

~SCREECH~

The figure let out a bone chilling shriek that could be heard for hundreds of kilometers. Even the people inside the sect could hear and the ones that had a higher cultivation could hear it even further.

In the Long Cloud sect, several strong experts were stunned and appeared in the sky, staring towards the source of the shriek.

The figure kept on screeching and gazed at the Nascent soul realm elder that was the closest to it. Even though the figure had no eyes, the elder could feel a deadly glare coming from it.

Lin Mu's eyes went wide, and he shouted, "GET BACK!"

The Nascent soul realm elder quickly flew back, but was still a bit late as the dark black smoky aura of the figure managed to touch his hand.

"ARGH!" The Nascent soul realm elder cried as he felt a deep pain in his hand that rose right up from his bones.

~SHUA~

Little Shrubby spat out a searing line of fire that forcibly pushed the figure away and severed the aura that was touching the Nascent soul realm elder.

~SCREECH~

The figure let out a shriek again and seemed to be far more angry than before.

"YOU DEMON!" The Dao Shell realm high elders were furious.

They were unable to reach in time and their sect's disciples had died to this being and now, even when they were right in front of it; they were still unable to stop one of their elders from getting hurt.

In all fronts this was an insult to their face and they would not take it freely.

The High Elder named Sunsen moved his hands in a rhythmic pattern, almost as if he was dancing and spirit Qi rose from his body. The spirit Qi wrapped around his hands and took the shape of a python.

"Cloud Python Fist!" The Dao Shell realm elder chanted.

~HISS~

The python that had just formed around his arms shot out towards the figure of the invader and threatened to bite it. The python's jaws were wide open and its fangs prominently displayed.

Of course, the figure of the invader didn't stay still and counterattacked. The bone spurs on its body extended and grew, turning it into a spiky ball.

~CLANG~

The python bit onto the invader's figure and tried to swallow it whole.

~SCREECH~

The figure screamed in pain and anger as it started to shrink. It was certain that the attack was not for show and the elder was not weak at all. Lin Mu could feel the power of the attack and understood that it was something that could actually crack his Mortal Strengthening Scripture's armor.

~KACHA~

And as was expected, the invader's figure was barely able to hold for a few seconds, before the bone spurs broke and it was crushed. The python swallowed it whole and let out a victorious hiss.

"Is it over?" Elder Peizhi couldn't help but say.

But this his words turned out to be a jinx and another screech was heard, this time a bit lower.

~mush~

The python suddenly broke apart and a mass of smoke gathered back again from its fragments. It gathered together to become the figure of the Invader and regained its bone spurs and skulls.

Though looking at it now, one could tell that it was at least thirty percent smaller and had suffered some damage in the attack.

The figure seemingly looked at the people surrounding it and let out an unwilling cry.

~SKREEE~

[Chapter 905 - Trapping The Invader](#)

When Lin Mu heard the cry, he could feel the very fabric of space shake.

"NO! It's about to escape into the void!" The second Dao Shell realm high elder realized.

They were in the Dao shell realm and were decently learned about the space to know what this situation meant. The invader being able to pass freely through the void like this meant that they were against something really difficult.

~shua~

The Elders tried to do something to restrain the invader's figure and created a barrier around it.

~SCREECH~

But the figure didn't care for it at all. It continued to scream and the space started to tremble even more. The barrier seemed to be helpless against it.

"The barrier is useless! It is breaking the very space itself, we need a spatial barrier to stop it!" Jing Luo spoke up.

High Elder Sunsen had a complex expression on his face and didn't know what to do. Neither he nor the other elders knew of any spatial barrier, nor were they proficient in formations that could do the same.

But just as they were about to give up, a word was heard.

"Meld!"?

Then under their stunned faces, the space in front of them froze. The screeching of the Invader stopped as well, and absolute silence descended in the area. The Invader's figure stopped moving as well and its smoky aura that flowed was frozen too.

"It's paralyzed?" The elder who had his hand touched by the invader's figure asked.

"No... the very space is frozen. If it was paralyzed, there would still be some movement, this is not that." The second High Elder spoke.

