

## Walker 911

### [Chapter 911 - Broken Oath](#)

Lin Mu's eyes went wide as he looked at a particular person. Jing Luo and a few others followed his gaze and saw him looking towards High Elder Bugi.

"W-what...?" The man questioned.

Combined with Lin Mu's earlier words, Jing Luo and others understood what had happened.

"N-No..." High Elder Bugi said, finding it very strange.

"High Elder Bugi... did you..." Patriarch You Yi muttered.

*~RUMBLE~*

The sound of thunder echoed once again as the entire palace started to shake.

'High Else Bugi broke the oath? How?' a few elders thought.

*~BOOM~*

And just as they thought that, the sound of an explosion was heard and a bolt of lightning pierced through the protective formation arrays of the sect as if they were nothing but paper and appeared within the hall.

*~BANG~*

*~SPLAT~*

It directly struck a person and reduced them to ashes before they could even say anything.

*~thud~*

"HEAVENS BE KIND!" High Elder Bugi cried out as he fell to the ground in fear.

He watched as the man who was standing behind him was just turned to ashes by the lightning.

*~Rumble~*

The rumbling of thunder got low and soon disappeared within a minute. Everyone stayed silent as they tried to comprehend what had just happened.

The silence was finally broken by a couple of confused elders as they spoke up, "it wasn't High elder Bugi who broke the oath?"

"No... it was the man standing behind him." Lin Mu answered, resolving their doubt.

Even Patriarch was confused but felt like the misunderstanding was reasonable. He had simply followed Lin Mu's gaze and thought that he was looking at High Elder Bugi. His cause for doubt was also understandable since high Elder Bugi had been one of the High elders who had opposition to some of his opinions.

"Who was that?" Lin Mu asked, not knowing the identity of the man.

The person had not spoken once since they had come here and thus Lin Mu had not taken much interest in them. But now that they were killed by the lightning, he knew that there was more to it and the implications of it were serious.

"That was junior elder Lao Ming, wasn't he?" Elder Boqin spoke up.

"Yes... that was him." Patriarch You Yi confirmed.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and looked at the man.

"You know what this means, right?" Lin Mu said in a serious tone.

"Yes..." Patriarch said before looking at some of the elders. "I want all his interactions and connections to be investigated. I want the first report by tonight!" He ordered.

"YES PATRIARCH!" A few elders replied before leaving the hall to of their assigned task.

"That was terrifying..." Elder Wenyan said, his hands still shivering.

"Mmm, Punishment tribulation lightning is indeed not something anyone can bear easily. It is many times stronger than the normal tribulation lightning one faces during the Nascent soul realm breakthrough." Patriarch You Yi explained.

*~Sigh~*

Lin Mu sighed and shook his head before speaking. "At least we know that the oath works. We have seen its effect first hand."

"Wait, does this mean Junior Elder Lao Ming was a traitor?" one of the other junior elders at the back asked carefully.

"There is a chance. Just being a traitor is one of the conditions for breaking the oath. There are many other things they can be doing that can break the oath." Lin Mu spoke.

Jing Luo raised his brows and looked at Lin Mu.

"You don't think... he was under the control of Gu Yao too?" Jing Luo questioned.

"No, he was not. Which makes it even more difficult. I did not feel any presence of the blood curse on him, but it would mean that he is either doing it willingly or his goal was something else." Lin Mu answered.

You Yi stroked his beard and thought to himself for a bit before making up his mind.

"I shall call all our allies. The higher ups will have to take the oath as well," Patriarch You Yi stated.

"Of course. It's the best if they are here as soon as possible so that there is no information leaked. We don't want Gu Yao or the Northern Tribes to get a hint of this." Lin Mu replied.

"Very well. I'll contact the Black Dune Sect and the Light Harmony Sect and have them here as soon as possible." Patriarch You Yi stated.

Lin Mu nodded his head in approval and recalled the information about these two sects.

The top ten sects were ranked as follows:

1. Sky Precepts Sect
2. Rainbow Pill sect
3. Centennial Sword Sect
4. Zither Wind Sect
5. Long Cloud Sect
6. Black Dune sect
7. Ripple Mist Sect
8. Light harmony Sect
9. West Ocean Sect
10. Noon Grass sect

Of these, the top three sects were currently independent and then there were the two alliances. The Zither wind sect, the Ripple mist sect and the West Ocean sect formed the Zither wind alliance's main members and along with them there were many mid and low tier sects.

While the Long Cloud Alliance was composed of the Long Cloud sect, the Black Dune sect and the Light Harmony sect.

The Black dune sect was located in the north western part of the continent while the Light Harmony sect was located to the north eastern part. The ninth ranked sect which was part of the zither wind alliance, the West ocean sect was located on the west coast of the continent just like its name.

Lin Mu calculated how long it would take for these sects to arrive for the oath, and realized that it might take up to a month for that.

'The Black Dune sect is located in the desert in the north west while the Light Harmony sect is in the high hills of the Eastern Ming Dynasty. At the earliest, they will take a month while if they are delayed it might take them far longer..' Lin Mu thought to himself.

#### [Chapter 912 - The Other Alliance Sects](#)

"Patriarch, how long will it take the two sects to arrive here according to you?" Lin Mu questioned.

While he knew that a month was a conservative estimate, he still didn't know what abilities or tools the sects might use.

"The message will reach them within the hour, but for them to arrive will take a bit more than a month. While the sects can use their spirit vehicles and arrive here in two weeks, that will be high profile and be noticed by the others.

I don't think we want that at the current time." Patriarch You Yi stated.

"That's true. The last thing we want is for Gu Yao and the northern tribes to suspect something. The less they know, the better." Lin Mu replied.

It was evident that Lin Mu would have to wait a month before the alliance could be officially solidified. Though he was thankful that the patriarch had decisively accepted the proposal.

Them encountering the invader first hand here and the patriarch having dealt with something like that in the past had definitely influenced his decision though. Plus, since Lin Mu was ordained by the world, his claim was even truer.

