

Walker 941

[Chapter 941 - Into The Cauldron](#)

"It's good that they finally finished setting up the teleportation gates. This will greatly save us time when we need to move around." Lin Mu muttered to himself after seeing the messages.

Overall, there were now eighteen teleportation gates that had been set up. Other than the ones in the Fenlong kingdom, the Hong Lin Kingdom, the Noon Grass sect, Light Harmony Sect, Black Dune sect and the Long Cloud sect, there were twelve more.

These were all set strategically according to what was suggested by the many elders that they now had to support. Overall, from what Lin Mu could now tell, they had a really good reach in at least fifty percent of the Great Zhou Continent.

The only areas where there were no teleportation gates were in the Northern lands where Gu Yao's influence was strong, with the exception of the Eastern Ming Dynasty since the Light Harmony Sect existed there.

There were also no teleportation gates in the south western part of the continent where the Zither wind sect, and the West Ocean sect were located. Those were actually within the scope of the choice for a teleportation gate, but Jing Luo and the rest couldn't find a location that would be safe enough for it.

Jingming Shang was working to get a good location for them that would be hidden as a merchant outpost or a storage warehouse. But with Gu Yao having many spies, the process was a bit difficult as they needed to keep everything safe from even those that were free from Gu Yao's influence, as they could still reveal things unknowingly.

Though Lin Mu was content with the current situation, as it was already many times better than a few months ago.

The second message that he saw in the jade slip was about the Kushao ruins. Lin Mu had told the sects about what had happened at the ruins and its truth. Plus Ku Waowen had corroborated the facts as well, making them lose all the doubts.

This was of course, a shocking revelation to the sects and they had not expected there to be such a conspiracy. The power of the beasts that were there was also quite dangerous and if it were not for Lin Mu destroying the large source of the impure Yin Qi, there was a great chance many stronger Dao Treading realm beasts might have been born.

Thankfully though, with the help of all the top sect people that were there that day, the Kushao ruins were fully cleared out and the remains of the people inside were also retrieved.

It was one of the things that the top sects had wanted to do for many centuries now and they had finally managed to finish that. Additionally, it served as closure for those that had lost their families and members to the ruins.

Most that were in this group were those of the older generations and the ones that had become elders thus, it was overall a good thing as it ended up improving Lin Mu's reputation with the elders.

All those that were identified were given proper funerals as for those that were destroyed beyond recognizing were still given a decent burial.

While the top three sects had not been told about the secret teleportation formation array that was hidden there, the Long Cloud alliance knew of it now. And they were very terrified of something like that.

If there was another such teleportation array within the Great Zhou continent, they all knew just how big of a security risk it was. Thus, one of the goals they had set up was to try and find any such areas with spatial disturbances around them.

And doing this actually turned out to be a safe choice for them as well, such that Gu Yao would not sense anything. This was because there was already an order given out by the Sky Precepts sect to check for spatial disturbances many years ago.

While the other top sects didn't have to fully follow this order, and had mostly ignored it till now, the Long Cloud alliance now had a very good excuse to use it. Additionally, it helped increase the interaction with the Sky Precepts sect too.

After being done with reading it all, Lin Mu took a deep breath, feeling the weight of all that had happened and all that had yet to come.

'We've come a long way...' Lin Mu thought to himself as he looked at the boiling cauldron of liquid gold.

He felt that he was now ready to take the final plunge and floated up into the air.

"I'll be gone for a while... I don't know how long, so be careful. I don't know if I'll be able to respond to others either, so try to see if you can handle things on your own for a while." Lin Mu spoke to Little Shrubby.

"Go on, I can handle everything. You just get strong." Little Shrubby replied with confidence.

"Mm... and before I go. Take this..." Lin Mu said as he chanted the Nurturing heart sutra converting a large amount of his spirit Qi into Beast Qi.

~shua~

A steady stream of Beast Qi flew out of his hand and entered Little Shrubby's body, quickly being sucked in.

"You can also try and breakthrough to the Dao Shell realm while I'm cultivation. Maybe we'll both have a breakthrough." Lin Mu suggested.

"I'll try!" Little Shrubby said, feeling excited.

This was the highest amount of beast Qi he had gotten at once and was happy. His body's ability to handle the beast Qi had increased and thus he could take a larger amount than before now.

In fact, spirit Qi started surging from Little Shrubby's body automatically as his bloodline started to hungrily devour the Beast Qi and improve itself.

"Go on, I'll be right here." Little Shrubby said as he laid just a few meters from the cauldron.

Lin Mu nodded his head and descended into the cauldron.

~hiss~

"See you in a bit... my friend..."

[Chapter 942 - The Final Stage Of The True Gold Body Forging Arts](#)

The moment Lin Mu touched the surface of the Liquid Gold, he felt the difference.

It was dense enough that his body was repulsed by it a bit. If it were not for the fact that he had already absorbed a relatively high amount of gold in his body, he might not have even been able to sink into the liquid gold.

After all, the density of gold was way higher than that of the human body, making it close to impossible to sink into it.

Even then, the density of the liquid gold in the cauldron was way higher than the gold Lin Mu had refined before this. Thus he had to force his way into it. If he didn't put a constant pressure, he would be pushed out of the gold.

Thankfully, his body was no longer affected by the heat of the gold and could withstand it with ease. The previous two steps had increased his defense to handle that much with ease.

'Now to wait till it solidifies, so I don't need to constantly keep on pushing myself down.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The volume of gold in the cauldron was more than double Lin Mu's original volume, which meant that he was fully immersed in it and could sit cross legged inside it. This was also how it was described in the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

He was supposed to be fully 'encased' in the gold once it cools and solidifies. Only after that happened was he supposed to start cultivate with the mnemonic of the technique. It took about three hours before the gold was fully solidified.