They then looked at the source of the word that was spoke and saw Lin Mu with his hand extended. Strong spirit Qi fluctuation were coming from him and it was obvious that it was he that had stopped the Invader in its place.

The high elders were certainly shocked as they knew how difficult something like this was, not to mention the way Lin Mu had done it.

'Proficient in the Spatial element?' High Elder Sunsen thought.

"Jing Luo, set up a restraining formation around the area!" Lin Mu ordered.

"On it!" The man replied and quickly sent seven flags flying.

The flags were planted around the area where meld was holding the space frozen and runes started to rise from them. Jing Luo's fingers rapidly moved as he wrote a few runes in the air with spirit Qi.

The runes flitted across the flags and formed a dome around the area, thereby barricading the Figure of the invader in it. The runes were like ribbons that lowered and tried wrapping around the invader's figure.

Lin Mu stopped meld and the invader started struggling again.

~SCREAM~?

The screeching scream of the invader was even louder this time and forced the elders to close their ears again.

"DAMMIT! THIS LITTLE BASTARD!" The High Elder cursed and threw out what looked like a teapot.

The teapot's lid opened and it flipped before covering the Invader within it. The screams of the invader were greatly suppressed, allowing them to take some relief in it.

"That is one annoying thing." The Second elder said.

~Twang~

But it seemed like their struggle had not ended yet. Like an elastic string being broken, one of the ribbons that was holding the Invader snapped, allowing the invader greater freedom of movement.

"SHIT! This won't be enough to hold it." Jing Luo said.

"We need to seal it in something or it will escape." High Elder Sunsen said.

"I don't think I have anything that can seal something like this. Normal barriers are useless as it will just escape." Jing Luo replied.

"We can't call in the others from the sect either, this thing will escape before that. Since it can directly enter the void, normal methods are invalid." High Elder Sunsen stated.

"What do we do now, then?" The Elder who had been injured by the invader questioned.

Lin Mu too had the same question in his mind and was wondering what could be done.

"Use another beast as its host, a weaker one. Then just restrain the beast as you would any normal one." Xukong came in at the last moment.

"THAT'S RIGHT!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

"Do you have something?" Jing Luo asked seeing Lin Mu's reaction.

"Yes!" Lin Mu said before giving Little Shrubby a command in his mind.

~WHOOSH~

The beast sprinted away at blinding speed, his destination unknown.

"What do you want to do?" The High Elders asked.

"We don't need anything special to seal it. We simply need to give it what it wants." Lin Mu replied.

"Huh?" Their confusion was understanding, but it would soon be answered.

~GROWL~

Little Shrubby returned with something on his back. It was a small rabbit beast that seemed to be terrified and trembling non-stop. Being caught by someone like little Shrubby was obviously not something very pleasant for a small and weak beast like it.

One of the prosthetic hands moved and brought the Rabbit beast towards the invader.

~TWANG~

Another ribbon broke and the Invader started moving even harder.

"I can't hold it much longer." Jing Luo stated.

"You don't have to anymore. Just release it!" Lin Mu replied.

"Are you sure?" Jing Luo confirmed.

"Yes!" Lin Mu said with surety.

Jing Luo nodded and twisted the rune in front of him, releasing all the ribbons. Elder Sunsen raised the teapot as well, allowing them access.

~Weeng~

The ribbons disappeared in a wave of spirit Qi and the invader was free again.

"LITTLE SHRUBBY, NOW!" Lin Mu shouted.

~WHOOSH~

The Rabbit beast that was being held by the prosthetic hand was thrown towards the invader's figure. Like a stone entering a pond, the rabbit created ripples on the surface of the invader's figure.

The rabbit was barely five percent the size of the invader's figure and disappeared quickly.

Everyone watched on intently, ready to act if the invader tried to escape again.. Lin Mu's spatial perception was also active and he was watching it with a hawk's gaze.

[Chapter 906 - Capture Complete!](#)

~Glub~glub~

The sound of bubbles could be heard coming from the invader's figure as it started to shrink in front of everyone's eyes.