Dismissing the wanted order was something that was quickly made by the patriarch. Even though this could not be done openly for now, the sects of the alliance will not act on the wanted orders.

Thankfully, Lin Mu looked rather different now and thus the chances of someone identifying him were minuscule.

His gaze went back to the invader infected rabbit beast that was restrained in the front. After it was released by High Elder Sunsen, the formation arrays of the hall quickly restrained it.

This was the seat of power of the Long Cloud sect, thus doing something like this was a very easy task and didn't even need the Patriarch to speak. Just a simple gaze triggered the formations to do that back then.

"We do need to discuss about the invader through, Patriarch." Lin Mu spoke up.

"Of course... what happened today was a tragedy and it could have been worse if not for you being there." You Yi acknowledged.

"That's what I want to stop. But we don't know if there are more avatars of the invader here. As far as I know, five such avatars have been exterminated already. I myself exterminated two in the past and the other three were done by Jing Luo's family.

If it has appeared after all this time, it means that it has probably been brought here intentionally or has wandered out. We need to trace its source and see where it might have come from.

There is a chance that there are more such avatars hiding. Plus, we still don't know if the avatars that are forced to escape into the void return or not." Lin Mu stated.

"We definitely need to do it. And if it really is the northern tribes controlling and spreading the avatars, it would mean they also have the means to restrain it. We need to get that method." Jing Luo added.

Lin Mu nodded his head as both the things were important.

From what he had discussed with senior Xukong in the past, Lin Mu knew that the main body of the invader was somewhere in the void and it sent out its avatars. Even if the main avatar that came to the world was with the Great Slumber bear and purged by it in the end, there were still some smaller ones that spread around.

Xukong even suggested that the invader might send more avatars on its own, having sensed the position of the world. If that truly happened, they would be in a far more dangerous situation.

The northern Tribes would be like children in front of the Invader, whose power was certainly beyond this world.

"That shall be done, of course. We can start right away too since we have some clues right here." Patriarch You Yi replied.

"The beasts..." Elder Sunsen said, realizing what the man meant.

"As far as we know, the first beast that was infected was a green tailed howler monkey in the Hong Lin Kingdom, then for some reason that beast died and another beast was infected by the invader's avatar." Lin Mu said as he pointed at the Horse Manticore.

"I don't think just anyone would have a Horse Manticore on this side of the continent. They are found in the Great Southern Forest and very few people would be capable of owning one here since capturing and bringing one all the way here is a difficult task." Lin Mu added.

"Has there been any information about a beast like this being sold before?" one of the elders questioned.

"I don't think so... though we have had seen some of its material before." Another elder replied.

"You have?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes. Some of the Horse Manticore Fangs were once up for sale in the capital." The elder answered.

"And when was this?" Lin Mu questioned.

"About three years ago, if my memory serves me correctly." The elder replied.

"Hmm... a bit long, but perhaps we can find more." Lin Mu muttered.

"Get me information about any Horse Manticore materials that are up for sale." You Yi ordered.

One of the elders left to get the information and soon returned with it.

"So, what did you find?" The Patriarch questioned.

"According to the resources catalog we were sent last month, there are indeed a few Horse Manticore materials available for sale." The elder answered.

"Who's selling them?" Lin Mu questioned.

"We don't know the true supplier of it since it is the merchants who will be selling them." The elder replied. "It will be hard to figure it out, since the merchants will hide their advantageous deals."

"Merchants... huh... I think I can find that out..." Lin Mu said.

"You can?" You Yi raised a brow.

"I do have someone who can do that for us.." Lin Mu replied before taking out the communication jade slip and contacting a certain ally who was also a sly merchant.

[Chapter 913 - Contacting Jingming Shang](#)

Currently in a large house in the Jiao Long city a man was sitting in a large office.

"That is the final shipment for today, my lord." A servant spoke.

"Hmm... that's enough. You can leave now." Jingming Shang replied and digressed the servant.

Once the servant was gone, the man opened the box that had just arrived and checked the items inside, which looked like dried herbs and mushrooms. He read through the dossier that was brought along with the box and ensured that everything was right.

But just as he was doing that, he felt the communication jade slip hidden in his robes hum. It was different from the one that was hanging on his waist and made his eyes go wide.

He stumbled and hurriedly took out the communication jade slip before checking who was contacting him.

"S-senior Lin Mu!" Jingming Shang greeted.

"How are things going there in Fenlong kingdom?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Everything is going as plan, senior. There were a few problems, but we managed to solve them." Jingming Shang answered.

"That's good. Prepare a report for it later, and I also wanted some information from you." Lin Mu replied.

"Oh? Do you want me to send the report to you?" Jingming Shang questioned.

"No, not necessary. If anything, I might come there myself in a month or two." Lin Mu answered.  
"Perhaps, it's not confirmed yet."

"I see... and what information did you want?" Jingming Shang asked.

"I want you to find out information about Horse Manticore materials. Get me everything, what materials were sold, who bought them, who supplied them and where they came from." Lin Mu replied.

"Horse Manticore... Hmm, it'll take a few hours, but I'll get it." Jingming Shang stated.

"I'll wait then. Contact me when you have it." Lin Mu said before stopping.

Jingming Shang put away the communication jade slip and quickly got to work.

"SERVANT! I WANT ALL THE TRADE MISSIVES!"

While Jingming Shang was getting busy, the people in the hall were all watching Lin Mu.

"Did you contact Jingming Shang?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Mmmhmm, if it's anyone, it would be him that can find the information. His network is good enough to find a lot of hidden information. Plus, he is a merchant too, so the others are less likely to find fault with him." Lin Mu answered.

"You'll be able to get the information about the Horse Manticore?" Patriarch You Yi inquired.

"Most likely, yes. If the person I contacted can't find it, then it will be close to impossible and we will have to look for other alternatives." Lin Mu spoke.

"I see... how long till they respond?" You Yi asked.