Lin Mu was sure that there were some qualitative changes that had happened to the gold as normal gold should solidify way faster than this. Though once it did, Lin Mu started cultivating almost immediately.

In this step of the True Gold Body Forging Arts, the practitioner needed to cultivate within the solid gold until they could 'breathe' in it. Once they managed to reach that point, the gold would slowly started to shrink and assimilate into their bodies.

There was no time estimate to how long this would take as more than 99% of those that practiced this technique had failed, not to mention the ones that reached this step were but just a fraction of that.

Lin Mu and Xukong were discussing about it a while back and they had come to an estimation about the number of people that managed to cultivate the True Gold Body Forging Arts. They came to the assumption that there was a chance Lin Mu might have been one of the five or so people that reached this point.

This figure was due to just how high the requirements and difficulty of this technique were. For Lin Mu, the requirements were greatly lowered, but for a normal cultivator they would need a lot more resources and additional pills like the Bone Enameling pill.

The progress that had taken Lin Mu two months to reach would take others at least a year or more. Though there was still the third stage that had no time estimate as it would greatly vary depend on the individual talent and skills.

Many would simply die because they would end up suffocating inside the gold and would be far too weak to breakout themselves. Lin Mu didn't have that issue since if he wanted to he could break out of it forcefully with his power and could hold his breath for a very long time.

Time started to slowly pass as Lin Mu continued to cultivate. During this time, he discovered more things just by the things that he was experiencing.

One of the main things being, why it was mentioned in the True Gold Body Forging Arts that one had to 'breathe' though the gold.

'Gold is of the metal element which conforms to the Lungs... thus if one is able to 'breathe' in the gold, doesn't that mean their affinity to the metal element has increased?' Lin Mu thought to himself.

While this was just a theory for now, Lin Mu was sure that as long as he kept on going, he will reach the truth.

And just like that, hours turned into days, which then turned into weeks. By now, Lin Mu had entered a state of trance. In a way, he wasn't even conscious and his body had fully adapted to cultivating without any manual control.

Lin Mu could feel himself in his mind and he could feel his surrounding but he didn't have the need to control anything. To him, everything was in harmony and him controlling things would only mess it up.

Thus he let things progress as it is, and he simply stayed as he was. More time passed like this, and Lin Mu felt a bit different.

Simply staying there in his mind felt a little boring to him now, and he wondered if he could do something else at this time. And thus he decided on something that could be done with just his mind.

He would be training his spirit sense and refining it further!

Lin Mu had not done this for a long while now... at least not intentionally. His spirit sense would improve on its own slowly as his cultivation base improved and he had not needed to manually improve it before this.

But now this was the only thing he could do at this time and he decided to do it. Within his mind, his spirit sense started to reveal itself. It was as if there was infinite space within his mind and no matter how much his spirit sense expanded within it, there would always be more area to expand into.

Once the entirety of the spirit sense had appeared, Lin Mu started training it using the many methods he had now.

More time passed as Lin Mu kept both the tasks, practicing the True Gold Body Forging Arts and refining his spirit sense.

Weeks had turned into months now and Lin Mu completely lost the track of time.

[Chapter 943 - Green Loom Kingdom And New Clues](#)

While Lin Mu was busy cultivating the True Gold Body Forging Arts in the Kong Plane, a different series of events were happening in the real world.

At the Long Cloud sect, a group of powerful elders were gathered in the main hall and were conversing.

"How are the things going in the Center?" Patriarch You Yi questioned one of the elders.

"Things are going just as he planned, Patriarch. There were some hiccups, but our people managed to handle them. With the help of the teleportation gates, our response time has been reduced to nearly ten percent of what it used to be in some cases.

Even in the areas that are a bit distant, we have cut out response time by fifty percent." The elder responded.

"Good, keep that up." Patriarch You Yi replied, feeling pleased.

"You will also be happy to know that the merchant Jingming Shang has secured two areas that we can set up the teleportation gates in." Another elder chimed in.

"Oh? Please do tell." Patriarch You Yi prodded.

"Both of them are in the south western area, with one being near the West Ocean Sect's territory and the other one being near the capital of Green Loom Kingdom." The elder spoke.

"Oh? They actually managed to find a place in the Green Loom Kingdom? That's good." Patriarch You Yi replied.

"Indeed. We will now have a streaky revenue stream from there and Jingming Shang will be seeing dividends every week." The elder added.

"Good! Make sure that he has everything he needs in setting things up." Patriarch You Yi stated.

"Of course, patriarch." The elder agreed.

The Green Loom Kingdom was located to the south west of the Great Zhou Continent. It was a mid sized kingdom but was very rich due to being a major supplier of clothes to all the empire.

The Green Loom Kingdom was literally named after the many textile mills that existed in the kingdom. The soil and climate there was perfect to grow various forms of textile crops such as cotton, Spring hair reeds, and other textile fibers like silk.

They used to be a weak kingdom a long time ago, and the people living there were very poor. But it all changed when the royal family collapsed and another clan took over. This clan pursued economic and business interests instead of military power, like many others, allowing them to improve the condition of the kingdom very fast.

Of course, with money came many greedy eyes, but that was taken care of by the same thing. The Green Loom Kingdom became one of the biggest supporter of the mercenaries and rogue cultivators back then.

And once they gained more power and riches, they gained the support of one of the top sects, the West Ocean sect allowing them a firm foothold. The west ocean sect was located on the very edge of their border near the ocean and would receive tributes from them.

Thus gaining an entry point into the Green Loom Kingdom was very good for the alliance. The Green loom Kingdom exported their clothes and fabrics to the entire empire and would be used from all classes of people.

Since they exported many qualities and grades of fabrics, there were always buyers for them. It was even said that the Imperial family of the Great Zhou Empire specifically only got their fabrics from the Green Loom Kingdom.

This was the special gift that the Green Loom Kingdom would prepare for them every year and received some special benefits from the Imperial family for that.