With each passing second, it's size reduced by a percent and in just a minute, it had reduced its size by over half. But this was the point where it stopped and something else had taken its place.

~HISS~

A sizzling sound was heard as a new beast was revealed.

The rabbit beast that was thrown in it reappeared, but its form had greatly shaped. No longer was it its previous size, instead it was ten times as big and was about the size of a dog.

The horns on its head had multiplied to six and went back to its neck in a straight line. Its spine protruded from its skin that had turned coal black. Its fur had all disappeared and the slimy black layer had replaced it.

Its feet were longer than before and were tipped with sharp, hooked claws. Its front incisor teeth had turned into a set of fangs and its eyes were now an eerie black with no pupils in them.

~SCREECH~

The rabbit beast let out a screeching sound, that was almost on the same level as that of the avatar's figure, but it didn't affect the elders as much as before.

The spirit Qi fluctuation coming from it were at the peak of the Qi refining realm and showed that it had grown a lot than before. When Little Shrubby got it, the rabbit beast was at the early stage of the Qi refining realm and was very weak.

Lin Mu had especially told him to get a spirit beast and not just any normal beast in the body tempering realm since he was unsure if a beast at that level will even be able to bear the invader.

Lin Mu could see that this figure of invader was far more powerful than the ones he had seen before, though still weaker than the one that had taken over the Great Slumber bear back then.

It was from that Lin Wu knew just how strong the Invader's power was since the Great Slumber bear's original cultivation base was very likely to be at the Dao Shell realm or even the Dao Treading realm.

It being able to weaken the Great Slumber bear to the Core condensation realm was plenty proof of the invader's power. Since this invader's figure had been able to take over the Horse Manticore, Lin Mu placed it at the same level as the one that had controlled the Blight Dust beast.

As soon as the infected Rabbit beast let out a cry of anger, it pressed its legs into the ground, ready to jump away.

"HUMPH!" But Elder Sunsen didn't give it a chance.

He directly let the teapot fall again and it covered the rabbit again.

"Flip!" he said as the teapot turned mid air and the lid of the teapot slammed shut.

~pew~

"There we go." Jing Luo said as everyone took breaths of relief.

~clang~

~DENG~

The sound of movement could be heard coming from the teapot as the rabbit beast kept on hopping inside. It tried to bash its way out of the teapot, but was unable to muster enough strength.

"It won't be able to break it at the current power." Elder Sunsen said with a nod.

"That's good. As long as it stays inside the host beast, we won't have to worry about it escaping." Lin Mu stated.

"Ugh!" While they were talking, the elder who had his hand hurt by the invader grunted in pain.

They all looked towards the man and saw his hand that had turned black. All five of his right hand's fingers had turned black, while half of his palm was black as well. Then, from the parts that had turned black, small tendrils extend further up his arm, before stopping at the elbow.

"That thing tainted you." Elder Sunsen said.

"How do you feel?" The second High elder questioned.

"My arm feels like it is burning and I can't control it at all. I don't sense my meridians there either and my spirit Qi is being slowly drained into my hand." The elder answered.

"We need to cut it." Lin Mu decisively said.

"What? NO!" The elder replied, not wanting to lose a limb.

"We have to do it or the Invader will take over your body as well. Though that is... if you survive the process." Lin Mu explained.

Hearing this the elder got stressed and didn't know what to do.

"Do it! Cut it off. We can't take the risk of taking it directly to the sect and then let it spread to others." Elder Sunsen ordered.

The nascent soul realm elder deliberated before he finally agreed.

"Do it for me." The elder requested.

"Very well." Lin Mu agreed right away.

The time was short and there were a lot of more important things they needed to attend to in this time.

~SHING~

~THUD~

Lin Mu simply waved his hand and the short sword came flying out.

"ARGH!" The Nascent soul realm elder cried in pain but still held on with gritted teeth.

The short sword cleanly cut through the skin and bone, leaving the least possible gap between normal hand and infected hand.

The hand that was cut off fell to the ground and started to twitch a lot.

"Burn it!" Lin Mu ordered.