"It should be within a day's time." Lin Mu replied.

"That's quick enough. We can discuss other matters in the meantime." The Patriarch spoke, finding it decent.

"Yes, we need to make the best use of time." Lin Mu agreed.

"The elders had some questions, so I ask them to go ahead with them and ask." You Yi ordered.

"I shall take the lead then, Patriarch." One of the high elders said before looking at Lin Mu.

"I understand that this new alliance has other members in it than just the Noon Grass sect and the Hong Lin kingdom, I'd like to ask who they are so that we can properly prepare." The High elder questioned.

"Oh yes. The other allies we have in this are the Fenlong kingdom and the clans of the Jiao Long city along with the entire merchant council." Lin Mu answered.

"You got the entire kingdom as an ally?" The elders were surprised, as they had no inkling of something like this happening.

"We did. Started by helping the clans of the Jinan Long city and stopping them from being killed by Gu Yao. They too, suffered under his hand. The clans then got the royal family involved and they are our allies too now." Lin Mu explained.

The Fenlong Kingdom's royal family becoming their allies was something Miss Fen, the head of the Fen family did. She convinced them when Lin Mu helped resolved their bloodline problems and the same was done by her for the royal family.

Unknown to the other sects and kingdoms, the power of the Fenlong kingdom as a whole had risen in the past few months as more people had broken through to the Nascent soul realm.

This not only included the members of the merchant council but also the members of the royal family. Jingming Shang had also recruited more people into their fray, which were mostly merchants that had been troubled due to Gu Yao and his people in some way.

Secretly, their power was expanding and they did their best to keep it hidden.

"Regardless, the Fenlong kingdom is far too small to be of help to us. They barely have a couple of Nascent soul realm cultivators." One of the other elders listening spoke.

"No... there are about twenty eight Nascent soul realm cultivators there." Lin Mu corrected.

"WHAT!?" This time, all the elders were surprised.

"We have been keeping them hidden. But our power there has grown, including the royal clan and the merchants." Lin Mu said with a smile.

Patriarch You Yi looked at Lin Mu and felt like he was not looking at a young man who was barely twenty one years old, but rather at a sly old man who was at least a millennium old.

He couldn't help but feel goosebumps on the back of his neck.

'This boy... he's far too clever and his strategies are on a different level... he managed to hoodwink all the sects for all these years and even raised the power of an entire kingdom on his own.

Not to mention that's just one of the kingdom's he has under his influence...' You Yi couldn't help but think deeply.

With that revelation, the elders couldn't help but take Lin Mu far more seriously than before and had a new version of him in their eyes.

### [Chapter 914 - The Powers Of Allies](#)

"And I reckon you have more than just the Fenlong Kingdom and its clans?" The Patriarch guessed.

"I do." Lin Mu nodded his head. "The other big ally we have that is close to Gu Yao... He is Wu Hei, the son of Wu Xun and Gu Yao's Nephew." Lin Mu revealed.

"Impossible!" the elders exclaimed.

"That is the truth. I've fought Gu Yao myself and he said this to my face." Lin Mu stated firmly.

"This... this changes things..." the High elders muttered.

"Now you see what I mean by Gu Yao and the Northern Tribes having deep reach? They managed to make one of their own the minister of an entire kingdom. And this is what we know for sure, there might be more that we are in the dark about." Lin Mu stated.

"Didn't Wu Xun die a few months ago?" A junior elder asked.

"He did indeed. We got the official report too." Another senior elder replied.

High Elder Sunsen seemed to have thought of something and furrowed his brows.

"The death of Wu Xun... does this have anything to do with Wei Hei and you?" High Elder Sunsen asked.

*~Sigh~*

Hearing this, Lin Mu sighed and shook his head.

"I don't know exactly. I haven't had proper contact with Wu Hei in a long time since he is being watched by Gu Yao and his men. He broke out of Gu Yao's Human controlling blood curse and Gu Yao probably suspects this.

There is a chance that he might have killed his father, though I don't know how that would help in reducing the suspicion since he has taken over the position his father was in now." Lin Mu explained.

Hearing this, You Yi couldn't help but raise his brows.

"We can try and make contact with him through our sources in the Shuang Qian capital." You Yi spoke.



"No... that might not be good. At least not until we have all our allies under the oath. But even then there are chances Gu Yao has spies within our ranks that include the lower ranked people.

We might end up leaking his stance that way. It is better if I do it through my own contacts." Lin Mu replied.

"Very well. Do what you deem fit." Patriarch You Yi accepted.

You Yi had understood that even if Lin Mu might be young, he had a way of his own in both tactics and politics. Additionally, he had the strength to back it up, thus it could not be questioned either.

After this, they talked for a few more hours about the different matters and Lin Mu got to know about the other two top sects that were in the Long Cloud alliance as well. While he did know about the general information of the sects, the Patriarch told him about the details and how their alliance worked, and what they dealt with.

The Black Dune Sect was ranked just below the Long Cloud sect and was number six in the ranking. It was located to the north west part of the continent on the edge of a desert called as the Sha De desert.

It was the biggest desert of the Great Zhou continent, even bigger than the Broken Sand desert. Though it was more populated than the Broken Sand desert too. There were actually three small kingdoms that were located in the desert and the sect was there as well.

Plus, if one went north from the Black Dune sect, they would arrive at the Centennial Sword sect. Of course, it was not close and one would have to travel for months to arrive there.

The Black Dune sect was mostly specialized in combat and had a lot of Qi skills. Their members were said to be greatly enthusiastic about competing for strength and they had a lot of competitions.

The only reason why they were ranked lower than the Long Cloud sect was their foundation. The Long Cloud sect was older than them and had existed for longer, allowing them to have more experts.

Then the third sect in the alliance was the Light Harmony sect. This too was located in the Eastern Ming Dynasty along with the Rainbow pill sect. And similar to them, they also specialized in alchemical pills.