It wasn't that these robes were just used by the mortals either, they could be used by cultivators to further refine them into spirit tools and spirit robes. Over the years, the Green Loom Kingdom had gained enough power to have their own group of specialized cultivators that made such fabrics.

With such a wide variety of products, one could imagine the demand across the empire and the cost of it as well. The further one had to import from, the higher the cost that they would have to incur.

Which was why the cost of Green Loom Kingdom Fabrics was the highest in the Northern Lands. And among the three kingdoms of the Northern lands, the highest rate was in the Eastern Ming Dynasty.

Thus if Jingming Shang managed to establish a foothold there, they could procure the fabrics for a fraction of price and sell it for a few percent lower than the others in the Eastern Ming Dynasty.

Such profits were something that even the top sects would not take lightly.

"I have something to report as well, patriarchs." An elder from the Black Dune sect spoke up.

"Please go ahead." Patriarch Shandian said.

"We have been investigating the traces of the Northern Tribes according to the clues obtained from the old woman Ku Waowen and have some leads." The Black dune sect elder repelled.

"You did?! Tell us what you found then." Patriarch You Yi said with urgency.

They had been investigating this for a while now and most of the leads had ended up being dead. The elders could only assume that the incident at the Kushao ruins had ended up alarming the Northern Tribes and they were thus left with no other choice but to hide everything and purge their traces.

Additionally, Ku Waowen did tell them that they were supposed to report to their superiors at least once a month and if they didn't, they would be assumed dead and every link to them would be cut off.

Of course, more than a month had passed since then and the Northern Tribes had evidently worked to hide their presence even more. Thus hearing that they finally had a lead was the good news they had been wanting for a while now.

"Our disciples have been sent out to find the traces of the Northern Tribe spies and one of the groups did end up suspecting a few people.. They are currently still investigating, but this is a good start for us."

[Chapter 944 - The Gu Legion's Reaction](#)

Hearing that they had finally gotten to finding some of the people, the patriarchs felt elated, but at the same time they knew it was not a matter to be excited. If anything, they needed to be far more careful than ever before.

"That is excellent. Keep us updated about everything and hopefully we can catch them unaware without any losses on our end." Patriarch Shandian spoke.

The Patriarch of the Light Harmony sect thought seemed to be thinking about something and spoke up.

"Where exactly is the location of these suspects?" Patriarch Mingliang questioned.

"It is near a town called Black Orchard in the kingdom of Shu." The Black Dune sect elder answered.

"The kingdom of Shu again huh... seems like we should consider it one of the kingdoms lost for now." Patriarch Mingling replied.

"That will be a alarming choice... but also a cautious one." Patriarch You Yi responded.

"At the current times, it is best we think a few steps ahead. Especially since we already know the Mountain brush sect is under the control of Gu Yao." Patriarch Mingling stated.

"Hmm... it shall be done, then. Only those that are safe from the control of Gu Yao will be allowed to operate there other than the elders at the Dao Shell realm and above." Patriarch You Yi declared.

With the orders given, the elder went to do his duty while the discussion in the hall continued. It was evident that the choice Lin Mu had made was right. Now even in his absence, the duties that he was burdened with were being carried out.

Still there were other forces in action that would not simply sit and watch.

...

In a desolate forest stood a large pavilion surrounded by hundred of buildings. All of the buildings had a crest hanging from them that held the character 'Gu' written on them.

The pavilion from outside looked rather simple, having almost no decorations, only defensive structures around it like walls and many formation arrays that protected it. Even the interior of the pavilion was empty, having only a single large hall.

And in this hall sat a man. His dark hair was long enough to reach the floor with him sitting down and he had a red mark on his forehead. It looked like a rune of some kind, but could not be understood.

Waves of spirit Qi regularly erupted from the man and spread in the surroundings, only to be blocked by the barrier formations of the pavilion.

The man had his eyes closed and his breathing was even. He seemed to be rather peaceful, but suddenly his eyes opened. His pupils were dark like the night and shone in the dim hall under the light of the formations.

"Why have you come?" The man questioned in a deep voice.

"My lord," A person dressed in black robes appeared in the hall.

He was wearing a mask and looked to be rather tall.

"A few pests have been buzzing around one of our sites." The masked man spoke.

"And why is it that you need to come and disturb me for that?" The black haired man asked, his tone a bit cold.

"The pests belong to the Black Dune sect. Should we follow the same protocol as before, my lord?" The masked man replied.

"... so they finally decided to act." The Black haired man said after a pause.

"What do we do, my lord? We have a lot of sensitive materials at the site currently and the our Northern Compatriots are also taking rest there." The masked man questioned.

"Seems like the time has come..." The black haired man spoke.

Hearing this, the masked man seemed to be a bit surprised as his breath fastened.

"But won't that be going against the orders of our northern compatriots?" The masked man asked, feeling doubtful.

"They have wasted our time for far too long now. I think it is in our best interest that we begin our own work. So far, we've done as they asked and gotten them the things they wanted along with the locations they wanted." The black haired man said before taking a pause.

"And since they haven't even come close to fulfilling their earlier promises... we have no obligation to continue obeying them... at least not until the next step begins." He added.

The breathing of the masked man seemed to have sped up again, and it looked like he was excited now.

"Then... shall we do 'that'?" the masked man asked.

"No, that will be for later. Once I'm done here and the formation array is completed, I will be able to breakthrough. That will be the day we will show our true force." The black haired man replied.

"I see... so we only eliminated the pests for now and send a warning?" The masked man guessed his master's thoughts.

"Indeed. Do that and send a few more warnings. The Long Cloud Alliance has been spreading its wings a little too much with the leeway we gave them. Get the Zither Wind alliance to start its opposition." The black haired man ordered.

"It shall be done!" The masked man said as he quickly stood up and flew away.

Once the masked man was gone, the Black haired man stood up and tapped his finger in the air.