~SHUA~

Little Shrubby spat out a ball of fire, that quickly turned the hand into a pile of ashes.

The elder who had his hand cut off, ate a few healing pills and hoped that he would be healed after a bit. Thankfully, the bleeding had stopped almost instantly. While the man did care for his lost limb, he also knew that not all was lost, since he would be able to regrow the arm with the help of some alchemical pills.

"We should head to the sect quickly. The others will want to know of this as fast as possible.." Lin Mu said.

[Chapter 907 - Entering The Long Cloud Sect](#)

With everyone in agreement, Lin Mu and his companions were quickly guided to the sect. The High elders had taken notice of the old woman Ku Waowen, who was kept unconscious and realized who she was just from a look.

It was evident that it was not their first time seeing someone from the northern tribes.

Lin Mu noticed their look and asked, "have you seen people of the Northern Tribes here too?"

"No... well, not recently at least. The last time I saw them was about eight hundred years ago, in the last skirmish that we had with them." Elder Sunsen replied.

"You fought in that battle?" Lin Mu questioned with curiosity.

"Everyone did. No sect held back in any skirmish that happened with the northern tribes. We didn't want them to take one step into the Continent." Elder Sunsen answered.

"Hmmm... seems like that didn't really work out. They did find a way in and have now spread all over the empire." Lin Mu said in a straight tone.

The High elder did not give a response to that but Lin Mu could feel that he was thinking about it deeply now.

'Hopefully, seeing all this will make them consider everything seriously.' Lin Mu thought.

~flicker~

Lin Mu and all passed through a barrier that opened up for them in the sky. He could tell that this was the main barrier that prevented anyone from entering the Long Cloud sect.

'It's a decently strong barrier, several times stronger than the Tri Cauldron Peony sect's and about the same level as that of the Ripple Mist Sect.' Lin Mu analyzed.

Finally, Lin Mu could see the Long Cloud sect in its full glory. Unlike most other sects, the Long Cloud sect was not based on mountain peaks. Instead, it was spread around in a vast plain and looked like a winding dragon that was swallowing a cloud.

The cobblestones that paved the roads on the ground were all white and made it look like there was a cloud below.

"Oh?" Lin Mu's senses picked something when looking over the thousands of buildings.

He narrowed his eyes as spatial perception activated and his vision extended past the earth.

'The entire area below the sect is hollow, and that spirit Qi... are all their spirit stone mines artificially placed?' Lin Mu noticed.

He could tell that the underground area was man made and the way the spirit Qi was distributed told him that it was not a natural spirit stone mine either. While he couldn't accurately estimate how many mines there were, he could definitely tell that they were natural in this manner.

He could also see the vast and intricate formation array that was used to channel spirit Qi to the entire sect on the surface. In fact, the tiles and stones that were laid on the ground themselves functioned as components of the array.

It was a different format and style of formation array that Lin Mu got to see today.

The sect was based on the shape of a dragon and the area where the head of the dragon was had the most spirit Qi while the area where there was the tail had the least amount of spirit Qi.

They had entered from the tail and were now traveling straight towards the head. Lin Mu could see that most of the bigger buildings were located on the head area and the general buildings were closer to the middle area.

The areas were also separated with barriers that were invisible but were demarcated by tall walls that prevented one from seeing into the next area. Overall, there were three areas, the outer court sect, the inner court sect and the core of the sect.

If one were to make an outline of the sect, the dragon would be contained in an oval shape and a curved line would demarcate an area around its head. This was the core of the sect and the smallest area.

Then there was another curved line that demarcated the inner court sect, which was the second biggest area, and then the rest of the area left was the outer court of the sect, which was the biggest area.

Lin Mu could tell that the Long Cloud sect was one of the more planned sects and was not constructed just as it grew. It was in a way similar to the Noon Grass sect, as in how they made their own peaks, but still different.

While Lin Mu and the high elders were passing through the sky, they were noticed by the disciples who were on the ground. Since flying was prohibited in the sect for most people, it was very easy to notice.

"Look! Who's that?"