It was even said that the Light Harmony sect was founded by one of the disciples of the Rainbow Pill sect that was exiled from the sect. The reason for their banishment was unknown, but it is said that the disciple did not agree with the sect and decided to make his own.

The sect too rose to prominence and managed to become one of the top ten sects. It was ranked at the eighth position, just below the Ripple mist sect. Since they were specialized in alchemical pills and had access to the plethora of spirit herbs that grew in the Eastern Ming dynasty, they were in charge of producing and supplying the pills the alliance would need.

In exchange, the other two sects would also provide them with support and the resources they lacked. The Black Dune sect lacked resources the most due to their location, but made up in terms of manpower.

In fact, they had more disciples than the Long Cloud sect, but lacked strong elders. If not for that, they might have managed to take the Long Cloud sect's position.

The role of the Black Dune sect was to provide their members in case a conflict broke out and they needed more people.

The alliance of the three sects was of mutual benefit and a balance was achieved among them. While it could not be said that everyone was contributing their 100% it was still a stable alliance.

Lin Mu got several ideas after hearing it all and knew that the Kong Plane would serve as their greatest strength.

'The Black Dune sect will benefit the most and we can make use of them since they will be able to provide support quickly with their members while the Light Harmony sect can support the logistics..' Lin Mu analyzed.

### [Chapter 915 - Source Of The Horse Manticore](#)

Several hours passed by as Lin Mu and the people of the Long Cloud sect discussed the plans when finally Jingming Shang messaged again.

Lin Mu picked up the communication jade slip and found that it was humming non stop.

'Seems like he got a long message...' Lin Mu thought as he held it.

The moment he did, he could hear the long message in his mind.

"Senior Lin Mu, I've found what you wanted.

We investigated the materials of the Horse Manticore and found that many have been sold in the past two years. Of these, a majority were in the form of hair and poison. There were some more ingredients auctioned in the capital of the empire too, but its source was hidden.

We did a little indirect tracing and learned that the materials had actually come from the northern lands!" Jingming Shang said.

Hearing this, Lin Mu raised his brows, as this was not what he had expected. He knew how difficult it was to control the Horse Manticore and that transporting a beast like that over such a large distance without it losing control was even more difficult.

Generally, the beast taming abilities of this world were not that good and the methods they used took a long time to work. Thus ideally, they would have to tame the beast as soon as possible after capturing it which would be difficult if they were transporting it over a large distance.

And taming it closer to the forest was also not a viable choice, since taming them might take months to even years. Especially a beast that was already at the Nascent soul realm and had intelligence almost on the level of a human.

Thus, taming a beast like this should only be possible for someone that was located more close to the Great Southern Forest.

"Are you sure it is the Northern lands?" Lin Mu questioned.

"We were confused too at first, but then realized that it was not the true source. The materials were simply being rerouted through there." Jingming Shang said, making Lin Mu think why the man had not said that directly at start.

"So, where is the source actually coming from?" Lin Mu questioned.

"You won't believe this, but the source was relatively close to me." Jingming Shang spoke.

"Huh? What? In the Fenlong Kingdom?" Lin Mu questioned, finding it absurd.

"No... another kingdom near us... The Kingdom of Shu!" Jingming Shang Revealed.

"The Kingdom of Shu..." Lin Mu muttered and tried to think if this could be a viable location.

'While it is a little past the mid point, if there was more than just one person that brought the Horse Manticore there and then a strong person tamed it, the location is just within the limits of what is possible.' Lin Mu analyzed.

Still, Lin Mu didn't think this was all and asked more.

"Is there anything else that you found?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes! Originally, the supply for the Horse Manticore materials was steady, but since the past year it has declined. Then all of a sudden there were reports of a large shipment of materials being sent out all over the continent which was suspicious.

It was that shipment which helped me track the location." Jingming Shang replied.

While Lin Mu did find this a bit strange, he still kept it in mind, as it might come in handy later.

"Alright. That was good! I'll talk to you later." Lin Mu said before putting down communication jade slip.

Patriarch You Yi looked at Lin Mu in an inquisitive manner and knew that Lin Mu had discovered something.

"So... what did you learn?" He asked.

"I managed to track down the approximate location of the Horse Manticore materials." Lin Mu replied.

"Really? And where is it?" The Patriarch questioned.

"The Kingdom of Shu." Lin Mu answered.

"There?" Patriarch You Yi furrowed his brows.

"There is no way the royal family or any clan of that kingdom can afford to keep the Horse Manticore." One of the elders spoke.

"No, it doesn't have to be the royal family or a clan." Another elder chimed in.

Lin Mu nodded his head in this, as he found it to be close to his guess.

"It has got to be a sect that owns the Horse Manticore." Lin Mu stated.

Hearing this, You Yi had a sense of realization.

"The Mountain Brush Sect..." he muttered.

Jing Luo frowned upon hearing this as he had bad memories associated with this sect. They were one of the attackers who chased him down over fifty years ago. He had enmity with them and they were one of the sects that he would not forgive.

"It makes sense, the Patriarch of Mountain Brush Sect is at the Adult Soul Stage of the Nascent soul realm and would be able to control and tame the Horse Manticore." High Elder Sunsen spoke.

"But the question is, why would this beast be out of their sect and so close to the Hong Lin Kingdom? Ideally, they would never let such a precious source of materials out of the sect. And I don't think it would have been cheap for them to capture this beast, either." Another Elder questioned.

"We are forgetting another thing... The Mountain brush sect is under the control of Gu Yao as well." Lin Mu spoke up.

"Of course! The mountain brush sect joined the Zither Wind alliance last year!" high Elder Sunsen said out loud.

Lin Mu nodded his head in agreement.

"If that's true, then another thing would make sense. I learned that the supply of Horse Manticore materials suddenly declined a year ago. This matches the timeline of the sect joining the Zither Wind alliance." Lin Mu spoke.

"And that's not all, is it?" Patriarch You Yi asked.

"I heard from my informant that recently a large shipment of Horse Manticore Materials were sent all over the continent." Lin Mu replied.