~SHUA~

A formation array revealed its presence and appeared around the man. It consisted of several circles, all of which were linked by strings of runes on the ground. But the most eye catching part was the illusory figures that were there in these circles.

If someone more knowledgeable saw these figures, they would be very shocked as these figures all belonged to very influential people of the empire. Some of them even belonging to the sect patriarchs and high elders of various cultivation sects.

~Humm~

But along with the circles, the illusory figure of a red crystal also materialized in the black haired man's hands.

"I will soon fulfill the wishes of our ancestors, father... The entire Empire will know the name of Gu Yao then and the Gu Clan will rise once again!"

[Chapter 945 - Lin Mu Awakens And Cultivation Increase](#)

Back in the Kong Plane, time continued to pass as Lin Mu stayed in the cauldron. Days turned into nights and clouds disappeared past the horizon. Trees grew new leaves and shed the only as the seasons changed.

The finally one day, it happened...

~Huu~

The sound of a breath was heard and echoed within the cauldron. The man sitting in the cauldron opened his eyes and looked at the dark interior of it before looking up at the dark, starless sky.

"Finally..." Lin Mu let out a breath.

He flew out of the cauldron and looked at himself, finding the great difference from before. Lin Mu's skin gained a golden sheen that could be seen when light reflected off it slightly. The sheen was not fully stable and could fade in and out of the skin.

~CRACK!~

But when he finally stepped onto the ground, his feet directly sank in.

"Damn!" Lin Mu cursed as he looked at his feet, that were now buried in the rocky ground all the way to his shins.

~CRACK~ CRACK~

Lin Mu pulled his right foot out and put it on the side so that he could pull his other foot out of the ground, but doing that only made it works.

~SHATTER~

Lin Mu's right leg sank back into the rocky ground where he had stepped. Looking at the situation Lin Mu couldn't help but shake his head.

~Sigh~

"I did know this was gonna happen... but seems like I forgot..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Knowing that walking normally will not be an option for the time being, Lin Mu directly flew out using his cultivation base.

~shua~

He floated in the air and looked at this handiwork on the ground.

"How will I actually walk now?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

His weight was now enough to make his legs sink into the ground with ease. If it were some other beast, it might not have been the same since the surface area of their feet would be large.

But in the case of Lin Mu, he was still the size of a normal human and thus the pressure from his feet was enough to easily break even the rocky ground. Thinking of a solution, Lin Mu decided to try it out.

He slowly lowered himself to the ground, while still maintaining the upwards force from his cultivation base. Then he very gently laid his feet on the ground.

~Crack~

"Tch~" Lin Mu clicked his tongue as he saw the cracks spreading on the ground.

'Need to practice a bit...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He ended up spending an hour just in this, before he finally managed to reach the perfect equilibrium of upward force so that he would be able to walk normally and not crack the ground and sink in.

~Phew~

"This will take some time getting used too..." Lin Mu muttered to himself as he finally managed to walk around without breaking the ground.

Now that he had fixed the immediate problem, Lin Mu could think about other things. He looked around in search of someone but didn't see them.

"Little Shrubby?" Lin Mu called out, but didn't get a response.

Closing his eyes, a wave of spirit Qi spread out from his body like a tsunami.

~WHOOSH~

~CRACK~

Cracks started spreading simply from the pressure of his spirit Qi, as it was unleashed.

~Rustle~ Rustle~ Rustle~

The trees in the distance started shaking due to it too, as if a wind was striking them.

A few seconds later, Lin Mu opened his eyes again.

"Not within the the hundred kilometers..." He muttered.

That was right, Lin Mu's spirit sense had been strengthened and refined further and could now directly cover a range of hundred kilometers!

"The increase was certainly worth it..." Lin Mu said as he felt the increased sensitivity.

He could feel each and every creature within the range of his spirit sense and also the other objects like rocks, soil, dead trees and a lot more. But this also put another question in his mind.

"Wait... if I managed to refine my spirit sense this much... then how long has it even been?" Lin Mu questioned as his face fell.

He quickly took out the communication jade slip and checked it for messages. But as a surprise to him, it was completely blank.

"What in the world...? How are there no messages at all? Even if nothing happened, they would still be sending me weekly updates. I'm pretty sure at least a week has passed." Lin Mu said to himself in disbelief.

'My cultivation!' Lin Mu quickly checked his own body.

His spirit sense first went to his Dantian, where he saw his Nascent soul floating above his Dao Shell and the massive ocean of spirit Qi that surrounded it.

"The Dao Shell... it's more than fifty percent complete? HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

His face fell even more, as a bad feeling rose within his stomach. Lin Mu then checked his lungs to see the refinement level and saw it had been fully refined.

He had officially refined three treasured organs and was at the third level of the Five Treasures realm!

Usually Lin Mu should have been very happy with all this, but he was not. It was due to the fact that the cost of time came with these increases in power as well.

Lin Mu knew very well that it would take him a long time to progress the Shell Genesis stage of the Dao Shell realm and yet, his Dao Shell was more than half ready. It meant that a sufficient amount of time had passed for that to happen.

Even if his lungs could have been refined in a lesser time than that, Lin Mu knew for sure that his Dao Shell should have taken way longer than that.

"There is no sign of increased spirit Qi here, which means... Did the well of Slumber trigger on its own?" Lin Mu wondered.

[Chapter 946 - How Much Time Has Passed?](#)

The possibility that he might have slept for years unknowingly was terrifying to Lin Mu. Especially since he did not know what had happened to his friends and allies.

"This can't be..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

It was now that he remembered who he had with him.

"SENIOR! SENIOR XUKONG!!!" Lin Mu shouted within his mind.

Within the space of the ring, the ethereal altar dimly glowed as the streaks of spatial energy flitted across the skies. An egg gently laid on a pillow kept close to the altar, unmoving as ever.