"Those robes... they're high elders, senior elders and general elders."

"I've seen them before! That's High Elder Sunsen and High Elder Jinn." A few disciples said, seeing them fly.

"What!? Why are they out here? And who's the other people with them."

"Heavens! Look at that beast!" An outer court disciple exclaimed.

"How is that beast following them without a problem and the elders are fine with it?"

"Perhaps it's a tamed beast?"

It was certain that Little Shrubby was rather stunning to most disciples.

"Are you dumb! Do you really think a beast as strong as that can be tamed easily? See its cultivation base." An inner court disciple scoffed.

"Damn! That beast is at the very peak of the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm. I can feel the spirit Qi fluctuation all the way here." Another Inner court disciple realized.

"I know, right? Just that beast alone is strong enough to be a Senior elder."

"Who's the other people with them, though?" Someone asked.

"That man is rather wild looking. Look at his arms, they are four times as mine." A short female disciple said, feeling charmed.

"Forget him! That Young man is rather handsome." A Female disciple spoke with glitter in her eyes.

"OH MY! I've never seen someone as handsome as that in our sect!" Soon, a lot of other female disciples noticed Lin Mu as well.

[Chapter 908 - Meeting The Long Cloud Patriarch](#)

The reactions of the disciples didn't go unnoticed by Lin Mu and the rest.

But they didn't pay much attention to it and neither did they consider it since the current situation was rather grave.

Though someone was thinking about some other things.

'If Senior Lin Mu was really part of our sect, it would be really amazing. Wonder if patriarch would go that route...' Elder Boqin thought.

He peeked at the expression of Elder Sunsen and Elder Jinjin, finding them to be tense.

~Sigh~

'Only after we meet up with the rest, will we know how things proceed. Though it will be good if he can join our sect. Someone as talented as him is bound to become the patriarch.' Elder Boqin thought. 'Dammit! Why the hell did I even follow their orders and offend him at the start, should have just stuck with the normal way.' He cursed.

Soon they crossed the inner court and entered the Core of the sect.

~SHUA~

A thick barrier brought them to a stop, and they could not proceed.

High Elder Sunsen took out an identity token and flashed it at the barrier, which then opened up to give them a path.

"Continue!" He said and everyone followed.

Lin Mu and the rest were directly brought to the biggest building of the sect that was over two hundred meters tall. It was the grand palace of the sect and looked like it was made out of a variety of materials.

Though if one looked from the distance, it looked to have dragon scales and horns at the top. There were even whiskers hanging from the middle floors.

They landed at the bottom of the building and were met with several disciples standing guard at the gates.

"Welcome high elders!" The disciples saluted with cupped hands.

"Is the patriarch ready?" High Elder Sunsen asked.

"He's been waiting for you in the main hall." One of the disciples said.

Elder Sunsen nodded his head and entered the building, followed by the others. They quickly went up the stairs and went six floors above where the main hall was located. Lin Mu saw two large red doors that were painted with the figures of dragons, one on each door.

~CREAK~

The doors opened up to reveal the interior where several people were waiting already.

"Patriarch," High Elder Sunsen and High Elder Jinjin greeted respectfully.

"Greetings patriarch." Elder Boqin and the other two greeted as well.

"At ease," the patriarch replied.

"We have brought the cultivator Lin Mu and his companions as directed." Elder Boqin spoke.

This prompted the patriarch to look at Lin Mu, who was standing in the middle. He was rather eye catching as his spirit Qi fluctuations were in full display. He was no longer holding back.

Little Shrubby was the same and did not restrain his aura. Jing Luo's spirit Qi fluctuations could not even be perceived between these two and were too muddled to sense anymore.

"So you are the man known as Lin Mu, one of the most wanted cultivators of our continent." The Patriarch spoke.

"Hah! You surely jest. If you really thought I was who they framed me to be, you would have never let me come here or would have ordered my capture." Lin Mu replied confidently.

"Who knows? I may have intentionally brought you here so that it would be easier to catch you. After all... I have the power of the entire sect at my disposal." The Patriarch responded.