Hearing this the elders and patriarch You Yi were surprised as they had not heard of this at all.

#### [Chapter 916 - A Potential Way To Find Gu Yao](#)

"I don't think these materials ever reached the market, though? Such a sale would have definitely had some sects involved. Even we would have been interested in buying them." An elder in charge of the repository spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head and spoke, "You are right, elder. Which is why I think these were not meant for open sale at all. But rather for some private deals..."

You Yi furrowed his brows and stroked his beard as he thought of something.

"If it is as you say, then... the places where these materials went must be to the Zither Wind alliance members?" He guessed.

"That's what I think as well." Lin Mu replied.

"If that's so, then why was the Horse Manticore near the Hong Lin Kingdom?" High Elder Sunsen questioned.

"While I can't say that accurately, my best guess is that either it was needed somewhere else or someone specific needed it for something." Lin Mu answered.

"You mean to say, the beast was specifically sent to be taken over by the invader?" You Yi asked.

"No... I don't think that's what happened. If that was so, there would have not been that other corpse before. Instead of that, I think what happened was that the Horse Manticore was supposed to be brought to someplace else, but ended up meeting the monkey beast that had been taken over by the invader.

A battle must have ensued between the person who was transporting the Horse Manticore and the infected beast. Seeing the state of the corpse, there is a chance that the beast did sustain injuries, but we could not perceive them due to how horribly it had mutated.

The injuries must have caused it to die and then the invader chose to take over the Horse Manticore." Lin Mu hypothesized.

Patriarch You Yi and the others thought over it and found it to be possible. While it took a little extra liberty in terms of events, these did seem to be the most likely events.

"Wait... if all this did happen, then doesn't it mean that Gu Yao ended up harming his own interest?" Jing Luo suddenly spoke. "If he had ordered the Horse Manticore to be moved somewhere and his allies also sent the Invader here, it would mean the ended up clashing." He added.

"That is indeed possible." Lin Mu nodded his head. "But there is another probability that the invader actually appeared there on its own. Since the main body of the invader is hidden somewhere in the void, it could have finally tracked down our world and sent more avatars."

This was the second, more alarming possibility that Lin Mu and Senior Xukong had discussed. It was far more dangerous than the Northern tribes sending the invader since it would mean there was no controlling method for it and that the true body of the invader might arrive in the world some time.

If that rule happened, then Lin Mu was unsure if even all the powers of the world would be able to stop it with their combined strength. An entire continent was sunk into the ocean the last time a pseudo immortal beast arrived in the world fully. If an invader that was many times stronger than that appeared, Lin Mu was sure the Xiaofan world would not be able to exist.

'I'd rather have the Northern Tribes bringing the invader than the invader coming here on its own terms...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Patriarch You Yi was very concerned and made some decision.

"The whereabouts of this beast and its traces are to be investigated in detail. I order the elders to look into it as soon as possible!" You Yi ordered.

"Yes patriarch!" the elders responded and three of them quickly left the hall to carry out their duties.

This also included Elder Peizhi, as it included his department.

"Can we use this to find where Gu Yao is?" Jing Luo questioned.

"Eventually, but not directly. Unless we find the person who was transporting the Horse Manticore." Lin Mu answered.

"Why do you say so?" Jing Luo questioned.

"I have a hunch that Gu Yao might have been calling the horse Manticore for his own use." Lin Mu stated.

"Hmm... he has used beasts before so there is definitely that chance." Jing Luo muttered.

It was at this time that another idea stuck Lin Mu.

"Hang on! I think I know how we can find the location of Gu Yao." Lin Mu said out loud.

"How?" Everyone said in unison.

"I don't think the Horse Manticore is the only beast Gu Yao would have asked for. There must be more... just a single beast won't even be enough if he is using as he used to consume beasts before.

And if he had reached the Dao Shell realm as Wei Hei told me before, then there is a great chance that he needs a lot of Nascent soul realm beasts to proceed ahead. We should look into the movement of such beasts." Lin Mu spoke up.

Hearing this, Patriarch You Yi had an expression of enlightenment and he nodded his head.

"Additionally, I think we can find out who might have been transporting the Horse Manticore too. We just need to figure out who is missing from the Mountain Brush sect. Even if the beast is tamed, it would have to be a strong elder that can transport the Horse Manticore.

And if he is missing, I don't doubt that they are investigating this matter too. After all, Gu Yao doesn't like it when his things go missing. He would have definitely ordered it a long time ago." Lin Mu stated.

"Very well. We can handle finding out information from the Mountain Brush sect. That much is not a problem for us. An elder of that status must be important in the Mountain brush sect and should be a high elder or even the supreme elder." Patriarch You Yi repelled.

Hearing this, Lin Mu nodded and was pleased.. He finally felt like things were heading towards a proper decision and they were one step closer to finding Gu Yao.

### [Chapter 917 - Growth Of Lin Mu's Alliance And Entering Kong Plane](#)

A couple of days had passed since Lin Mu had arrived at the Long Cloud sect and the alliance was forged.

The elders of the sect had already begun their work in full force and were investigating on multiple fronts. Lin Mu could finally see the efficiency of a top sect for the first time. There were many people they could contact and no one would really get suspicious, since it was a normal thing for them.

This gave Lin Mu another idea of how being in an organization gives authenticity to someone.

While all this was happening, he was not free either. He was either cultivating on his own as he was getting closer to the finalization of his Dao Shell's shape. He reckoned that he would be done any day now.

Jing Luo was busy as well and was making the Teleportation gate in the sect. There were some initial doubts from the sect about the security, but once Jing Luo told them, they could add their own security to that, they were fully convinced.

The Teleportation gate was built in a new area underground that was specially dug out for it. Many illustrious arrays were constructed around it along with defensive arrays that could work in both sides.

They could prevent someone from leaving the teleportation gate's area and they could also stop someone from entering it. That way they would have assurance that the enemies will not be able to flip it on them and gain an advantage.