A few hundred meters from the altar floated the figure of Xukong's avatar. He had all his eyes closed as if deep in sleep, but the spatial energy swirling around him showed that he was still cultivating.

His size seemed to have increased again, and he was now a few inches bigger than before, reaching a width of almost twelve inches. If any normal person saw a spider as big as this, they would certainly be shocked and afraid.

A frantic voice called out to Xukong, making him awaken. His eight eyes opened up as he looked at the emptiness of the space.

"Lin Mu?" Xukong called out, feeling a bit confused.

But the confusion was momentary as he realized the current situation.

"I can sense the outside again..." Xukong muttered.

"Senior!" Lin Mu called again.

"I can hear you now, I just woke up too." Xukong replied.

"Senior, we might be in great trouble... I reached three treasured organs and my Dao Shell is nearly sixty percent complete as well!" Lin Mu quickly said.

"Seems like we are indeed in trouble..." Xukong said, understanding the implications of it all.

"Senior, do you know how long it has been?" Lin Mu asked.

"No... shortly after you entered your state of trance, I realized I couldn't talk to you nor could I feel the outside world. Your mind had sort of 'closed' which locked me out as well. Thinking that this might be temporary since we had been through this before, I too focused on cultivating." Xukong said before taking a quick look at himself.

'And it seems like I'm in the same position...' he thought to himself, noting his increased size.

"So we have no idea..." Lin Mu said in a lost tone.

He stayed in the same state for a couple of seconds, before he took out the jade slip and tried to contact others. He had already tried to contact Little Shrubby, but did not receive any reply, making Lin Mu think that he might be too far from him.

Lin Mu could still feel his presence though and knew that little Shrubby was alive at the very least. But he couldn't say the same about the others. He had already started to regret doing what he had done.

His unease was apparent on his face until finally he received a response.

"Senior Lin Mu? SENIOR LIN MU!" A voice said from the jade slip.

"Hua Wu!" Lin Mu said out loud.

He had tried contacting Jing Luo, Jingming Shang and a few others, but seemingly no one had been reachable. Going through his list of people, finally it was Hua Wu that ended up responding.

"You're finally awake, senior! We came to check up on you many times, but you were in that strange gold ball. Things started to go wrong since the last year, so we got busy and only Little Shrubby checked up on you from time to time." Hua Wu said in a concerned tone.

"Wait! wait! How long has it exactly been since you guys last heard from me?" Lin Mu questioned.

"You don't know? It has been two years!" Hua Wu answered.

"Two years..." Lin Mu repeated. "The well of slumber truly activated..."

Lin Mu didn't know how it could have happened, but considering the state he was in, he realized even if the bloodline skill truly did activate, he would have had no way to know that.

'Why am I not feeling hungry, then?' Lin Mu wondered.

"It's the vitality in your body after reaching the Three Treasured organs. It is still enough to make you feel normal for now." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu took note of that, before asking a string of questions to Hua Wu. He had hundreds of them and Hua Wu explained everything to him. But the more Lin Mu learned, the more his face fell.

Until finally he heard something that turned his face cold. A serious expression appeared on his face as a hint of anger flickered in his eyes.

"I'm coming." Lin Mu said plainly before putting away the jade slip.

~shua~

A new set of robes appeared on his body automatically as he stepped firmly on the ground.

~BOOM~

A crater was created from that single step as Lin Mu shot forward like a cannonball. He flew through the sky at great speed; faster than ever before. The trees below him bent from the winds generated by his flight and the beasts that were nearby ran away, feeling terrified.

Lin Mu flew nonstop, his destination the plane nexus of the Kong plane where all the teleportation gates were located. He looked at the over thirty teleportation gates and quickly found the one he wanted.

~shua~

Injecting a stream of spirit Qi into the formation arrays, Lin Mu activated the teleportation gate and walked through it, disappearing in the portal.

In the Xiaofan world, at a certain forest, a battle was currently raging.

Dead bodies and body parts could be seen strewn about as the sounds of weapons clashing could be heard.

~clang~ clang~ clang~

~DENG~

~Boom~

Various Qi skills were used, and fires and wind raged.

The participants of the battle seemed to be many. Some wore the robes of sects, while some just seemed to be dressed in random robes not belonging to any organization. Then on the other side were people dressed in black robes that hid their faces.

Some of them wore masks while some simply covered them with cloth.. But the one thing that was common in all was the character 'Gu' written on their backs.

[Chapter 947 - A Harsh Battle - I](#)

"How did they find us this quickly?" A Long Cloud sect disciple questioned.

~DENG~

Another disciple shot a arrow that clashed with the shield of a Gu Legion member that was about to attack his companion.

"Focus on the fight! We'll leave reasoning to the elders!" The Long Cloud disciple with the bow shouted.

"DAMMIT!" The first disciple crushed the leg of the Gu legion member that had stumbled. "This was supposed to be a normal mission. We were simply supposed to protect the supplies being transported."

Some distance away from them, a couple of elders of the Long Cloud sect were fighting as well.

"Cloud python Whip!" The elder chanted as a python made out of clouds whittled at the barrier of a Gu clan member.

Both of them seemed to be in the Nascent soul realm and their strengths were almost equal.

"The Long Cloud alliance will soon know its place. You have had too much fun in the past few months, humph!" the Gu Legion member said as he threw out small knives that passed through the barrier as if it didn't exist.

The knives split apart like dandelions and multiplied. The Long cloud sect elder's eyes went wide as he moved the cloud whip around at a blinding speed.

~Shua~ Shua~ shua~

But as a surprise to him, the small knives passed through his Qi skill, making him realize that they were illusory.

"ARGH!" The elder cried in pain as a knife struck his leg.

Blood spilled from the man's calf where the knife had stuck. He had managed to dodge or block most of the knives, but this one had managed to slip through.