"I doubt you would be that foolish after the Noon Grass sect negotiated everything with you. Besides... I doubt someone like you would be unaware of all that has been happening." Lin Mu said in a calm tone.

Silence spread in the hall and everyone other than Lin Mu and the patriarch felt tense. It was as if there was gunpowder in the air and a single word would spark it, blowing the hall into smithereens.

The patriarch glared at Lin Mu, and he did the same. Elder Boqin and the other junior elders felt nervous with each passing second and just like that, an entire minute passed.

"AHAHAHA!" Suddenly the Patriarch started laughing.

~thud~thud~thud~

He slapped the armrest of his chair and laughed in an unrestrained manner. Lin Mu smirked upon seeing this, and the other just felt confused.

"Good! Good! Seems like for the first time in a long time, the Sky Precepts sect made a mistake! HAAAAHA! JUST FOR MAKING THEM DO THAT, I LIKE YOU!" The Patriarch exclaimed.

"At least we are on the same page." Lin Mu spoke casually.

"Indeed. Come sit," The Patriarch gestured to a few empty chairs.

Seeing that it was going rather well, Jing Luo was a bit surprised. He was still a bit on guard, but seeing Lin Mu take a seat made him feel relaxed too.

"Seems like Patriarch Hua didn't say everything when he talked to me about you." The patriarch spoke.

"Well, we have some time to get to know each other. I am here for an alliance, after all." Lin Mu replied.

"Very well. I'll start first then." The Patriarch said, "My name is You Yi, the thirteenth patriarch of the Long Cloud sect!" he introduced.

"And I am Lin Mu, this is my tamed beast, Little Shrubby and my companion Jing Luo." Lin Mu introduce as well.

~Growl~

Little Shrubby let out a little growl, and Jing Luo cupped his hand.

"The Jing clan?" Patriarch You Yi raised his brows.

"I am the grandson of Jing Wei, patriarch of the Jing clan and Grandmaster Weapon forger." Jing Luo proudly stated.

"I see... so the blood of Jing still lives on..." Patriarch You Yi muttered.

"Of course, we cannot perish unless our enemies are reduced to dust." Jing Luo said staunchly.

The patriarch and the other elders watched on with strong gazes, as they could technically be considered under what Jing Luo had just said.. After all... the Long Cloud sect had also participated in some of the attacks against the Jing Clan.

[Chapter 909 - Doubt And Conclusion](#)

Lin Mu too watched Jing Luo and wondered what his response would be.

He wouldn't blame Jing Luo if he wanted nothing to do with this all or if he wanted to blame them. Lin Mu would fully respect that decision, seeing what the sects had done to his clan.

Lin Mu could understand it very well. After all, he was in a way doing it for his family too. If it were not for his father and mother dying due to the plague, which was caused due to the effect of the invader, he might not have embarked on this path.

Everyone that knew of the Jing Clan and the involvement of the sects watched on with a bated breath until Jing Luo spoke.

"While the Long Cloud sect is not free of their crimes, I know the current times call for changes. I will be 'lenient' and wait till my grandfather can decide for himself." Jing Luo stated.

The expressions of everyone changed upon hearing it. Some were palled while some were a bit relieved. Those who knew what Jing Luo truly meant were feeling better, but those that were not in the flow as much were stunned. To them, this was no less than a direct threat.

"Very well. I shall wait for Daoist Jing Wei's decision." Patriarch You Yi replied, not question the fact that Jing Wei was actually alive.

Patriarch Hua had never included this fact in his negotiation and neither was the fact that Jing Luo existing was included. All of this was to give an advantage to them and to make things unpredictable for the sects.

Even if Jing Luo was alone, the sects that had dealt with the Jing Clan knew how it truly was and what their power was. If it really came to it and Jing Wei was alive, they knew they would not have a good time.

Even alone, Jing Wei was not a person the sects wanted to face.

'The old man has created or has had taken part in the creation of our top weapons... if we are to fight him, we will be at a great disadvantage no matter what...' Patriarch You Yi and several High Elders thought.