This time, Jing Luo had the assistance of the entire formation hall of the Long Cloud sect and thus was able to build the teleportation gate in a record three days.

When this was done, Jing Luo came to Lin Mu to discuss where the other teleportation gates will be built.

"How many do you think we will need? I will prepare the components according to that." Jing Luo spoke.

"Hmm... let's see. The next we will need to build will be in the Fenlong kingdom, then there will be the two sects in alliance, the Black Dune Sect and the Light Harmony sect. After these, we might build another in the Shuang Qian kingdom, probably in the capital in a place of Wu Hei's choosing." Lin Mu replied.

"So about four more sects..." Jing Luo counted.

"We might add more, but for now, these are the ones we know for sure." Lin Mu stated.

"Very well. I'll prepare the sects for the Black Dune Sect and the Light Harmony sect first. I'll also teach the assembly to the others so that they can do it on their own once they are at those sects. It might take at least two months before those will be set up." Jing Luo estimated.

"That is a good enough time line for now. We can't really predict much, so it's best we take things one day at a time." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

Jing Luo nodded to himself before remembering something.

"What will you be doing now since the sects will take nearly a month to arrive?" Jing Luo asked.

"I might just cultivate. I'll be in the Kong plane." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmm... that might just be the best option for now. We need to grow our strengths." Jing Luo said.

"You should cultivate too. You are already at the Adult Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm, try and see if you can breakthrough to the Dao Shell realm. As for any resources, we got plenty in the Kong Plane for you to use." Lin Mu suggested.

"I do find some time to cultivate every day, but If I'm done with the teleportation gate components, I'll focus a bit more." Jing Luo replied.

"Very well. See how it works out for you." Lin Mu said with a nod before Jing Luo took his leave.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he thought over all that had happened briefly before activating the runes on his body.

~shua~

The runes glowed, and Lin Mu disappeared in a flash of light.

~whoosh~

And just as he appeared in the Kong Plane, a red blur arrived next to him.

"You're here!" Little Shrubby spoke.

"Yeah, I'll stay here for a while." Lin Mu replied.

"Great! I found some more beasts that are good!" Little Shrubby said happily.

"Good, we can have some good food tonight, then." Lin Mu said, while rubbing Little Shrubby's head.

Little Shrubby had been in the Kong plane for a while, as Lin Mu had asked the beast to explore it a bit more. A vast majority of the Kong plane was still unexplored and Lin Mu had not even seen ten percent of it.

Plus, since the formation arrays of the Kong Plane didn't have an internal teleportation function, the only way they had was to travel the normal way. Thankfully, the Communication jade slips worked good enough in the Kong Plane now so if any emergency arrived, he would know.

Additionally, the number of people in the Kong Plane had increased by quite a lot. There were other people, including King Hong and the Noon Grass sect disciples. These were the more talented people of the Hong Kingdom that were recently allowed to cultivate in the Kong Plane.

The results so far had been good and about twenty new core condensation realm cultivators had been created in the past month. As for the nascent soul realm, there were two new additions as the minister of war and minister of trade both broke through to the Nascent soul realm after cultivating in the Kong Plane for a while.

This in addition to the people of the Noon Grass sect, made it so that Lin Mu's alliance was steadily growing in power.. The Noon Grass sect disciples had some additional duties as well so they didn't have as vast gains as that of the Hong Lin Kingdom people, but after those were over and things stabilized, Lin Mu was sure there would be a lot more additions to their powerhouses.

[Chapter 918 - Shell Genesis Stage Of The Dao Shell Realm!](#)

~huu~

~huu~

~Huu~

"That was... something..." Lin Mu said between breaths.



Sweat dripped from his face and his robes stuck to his body, which was drenched wet.

"For a month, that progress is really good, I have to say." Xukong praised.

*~thud~*

Lin Mu slumped down onto the ground before laying on his back and facing the sky.

"We do have to hurry, so I must give my all." Lin Mu replied as he tried to catch his breath.

If one looked at him, they would find that the sleeves of his robes were torn apart and even other parts of his robes were ripped in places. It seemed like he had been through a battle, and his surroundings would say the same as well.

But there was one exception, there were no corpses or anything of that kind. There were just some broken trees, shattered stones and craters spread in the ground. The area of about two hundred meters around Lin Mu was basically damaged.

Looking at his hands, they were a bit bruised too and there were cuts and nicks on them.

"The new form of the Boulder Collapsing fist, though... it cannot be used in the normal manner." Lin Mu muttered.

Xukong didn't say anything and simply watched on in silence. He had been watching Lin Wu the entire month and had seen him progress greatly. Lin Mu did a lot of things and had even managed to finalized the shape of his Dao Shell in addition to making a new technique that he reckoned would come in use.

He had it for a long time in his mind, but simply didn't have the necessary time to practice it.

'I still couldn't test out the Burning Heart Sutra though...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

In all the training and cultivation he had done, he had gotten too engrossed. Plus, Xukong had often told him that when things are going in a flow, it is best not to disturb them and break the flow.

Which was true since Lin Mu had not been able to make the new technique if it were not for the stroke of inspiration he got.

After an hour of rest, Lin Mu sat up and closed his eyes.

*~huu~*

He sensed the spirit Qi within his body and circulated it. After a few cycles, the spirit Qi in the air around him started to stir as well and began to swirl around his body.

*~shua~*

A illusory outline appeared above Lin Mu's head, which was none other than the initial form of his Dao Shell. Its shape had changed from the spherical form to a more polygonal form and it was hard to describe.

Its form was very faint and thus, until it was completed, it would be hard to fully tell how it truly was. There were multiple layers to it and they could be faintly seen through the surface of it.

The spirit Qi that was swirling in the air started to pour into the Dao Shell's outline and was quickly absorbed by it. It couldn't even be seen where the spirit Qi was going as the Dao Shell quickly devoured it.