"You're done. It's best you submit to our lord Gu Yao. Then perhaps you might be spared and will get to see the glory of the Gu Legion in the future soon enough." The Gu legion member said proudly.

It was evident that there was no fear in his eyes despite the fierce battle that was underway. There were tens of people dying from both the sides, and yet no one could pay much attention due to being engrossed in the battle.

About half a kilometer from this place, another group of disciples was fighting. They were fighting in a different manner than the others and seemed to be cooperating properly and not fighting individually.

"Move in the square pattern!" the leading disciple ordered.

He was at the peak of the core condensation realm while the other disciples with him were all at the core condensation realm as well. But the ones they were fighting were stronger than them.

Going against them were four Gu legion members, with one of them being at the Infant Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm while the rest were at the core condensation realm. Normally such a line up would mean the death of all those with the weaker cultivation base.

But this time, the Long Cloud disciples seemed to be having the upper hand.

The disciples all executed a few hand seals as formations lit up around them.

~shua~?

"NO!!!!" The nascent soul realm Gu Legion member shouted in an unwilling tone.

"Breakthrough the restriction and pull the elder out!" the core condensation members yelled as they tried to attack the barrier.

But their effort was for naught as the formation array showed its full power and spirit Qi stirred like a grinder.

~DENG~ DENG~ DENG~

Spirit Qi turned into sharp blades like sabers and sword before cutting apart the Nascent soul realm Gu Legion member into chunks of meat.

"GET THE REST OF THEM TOO!" Having killed the strongest foe, the Long Cloud disciples were now free to kill the rest.

One of the disciples threw a javelin that skewered through the neck of a Gu Legion member, while another one directly used his fists to break the neck of another. But during this time, a mishap happened and one of the female disciples made a mistake.

"Ming Ming! NO! GET BACK!" The leader shouted, but it was too late.

"You all won't get out alive either! AHAHAHA!" A Gu legion member shouted madly as he tightly hugged the Female Long Cloud disciple even though he was currently being stabbed by her sword.

"DETONATE!" The man shouted as a strong spirit Qi wave emanated from his body before being pulled back.

~BOOM~

His core suddenly ignited and released a power that he would have been incapable of doing on his own.

~SPLAT~

The female disciple didn't even get to say a few last words before she was blowing to bits and her body parts were all thrown across the forest. The disciples that tried to save her were not safe either, with two of them losing a limb and being thrown away.

The leading disciple gritted his teeth as he saw the scene of slaughter.

"Gu Legion! I'll eradicate every last one of you!" The disciple swore as embers of rage sparked in his eyes.

This was but just one of the tragedies of the battle that were witnessed by the many members here today. And it possibly won't be the last one either. The battle had already been going for over six hours now and even the stronger disciples with larger spirit Qi reserves were getting tired.

The elders that were battling other Nascent soul realm Gu Legion members were exhausted as well and had used up a significant amount of their spirit Qi. They were currently outnumbered by the Gu Legion members, and they didn't know how long they could last.

"Heavens! Just how many of them are coming now? Were they already pinning to attack us from the start?" One of the elders couldn't help but question.

"No matter what, we have to hold on. We can't let the sacrifices of our disciples go to waste like this." The elder who seemed to be the strongest of them all spoke.

But even he was only at the Child Soul stage of the nascent soul realm.

"AHAHAHA! This is all futile effort," A hoarse laughter was heard from the distance as a Dao Shell realm spirit Qi wave was felt.

[Chapter 948 - A Harsh Battle - II](#)

Sensing the spirit Qi fluctuations coming from the distance and the voice, the faces of the Long Cloud elders fell.

They were all Junior elders of the Long Cloud sect and were at the nascent soul realm. There were currently no high elders near them and even if they wanted to ask for help from them, they won't be able to arrive in time necessarily.

"What do we do now, elder Liu Cai?" one of the elders asked as he gripped the spirit axe in his hand tightly.

"What else? WE FIGHT ON! We'll explode out nascent souls if we have to, if it means killing that man!" The leading elder said with determination.

Hearing this, the others seemed to be a bit hesitant, but the cries of the disciples coming from all around them made them strengthen their resolve.

"Looks like today is the day that I have been preparing for. I'll be going ahead first, elder Liu Cai." A white haired elder said in a melancholic tone.

He was the oldest looking one among them, but was only at the Infant Soul stage of the nascent soul realm. There were also several injuries on his body, the most severe one of them being a large one in the side of his chest that revealed his bleeding lungs inside.

Hearing the words of the white haired elder, the others looked on solemnly.

"If we live past today, the Long Cloud sect will never forget your contribution, Elder Sai." Elder Liu Cai said.

~WHOOSH~

"If your melodrama is over, then be ready to die!" The Dao Shell realm member of the Gu legion finally arrived.

Unlike the others, he was not wearing a mask and his face was open for all to see. Though his robes were the same as all others, being black with the Gu Legion character imprinted on the back.

"Your opponent is me!" Elder Sai shouted as he ate a pill.

The pill was pitch black in color and let out a foul smell. If anyone were to smell it they would find their head feeling dizzy and if they smelled it for a bit too long, they might just fall unconscious.

And yet, Elder Sai ate it as if it was nothing.

"HAAA!" Elder Sai yelled as a newfound power coursed through his body.

Black veins popped all over his body and his flesh started to shrink rapidly. By the time he was halfway to the Dao Shell realm cultivator, he was all but skin and bones.

"I wasn't as talented as others, but I still managed to become an elder of the Long cloud sect. With all that the sect has given me and nurtured me, it is now my time to pay back." Elder Sai said to himself as a fierce glint appeared in his eyes.

~PSHHHH~

He ruthlessly bit off his own tongue and spat out dense blood essence from his mouth. The blood essence was heavy like mercury and filled with dense vitality. Having done that, the chest of the old man burst open and from it shout out a small infant.