"Since Patriarch You Yi doesn't mind it, shall we discuss what is crucial now?" Lin Mu spoke.

"Of course, please... show us that 'thing'." Patriarch You Yi replied.

"Pardon me," high Elder Sunsen said as he waved his hand.

The tea pot that was floating behind him came forward and increased to the size it used to be.

~clink~

The lid of the teapot opened, and it flipped over.

~THUD~

The infected rabbit beast fell out and was open to everyone's eyes.

~SKREEE!!!~

The Rabbit beast let out a furious screech and did not falter at all despite the strong spirit Qi fluctuations that were in the hall.

Patriarch You Yi was in the Dao Treading realm and was displaying equivalent spirit Qi fluctuations and yet, the beast was unresponsive to that. It was as if to it, fear did not exist and all it existed was for to kill and consume other beings.

It literally bared its fangs at the Patriarch and hissed, showing its intentions.

"Well... this certainly is one fearless being." Patriarch You Yi spoke.

"Not just that, it is one of the avatars of the invader." Lin Mu chimed in.

"Oh? You know more?" You Yi asked with intrigue.

"I do." Lin Mu nodded.

"Please explain." The Patriarch asked.

Lin Mu then went on to explain how the invader truly was. It was not a complete being and lived by sending out avatars to different worlds. At least this was the hypothesis that Senior Xukong had suggested to him.

The main body of the invader existed somewhere in the void and was unreachable by normal means. It supposedly thrived on taking over beings that lived in a world and could eventually take over it entirely if given enough time.

Lin Mu even showed them the dead bodies of the other beasts that he had come across. This was nothing but the Horse Chimera and the Green Tailed Howler Monkey corpse that they had discovered.

Lin Mu tried to go into detail as much as possible to convince the man about the invader. So far, most of the people he had seen and met were more on the side of being cynical. He didn't know why, but they did not believe things, even when the truth was basically hidden behind a piece of paper.

It was as if they had gone brain dead and could not think critically. It was a crucial part as to why things became difficult and why the Northern Tribes along with the invader, were able to live for so long.

After about two hours of speaking, Lin Mu was finally done and looked at the Patriarch for his response.

'At least be willing to think over it...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Hmm..." You Yi hummed.

Everyone looked on in anticipation, wondering what the man's decision would be.

"I... The Thirteenth Patriarch of the Long Cloud Sect decides that... the cultivator Lin Mu is hereby considered as... THE ALLY OF THE SECT AND THE ALLY OF THE LONG CLOUD ALLIANCE!" The patriarch proclaimed!

Lin Mu's eyes went wide, and so did Jing Luo's. The elders of the sect were no less shocked by the decision.

"Patriarch! Are you sure of this! We have no surety of his claims!" one of the high elders said.

"High Elder Bugi, you do not know how the life was a long time ago and how the northern tribes affected us. You were one of the few 'privileged' that did not have to experience all that.

I myself was part of the party that went to exterminate one of the invader beast summoned by the Northern tribes a thousand years ago. I still remember the terror I felt from the beast... it was far stronger than anything... if it were not for Patriarch Jing Wei, we might have lost the entire empire that day.." Patriarch You Yi explained.

[Chapter 910 - Expansion Of The Alliance And Oath](#)

Patriarch You Yi's words were not something the people in the hall had expected.

In fact, the most shocked were none other than Lin Mu and Jing Luo.

"You were there during that attack at the shrine?" Jing Luo questioned doubtfully.

"I was, aye... it is not a day I like to remember, but it is something that taught me a lot of things." You Yi replied, complex emotions visible in his eyes.

"I see..." Jing Luo muttered in response, not knowing what to say.

He still remembered what his grandfather had told him a long time ago.

'The companions that stood with me during the battle at the shrine will forever be my companions.'
These were the words that echoed in Jing Luo's mind.

They weren't much, but they were impactful to him. This complicated things for him and he didn't know what to think of the Long Cloud sect anymore. Jing Wei himself had not said anything particular about the patriarch of the Long Cloud sect after the betrayal, and thus he didn't know how to respond.