Twelve hours passed like this when finally... the base surface of the Dao Shell changed. From its almost transparent form, it now had gained a corporeal part. Even if it was just a millimeter of change, it was still enough to show that Lin Mu had successfully broken through.

"Shell Genesis Stage of The Dao Shell realm..." Lin Mu muttered.

He opened his eyes and looked at the barely noticeable change in the Dao Shell and smiled wryly.

"This is going to take a lot of spirit Qi, isn't it?" Lin Mu questioned himself.

"It will indeed. With your stores of spirit Qi and the Dantian size... I can't even estimate the spirit Qi that will take you to fully materialize the Dao Shell." Xukong truthfully said.

*~Sigh~*

"Doesn't matter. As long as I keep up, I'll reach the necessary level eventually." Lin Mu said with determination.

This was true, since Lin Mu was not going to expand his Dao Shell in the Shell Expansion stage. He was simply going to try and breakthrough to the Dao Treading Realm after the Shell Completion stage.

And for him that has always had a stable foundation, the Shell Completion stage was as good ready to break the moment he reached it. Other cultivators would have to spend years solidifying their cultivation base and rectifying the mistakes they may have made.

Different cultivation techniques brought different flaws and effects that changed this time required by them greatly. But for Lin Mu, who never practiced one from the start, it was a non-requirement.

The aura emanating from Lin Mu's body also changed subtly and became more pronounced. But just a minute later, the Dao Shell returned back to Lin Mu's body and it was as if his cultivation base quickly regressed.

If one felt him right now, they would think that Lin Mu was simply in the nascent soul realm.

His control over aura and spirit Qi fluctuation too improved along with his breakthrough, though it was not as noticeable to himself. But Xukong did perceive it.

'The more he progresses, the more he gets in tune with the world. I wonder if he can reach the point of 'world and man as one'.' Xukong thought to himself.

He often wondered how Lin Mu would progress if he did not have to deal with the troubles of the world.

'Placing him in one of the Immortal courts would be enough to make him a great immortal in just a few millennia. Unfortunately, fate has different plans for him. These are the tribulations set by fate and he has to go through them if he wants to grow his providence...' Xukong thought with hope.

Lin Mu wanted to continue cultivating for longer, but he was interrupted by the humming of the Jade Slip.

He knew right then and there what must have happened.

"Are they here?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes.. It is time..." Jing Luo answered.

### [Chapter 919 - Attacked!](#)

Getting the answer from Jing Luo, Lin Mu decided to leave right away.

*~BOOM~*

He stomped his foot on the ground and shot up, creating a crater on the ground. Drawing an arc in the air, Lin Mu descended towards a lake below him.

*~Swoosh~*

Flames started burning on his body and quickly turned the tattered robes he was wearing into ash.

*~SPLASH~*

Finally, he fell into the water with a splash and disappeared. When he reappeared though, he was standing in his courtyard and was dressed in some fresh robes. He took a look in the bronze mirror kept on the shelf and quickly took out a ribbon before tying his hair back.

Usually, he kept his hair open, but decided that since he would be meeting up with the other two sects, it was better to be a bit presentable.

"Let's head to the hall..." Lin Mu muttered as he stepped out of the courtyard and flew towards the main hall of the sect.

He reached there in less than a minute and saw it being populated by a lot of people he had not seen before. They were wearing different types of robes and Lin Mu guessed that they should be the elders of the two other sects of Long Cloud alliance.

The people of the Black Dune sect were wearing loose robes with hoods at the back, while the people of the Light Harmony Sect wore yellow and white robes with a leaf pattern on the back.

This was the general design of the robes, and depending on the status of the members, they had some minor differences. Lin Mu saw two men talking with Patriarch You Yi and guessed that they should be the patriarchs of the two sects.

The Patriarch of the Black Dune sect was not wearing a hood, and his face could be fully see. He looked to be a little older than middle aged and had some scars on his face and neck.

While the Patriarch of the Light Harmony sect was an old man that looked to be in his sixties. He was not as old liking as Patriarch Hua and could be considered to be a junior among the other patriarchs.

Even the Black Dune sect patriarch that looked younger than the Light Harmony Sect Patriarch was older than him.

Lin Mu's arrival did not go unnoticed by the others either, and they took a look at him as well.

"Hahaha, Patriarch You Yi was not lying. The young man is indeed talented." The Patriarch of the Light Harmony sect said genially.

The Black Dune sect Patriarch however, frowned.

"Young man..." He spoke, catching Lin Wu's attention. "TAKE MY BLOW!" The patriarch suddenly yelled before punching out.

*~BOOM~*

The elders in the room were all pushed back a few steps as an illusory figure of a bull shot out of the Black Dune Sect's Patriarch. Lin Mu's eyes went wide, as he had not expected this at all.

"What in the world..." Lin Mu said as he directly disappeared.

*~CRASH~*

The illusory bull ran forward and ended up crashing into the walls of the hall and fading away. If it were not for the fact that the walls were very strong and layered with defensive and durability formation arrays, there was no chance they would have survived.

Jing Luo stared daggers at the Black Dune sect patriarch and had already drawn out several spirit weapons.

"What is the meaning of this!?" He questioned.

But the patriarch did not respond at all, simply looking for Lin Mu.

*~shing~*

"Yes... what is the meaning of this?" A voice asked from behind the man.

He felt a cold edge at the back of his neck and realized that there was a sword resting there. The elders who saw it all were stunned.

"H-how... how did he get there?" someone wondered.

Lin Mu was standing right behind the black Dune sect patriarch and had the short sword at the man's neck. The man tried to move, but felt the sword press harder on his skin.

Surprisingly, the sword could not cut it even though it was a high grade spirit sword. Lin Mu took note of it and sensed the faint spirit Qi circuits flowing over the man's skin.

'A defensive technique... not on the level of mortal strengthening scripture, but still rather strong.' Lin Mu guessed.

"Lower your sword, junior Lin Mu." The Patriarch of the Light Harmony sect spoke.

