

Walker 971

[Chapter 971 - Potential Location Of Gu Yao?](#)

Lin Mu was truly angry upon hearing the use of the failed experiments. Not only were a lot of humans sacrificed to make the Rebirth blood, even then there was no guarantee and the these cultivation base boosting pills were made.

"Do the ones who take these pills know about it?" Lin Mu questioned.

"N-no... most don't. At least the ones that are not part of the Gu Legion directly don't know. We are not allowed to tell anyone this...~cough~" The man said as he coughed again.

Lin Mu's eyes narrowed as he sensed the further changes in the man's body.

'Does he not sense them?' Lin Mu wondered.

His senses were fully alert and he would know if the man did anything. Even something as much as a flicker in the heartbeat would be felt by Lin Mu. Thus, he would know if the man ever lied.

But so far, he had been saying everything truthfully.

"How many pills can be made from one of the failed experiments?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I... don't know. We simply get them from the heads. Even I only know how the Reborn are made because the method is not as protected as before. Till a few months ago, other than lord Gu Yao, no one knew anything about it." The man answered, sensing Lin Mu's impatience.

"Now then... tell me where is Gu Yao? Where is the location where he is hiding and where are the locations of all your other bases?" Lin Mu asked, his grip on the stone table nearby tightening.

~CRACK~

The table couldn't bear the force anymore and shattered in Lin Mu's hands. With that as a warning, the man hurriedly spoke.

"I don't know... no one knows where he is. As for the other bases, I don't know either. That information is protected and other than those at the headquarters, only those that reside in those bases know about the actual location.

The same could be said for this base. No one other than us knows about it." The man replied.

"You're wrong... Tie Niu knew about this place." Lin Mu replied.

"He can be considered a part of us, that's why he knew. But anyone under him wouldn't know about it." The man explained.

Lin Mu thought for a few seconds and recalled something else.

'Since I didn't see Gu Yao on the world nexus before, it means he is hiding somewhere in a different plane.' Lin Mu thought to himself before staring into the eyes of the man in front of him.

"I know for sure that Gu Yao is somewhere in a minor plane and you should know that too since you've met with him. Then don't lie and tell me that you don't know where that is." Lin Mu said while breaking the man's other leg.

~ARGH!~

The man cried in pain but held on, knowing that he'll just be tortured even more if he didn't answer in time to the question.

"I said I didn't know the exact location of it. If we want to enter the minor plane though, there are several ways." The man said, trying to get a hold of his breath.

"What are those ways?" Lin Mu asked with no chance for a bargain.

"There are set locations from where one can utilize a teleportation array to go to the main headquarters. Then there is also the talismans which can be used to enter there. Though these can only be used once." The man replied.

Hearing this Lin Mu's eyes lit up.

'If it's either of these, our chances of infiltration will be far higher.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Where is the place where the teleportation array is located?" Lin Mu questioned. "And do you have any of those teleportation talismans?" he added.

Either of them would be fine for him as he would be able to enter it with the help of his ring as needed. Lin Mu only needed one of those talismans, and he would be able to track it all the way to its source.

But he would still be fine with the location of the teleportation array.

"The teleportation array I know is located in the Zither wind sect, though there are others that I don't know about. The information we have is limited unless we need to know about it.

As for the teleportation talismans... only those that are of a high rank can have those. I don't even come close to that." The man spoke.

Hearing that the teleportation array was located in the Zither Wind Sect, Lin Mu realized that it must have been rather obvious, but at the same time hard to guess.

'If they have it in the Zither Wind sect, it means they have no scruples being out in the open now and have the entire sect and all of its disciples under them.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Lin Mu thought over who could potentially have such a teleportation talisman, and an idea appeared in his mind.

"Is the position of Wu Hei high in the Gu Legion?" Lin Mu questioned. "Will he have one of those teleportation talismans?" he asked.

"Wu Hei? Lord Gu Yao's nephew?" The man was surprised that Lin Mu knew about him.

"Yes, him." Lin Mu confirmed.

"He... should definitely have one of them. His rank is definitely among the top five in the Gu Legion. ~COUGH~" The man said before coughing loudly.

This time though, there was black blood present while coughing too.

Seeing this the man waste surprised.

"No. This can't be!" The man suddenly shouted.

He looked at the blood he had coughed out and looked to be scared out of his wits. Lin Mu checked it with his spirit sense and found the same traces of that strange aura on the blood.

"You're part of it too, huh..." Lin Mu muttered.

"No... no... no! I never took those! How can I have this?!" The man cried out loud.

~RUMBLE~

And just as he said this, a loud rumbling sound came from his chest.

[Chapter 972 - Auto-Destruction](#)

Lin Mu watched as the man went crazy in front of him. Taking a few steps to the back, he saw the man scratching at his chest. He ripped apart his robes, revealing his bare chest on which a black mark had appeared.