The infant was barely the size of a palm, but when it passed through the blood essence, it rapidly grew and aged in the blink of an eye. From an infant, it turned into a young man.

The Dao Shell realm Gu legion expert who saw all this felt danger in that moment as his pupils constricted.

"Don't you dare—" but before he could say much, the nascent soul reached him.

"CLOUD FATHER ERADICATION!" The nascent soul of Elder Sai shouted before exploding.

~KABOOM!~

The sound of the explosion was loud enough to be heard for several tens of kilometers and all those that were within its range had to forcefully shut their ears for the fear of going deaf.

The ones that were right next to it though, had it the worst and their ears were already bleeding. The Long Cloud sect elders who knew what was going to happen were a bit prepared though, and were able to defend to a certain extent.

Dense cloudy smoke filled an area of five hundred meters, making anyone hard to see what was happening there. Even the spirit sense was useless here as the cloudy smoke was filled with spirit Qi fluctuation that were chaotic enough to injure it.

"He did it..." Elder Liu Cai said in a low voice.

His expression was that of seriousness, yet a hint of respect could be seen in his eyes. The other elders that were with him had similar expressions, though there was also worry mixed in with that.

"I never thought I would ever get to see the Cloud Father Eradication being used in my life. And now I have..." One of the elders muttered.

"Though it might have been best if we never got to see it." A female elder added. "The cost of it is too great."

~woong~

But just as they said this, a wave of energy was felt coming from the center, alarming them all.

"No way... it can't be..." Elder Liu Cai gasped.

"FUCK YOU, LONG CLOUD SECT!" A hoarse voice yelled as a gust of wind forcefully pushed away all the cloudy smoke.

"He's really alive!" Elder Liu Cai said in an astonished tone.

"How can he live after that exposition of the Cloud Father Eradication? Even a Shell completion stage Dao Shell realm expert would die." The female elder said as dread appeared in her eyes.

~Kacha~

The sound of glass breaking could be heard as a small object crumbled in the hands of the Dao Shell realm expert.

"You all piss me off like hell! You even made me use up the Great Rampart Talisman..." The Dao Shell realm expert cursed.

Seeing that the self sacrifice of their companion and fellow elder had gone to waste, the Long Cloud sect elders didn't know what to do but feel lost.

"You shall all pay for this with your lives and your disciples' lives! Your souls and bodies will strengthen our lord!" The Dao Shell realm expert laughed out loud.

[Chapter 949 - Lin Mu's Descent](#)

Despair could be seen on the faces of the Long Cloud Sect elders. The sacrifice of the elder had ended up with nothing and they didn't know what they could do.

"We won't go down this easily!" Elder Liu Cai said with anger and threw out six talismans of his own.

~Boom Boom~

The talismans were explosive ones that could create small explosions along with a lot of smoke. Elder Liu Cai knew that this was obviously not going to do much, the reason he used it was to distract the man for a bit.

"NOW!" Elder Liu Cai shouted.

The other elders split up before attacking with their weapons. The weapons carried clouds with them and had far greater might than normal.

"Cloud Armament Slaughter Formation!"

The weapons joined together and weaved to form a net that restrained the Dao Shell realm expert. The weapons clashed with the hands of the Dao Shell realm expert and were deflected off. The brows of the Long Cloud sect elders furrowed but they didn't stop there. They kept on attacking incessantly and tried to hold the man off.

"Don't stop for even a moment!" Liu Cai shouted.

The Dao Shell Realm expert got angrier by the minute and was pissed off due to the attacks. When he came here he was fully confident that he would be able to handle these few Long Cloud sect elders with ease.

'Dammit, if the others find out about this I'll lose all face. I already said to them I'll win this with ease and the lord will have plenty of bodies to sacrifice.' The Dao Shell realm expert thought.

He waved his hand as a black halberd appeared in his hand.

"ENOUGH!" The Dao Shell realm expert shouted.

~SHING~

The halberd tore through the air as if it were a fabric and then stuck the weapons of the Long Cloud sect elders.

"ARGH!" The elders cried out in pain.

Blood spilled as deep cuts were made on their bodies. Some were slashed on their hands while some were slashed on their torso. But no matter what, this was a severe injury for them. Not to mention just this one attack had turned the tide of the battle.

For a minute there they were suppressing the Dao Shell realm elder all on their own but now, the battle had flipped.

'Are we really this mismatched?' the elders thought.

~tch~

"You all are really annoying. Seems like I'll just have to kill you. While I would have preferred if you were alive, the lord shouldn't mind as long as I compensate quality for quantity." The Dao Shell realm elder stated with a smirk.

"No..." Liu Cai muttered in an unwilling tone.

He wanted to resist but the pressure exuding from the Dao Shell realm expert was now strong enough to freeze him. Not to mention the force of the previous attack had broken their formation that sent their spirit qi into chaos. Controlling it was now difficult and they needed a moment to do that.

But the Dao Shell realm elder wasn't going to give them this chance after all.

"Now die!" The Dao Shell realm expert declared as he raised his halberd to the sky.

Energy gathered on the blade of the halberd as its size increased by two times. An illusory figure of an ape appeared on top of it exuding a crushing presence. It was evident that this was no normal spirit weapon and was a high grade spirit weapon that had its own skill.

The eyes of the Long Cloud sect elders turned dull as they awaited their end.

~KABOOM!!!!~

~KACHA~

But the end they were expecting never came.

"W-Wha..." The elder's jaw was left open as they gazed upon the scene in front of them.

"How?... who?" Liu Cai questioned in confusion.

A mass of dust had covered the area in front of them, making it hard for them to see. But what they could tell was that there was now another person there in front of them. The appearance of this person had evidently stopped the attack that was about to kill them. But the question was who could do this.

"Did the high elders arrive?" The female Long Cloud sect elder wondered.

~SHING~

From the dusty cloud, they could see a golden shine. It was very eye catching and made them wonder what it was.