"Yes, please do. This is simply the way Patriarch Shandian is. He likes to test people and only if he finds them worthy enough will he deal with them." You Yi explained.

Lin Mu narrowed his eyes while Jing Luo looked on awkwardly. He had done something similar when he first met Lin Mu, though the circumstances were also different back then so he couldn't exactly tell if it was even appropriate in this setting.

"Fine... but know that I do not like acts like these. You wanna test me and spar? That's okay. But if you do something like this again, I will not hesitate!" Lin Mu sternly said.

It was one of the things that Lin Mu hated. He was trying to forge an alliance and acts like these only lowered his confidence in people. Jing Luo had been trying to get him to have faith in people more and allow them to do their part, but things like his only made that difficult.

Lin Mu sheathed the short sword, but did not store it in the ring like usual. Sliding it down the side of his waist, the sword quickly tied itself to the waistband.

The Black Dune sect patriarch looked at Lin Mu with an equally stern expression for a few seconds before it drastically changed.

"AHAHAHA! GOOD! GOOD!" He laughed out loud, completely changing his demeanor.

"Why don't you join my sect? You'll be the next patriarch." He offered, shocking everyone in the hall.

Hearing this Lin Mu was completely taken aback and didn't know how to react.

"Wha..."

#### [Chapter 920 - An Astounding Offer](#)

Lin Mu had thought of many ways that today might go, but getting an offer to become the heir of a sect was not one of them.

"You want me to become your disciple? I don't think that's possible. I already have a master." Lin Mu replied.

"Oh, you don't have to be my disciple. It's clear that your master is... far better than me. You simply have to become a member of my sect and the position of the patriarch will be yours the moment you reach Dao Treading realm." Patriarch Shandian said with a smile.

"That..." Lin Mu was even more lost.

*~Sigh~*

You Yi rubbed his forehead as if knowing something like this was expected.

"Hey! No fair. I didn't even get to offer my position." The Patriarch of the Light Harmony sect spoke.

"Huh?" Lin Mu looked on weirdly.

"I offer the same thing. Become part of my sect and you will be the next patriarch. Additionally, you can marry as many female disciples as you want. We have some really nice beauties in the sect." The Light Harmony sect Patriarch explained. "Oh, and resources are implied. You will get them as the chief disciples, anyway. All that you need. We are specialized in alchemical pills, so it should help your cultivation a lot." He added.

"W-why? You don't even know me?" Lin Mu questioned, finding it all absurd.

"We know enough. We have been talking with Patriarch You Yi and Patriarch Hua for a while now and got to somethings. And they are enough to deem you worth." The Light Harmony sect Patriarch answered.

"Not even a century old and already at the Dao Shell realm. Just that alone is enough to put you at the top of our world. I dare say that even the ancestors who became immortals cannot compare to you." Patriarch Shandian stated.

Lin Mu looked towards Patriarch You Yi with an inquisitive expression and the man sighed.

"I asked them to do all this after we finished the alliance ceremony, but... *~Sigh~* We've already managed to verify a lot of your claims about the world and the invader. Hence, we now have a great base to trust you.

And adding your qualification as a cultivator and the world's ordained itself, no sect will deny you from becoming their heir." Patriarch You Yi explained.

"Just from this? Aren't I still wanted by the other sect and even the top sects?" Lin Mu said, thinking that it was all too quick.

"Perhaps you don't understand... they are simply fools who don't know better. But once they do manage to figure out the truth, they will leave no stone unturned to bright you into their fold." You Yi replied.

"And if that does not happen... they will quite possibly try to get rid of you." He warned.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows and couldn't help but think.

"He is right, you know?" Xukong finally spoke. "You are a very valuable commodity to the sects now. And if they can't have you, they won't want others to have you either."

Lin Mu heard his words and thought over it for a few seconds before looking at the three patriarchs.

"Hypothetically, I accept any one of yours offer... won't that mean the other sects will turn hostile, anyway?" Lin Mu asked. "We would just be back to square one then, won't we?"

"That is indeed true. But as long as we are in an alliance, they won't do much. We are already in opposition to the zither wind alliance and they are in the control of Gu Yao, so they are out of the equation for you.

As for the top sects... they might offer you similar terms, but they will not give you the position of the patriarch with assurance. They might make you one of the candidates and you will have to prove your capability there.

The top sects have a different method of choosing their patriarchs and it is not done by the members. Let's just say there is no human intervention in it. Thus, even if they want you to be the heir, they can't." You Yi explained.

Lin Mu thought over it, but had already known his answer.

"And I'm guessing you want the same from me too... Patriarch You Yi?" Lin Mu asked.

"Well... yes. But I'm not as shameless as these two to act without prudence and was waiting for the right time for it." You Yi replied.

The two patriarchs didn't even deny his word and simply looked on with shameless smiles.

"So what do you say? Join my black dune sect. While we don't have the same amount of pills, we do have a lot of Qi skills and techniques you can freely learn. As for the women, that's a given. You don't even have to marry them. Female disciples of my sect like powerful men, so they will be willing to be with you anyways." Shandian offered.

"That..." Lin Mu felt awkward, but knew it was best to end it here.

*~huu~*

He took a deep breath and closed his eyes for a few seconds. All the elders watched on in anticipation, wondering what Lin Mu's answer would be. If they were honest, they would jump on the offer if they were given it without hesitation.

The position of a patriarch was not something that could be given easily, and yet Lin Mu was getting it. They themselves would have shed blood for their sects for hundreds of years and still might not get the chance.

The high elders couldn't help but feel their faces twitch and one of them in particular, High Elder Bugi was the most envious.

Jing Luo though, was chuckling inside and was trying to hide his laugh, knowing exactly what Lin Mu's answer would be.

'You fools are in for disappointment. Someone like him cannot be limited to a world like ours. Just his master alone is probably enough to make him deny everyone. All that you offer cannot be enough for him. He can probably obtain all that on his own either way..' Jing Luo rightfully thought.