If there was a concrete decision given to him, Jing Luo would have chosen to respond differently. But for now, he could only think to his grandfather's past words and follow them.

'Once grandfather is here, I'll let him be the judge of all. If he decrees them to be forgiven, so it shall be. And if not...' Jing Luo thought as a bloody gleam dressed his eyes for a second.

Some of the more perceptive elders and You Yi felt a murderous aura emanating from Jing Luo for a second that quickly faded away.

'Like begets like... the grandson is no less domineering than the Grandfather.' You Yi thought to himself.

With that done, Lin Mu looked on at You Yi thinking that they should start on the next step.

"I am happy that Patriarch You Yi has the foresight to see where the best future for our world lies." Lin Mu spoke. "And to ensure that stays true, I would like everyone here to take an oath." He continued.

"Oh? An oath?" You Yi asked.

"Yes... an oath to declare our alliance. This will also help to weed out all others that are under the influence of Gu Yao... if there are any." Lin Mu replied.

"An oath like this cannot be taken easily. Especially with so many people with high cultivation bases. It will take months to prepare the ceremony and the requirements." The High Elder named Bugi spoke.

"I understand that... and you do not need to worry about that part, Elder Bugi." Lin Mu stated.

"W-what do you—" But before the man can speak more, he was interrupted.

"I got that covered!" Lin Mu said as a character appeared on his forehead.

~SHUA~

An imposing presence exuded from the character and suppressed almost everyone that was in the hall. Only the Patriarch, Lin Mu, Jing Luo and little shrubby seemed to be free from its effects, but it was still rather shocking to most.

"What in the world?..." The elders were stunned.

Elder Boqin and others that had experienced this before were still a bit better at handling and did their best in keeping their composure. Even the few high elders that were in the Dao Shell realm found it difficult to hold it.

In total, the Long Cloud sect had five Dao Shell realm High Elders. This included High Elder Sunsen, Jingjing, Bugi, the supreme elder and one more elder that was not present here currently.

"Ordainment of the world's will... I never thought I would get to see it in my lifetime ever." Patriarch You Yi spoke.

"You got that right." Jing Luo said smugly.

"I reckon Patriarch You Yi has no doubts to me doing this?" Lin Mu questioned.

"None wheresoever. This just proves your claims." The man replied with a smirk.

"Very well... then I think no one will reject taking an oath here?" Lin Mu questioned as he looked around in an inquisitive tone.

He was not the only one who did that, and Jing Luo was the same. A few elders that were present in the hall did the same, wanting to know who was on what side. You Yi didn't do that though, he simply closed his eyes and waited for them to be done.

Thankfully, while some were a bit averse to it, they didn't reject it and eventually submitted.

"I shall start the oath then." Lin Mu spoke.

"Please do," Patriarch You Yi spoke.

"I... Lin Mu."

"I... You Yi..."

One by one, everyone repeated their names.

"Herby declares that I shall do my best to protect my world, the Xiaofan world and ensure its survival. I will purge the enemies that threaten its existence and eliminate all invaders that threaten its natural order.

If I go against it all, my body shall be burned off the face of this world and my soul be banished from the cycle of reincarnation!" Lin Mu declared.

There were a few suggestions that Senior Xukong had given to him for the latter parts of the oath, and Lin Mu had taken them without hesitation. They were good regardless and would reduce the chances of someone acting against us.

~*HONG*~

A visible wave of energy spread from the 'Ordained' character that floated in front of Lin Mu and spread all around the great building. It passed through everyone and put a signature on every being that had taken the oath.

Though it directly passed through Jing Luo and Little Shrubby, since they were already under the oath. Little Shrubby didn't even need to take the oath, since he was Lin Mu's tamed beast and was directly linked with him.

Everyone opened their eyes after the oath was completed and looked around, wondering if something had happened.

"Seems like everything is—" The High Elder Bugi was just about to say when he was interrupted.

~*RUMBLE*~

Crushing pressure descended upon the people in the building and the roaring of thunder could be heard.

"What's happening?" Someone questioned.

"The oath was broken..."