~whoosh~

A Gust of wind blew from the center of the dust cloud as the scene finally cleared up for all. There they saw what would be forever be imprinted in their minds and be forever be carried in their memories. They would probably tell this story for years to come and their descendants would take this day as a legend.

The person standing there was of course none other than Lin Mu. His body glimmered with a golden sheen under a ray of sunlight and made him look like a god's idol. His body had gotten bulkier than

before and he had gotten an inch taller as well. The outline of his muscles was visible under his robes and a dominating presence was felt from him.

His eyes were cold as they glanced at everything. But what was even more shocking was what was below him.

"T-the... The Dao Shell realm expert of the Gu Legion, he... he's dead?" One of the Long Cloud sect elders muttered.

The others too saw the utterly crushed body of the Dao Shell realm expert. It looked as if he had been pressed into the ground from the top of his head and was flattened into a pancake. Blood, guts and brains were splattered around his flattened body as if he were a watermelon that were smashed.

But that was not all as all this was within a crater that had been created around the dead body and Lin Mu. Simply Lin Mu's weight was enough to crush the man into a paste not to mention the force with which he had descended.

"W-who are you senior?"

[Chapter 950 - One Move To End Them All](#)

Lin Mu looked around at the scene of devastation, thinking the worst.

"Senior? Who are you?" The Long Cloud sect elders asked.

But Lin Mu didn't answer them. His mind was far too occupied by his own voice that incessantly spoke to him, telling him that he was too late.

~SHUA~

~thud~thud~thud~

The Long Cloud sect elders were forced to take a few steps back as a strong spirit qi wave spread out from Lin Mu's body like a tsunami. The ground cracked even though it was not being attacked directly. But that was the least of all, as the more the spirit qi spread, the more the pressure increasing.

"Such strong spirit sense... it has almost turned physical..." Elder Liu Cai gasped.

Every cultivator within a hundred kilometer radius of Lin Mu felt the imposing spirit sense probing them. They all felt as if their secrets were exposed and dread rose within their minds. To them, it was as if a predator was now watching their every move.

Some distance away from where Lin Mu was, a group of Long Cloud sect disciples had just finished their battle against the Gu Legion members. They had won, but at a great cost.

"What was that?!" They cried out in fear.

To them, such a presence meant that it was a very strong expert that had appeared. This could mean either of two things for them, either that there was a high elder from their sect who had come to help them. Or... they were going to meet their end soon and the Gu Legion got even more reinforcements.

"Heavens save us..." They muttered.

~SHING~

And just as they said this, the humming of a sword was heard.

"A short sword?" one of the disciples with a strong perception saw a blurry figure moving at a great speed.

His eyes caught it just for a moment, but he could tell that it was a weapon. The short sword passed from in front of them and spun back to enter the forest.

~splat~

The sound of liquid spilling and splattering could be heard as they saw fountain of blood shoot up into the sky.

"What in the world..." the gasped as their jaws fell open.

That was just the first of the blood fountains as more of them could be seen in coming from the treetops. Sometimes if they were lucky they could even see a head or two flying in the sky. All of the heads had something in common though, their eyes were filled with fear and confusion while their faces were frozen in despair.

Back where the elders of the Long Cloud sect were, the pressure exuding from Lin Mu finally stopped as he withdrew his spirit sense.

"Return..." Lin Mu lightly spoke.

~SHING~

The cry of a sword could be heard as the short sword flew back at equally great speed. It floated around Lin Mu and hummed, as if it had missed him for a long time and was happy to work for him.

It soon disappeared into thin air as Lin Mu stored it in the ring.

"Seems like I really was late..." Lin Mu said with a hint of regret.

"That short sword... and that face..." Liu Cai finally got a hold of his wits and jogged his memory, recognizing the features of Lin Mu.

"A-Alliance leader Lin Mu?" Liu Cai muttered in disbelief.

Most of the members of the alliance had not seen Lin Mu for a long time and the general information was that he had entered seclusion. Even after two years had passed he had not appeared and some of the alliance members had started to doubt him. A small minority even thought that Lin Mu had ran away and was hiding somewhere.

Of course due to the presence of Jing Luo and Little Shrubby most members still had trust in Lin Mu. They knew both of them were close companions of Lin Mu and Little Shrubby was even his tamed beast.

The patriarchs of the Long Cloud alliance also needed to somewhat placate their members by telling them that Lin Mu had put Little Shrubby to do his work while he was in seclusion. While some guessed that he was off on some secret mission that could not be told to them.

A lot of rumors had popped up about Lin Mu among the alliance members, specially after Gu Legion began its open assault on the Long Cloud alliance last year. Thus many people were curious about Lin Mu and his abilities.

They all knew that the patriarchs had all asked Lin Mu to become the chief disciple and the heir of the sect. They were willing to make him the next patriarch, thus his importance could be seen from that.

The other elders heard Liu Cai's words and finally put the pieces together. They had all seen Lin Mu at least once before and now they could match his current appearance with his past one.

'What happened to him?' The elders wondered.

The golden sheen coming off his skin was not something that could be ignored. And neither could the crushing spirit qi emanating from him along with the domineering aura.

Lin Mu who finally heard him being called looked at the elders and replied, "take this." He said before throwing the elders some healing pills.

"T-this..." the elders were a bit surprised seeing this.

"Thank you senior Lin Mu." Liu Cai said in a grateful tone.

They had used up a lot of their healing pills in the past battles and were now almost out. The pills that Lin Mu gave them was something that had been desiring anyway.

"Senior Lin Mu! You need to help the disciples too! They are in danger with the other Gu Legion members." The female elder said recalling that the others were not out of danger.

Lin Mu turned to look at her and shook his head.

"I took care of it... they're already dead." Lin Mu said in a cold tone.

"They're... Dead?" The elders were confused and spread their spirit senses around, finally becoming stunned.