The mark was strange and didn't look anything like what Lin Mu had seen till now. The man looked at the man dumbfounded and his eyes looked to be dull as well.

"What is this?" Lin Mu questioned.

But the man did not answer.

~glug~glug~

Instead, his eyes rolled to the back of his head and bloody foam started coming out of his mouth.

~THUD~

The man fell to the ground lifelessly and went completely still.

"Huh? Was he poisoned?" Lin Mu felt confused.

But just as he was about to touch the man, he felt the body tremble ever so slightly.

~RUMBLE~

~POOF~

Suddenly the body started to swell and strong spirit Qi fluctuations came out of it. The spirit Qi fluctuations were very volatile and Lin Mu knew exactly what they meant this time.

"What in the!" Lin Mu quickly used fade and left the mine that way.

By the time he reappeared in the real world, Lin Mu was about a hundred meters high up in the sky.

~BOOM~

He looked below and saw a massive explosion that had just happened. Bloody smoke came out of the now collapsed mine and the formation arrays started to flicker out of existence as well.

"Damn! This is going to increase even more!" Lin Mu realized.

He could feel the self destruction formations activating and gathering power. The spirit Qi fluctuations coming from the mine were going far and wide, showing that the coming explosion would not be as small as the one that had occurred just now.

'If this blows up the village nearby will be caught in it too...' Lin Mu assessed.

He quickly scanned the formation, checking to see if there was any way to stop OT.

"There's no use. You don't have enough time to stop it nor delay it. Rather, if you interfere in it right now, it might reduce the time needed for it to explode or it might even explode right away." Xukong warned.

Having learned this, Lin Mu immediately made his decision.

~WOONG~

Lin Mu rushed towards the Coal Fell village at great speed. The sound of his flight could be heard all the way in the village, making the villagers wonder what was happening.

Today was going to be the strangest day in the lives of the villagers. First, they heard the loudest explosion they had heard in their lifespan and then they saw a man flying at blinding speeds.

The man appeared in the village and disappeared suddenly. He would then appear again, this time in some other location in the village. But the one thing that was common in all this was that all the houses or areas from where the villages were grabbed were in the eastern part of it.

In Less than a minute, Lin Mu had moved out over eighty percent of the Coal Fell village's population. They didn't even get the chance to get their belongings and items before leaving.

In fact, it could even be said that Lin Mu had involuntarily gotten most of the villagers out of the city.

~KABOOM!~

And just when Lin Mu was about to go back into the city, the explosion finally happened.

~THUD~

Even Lin Mu was sent flying back from the shock wave and ended up hitting a hill nearby. His body was embedded in the hill, but no damage was felt by him in reality.

~RUMBLE~

~TREMBLE~

The tremors of it spread far and wide, with over half of the Coal Fell village getting wiped out of existence.

"What happened?"

"Did the skies explode?"

"Are the heavens falling?"

"ITS THE END! ITS THE END OF THE WORLD!"

There were many questions the unaware villagers had. They hadn't even realized that the houses they had lived for so many years didn't exist anymore.? At the distance they were, only a large cloud in the shape of a mushroom could be seen.

A couple of minutes passed like this as the villagers finally came around. They looked at each other, realizing that almost everyone from the village was there, including every child, woman and old person.

"Did anyone see my husband?" A middle aged woman asked.

Her expression was anxious and she didn't know why, but fear was rising in her mind as well.

She didn't even get to take a look at Lin Mu before she was taken away and left here. Lin Mu was simply too fast to see for them.

~whoosh~

And just as the villagers were getting even more restless, they heard the flutter of robes coming from the distance.

"Immortal!"

"It's an immortal!"

They all shouted, as if they had seen god.

To them who were from backwards environment, a cultivator was a rare existence, and one that could fly was even rare.

One must know that in their village, there were no cultivators above the Qi refining realm. To them just reaching the first stage of the Qi refining realm was enough. They neither had the capital nor the talent to do either of those things though.

Lin Mu looked at the villagers down below and saw the expressions.

'This...' Lin Mu felt a bit conflicted now.

'In a way, this is so much similar to how I was when I had met a proper cultivator back then.' Lin Wu thought to himself.

"Lord Immortal... do you know what happened there?" an elderly man asked.

He was wearing different robes than many other people and looked to be a bit on the fatter side.

"An explosion happened. I took you all out before the village was destroyed." Lin Mu answered sincerely.

Hearing this, a lot of the men didn't believe it all. But then it happened...

"NO!!!!" A woman started to cry loudly and others soon joined in.

~Sigh~

Lin Mu didn't know what to do here other than give them some compensation.

[Chapter 973 - A Flurry Of Thoughts](#)

Lin Mu was on his way to the outpost where the people of the Black Dune sect were fighting. He had been delayed by a day in all this and he didn't know how they were faring now.

There was no way to contact them since the communication jade slips were still blocked.

'Leaving those villagers is still quite uncomfortable...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

After saying a few words of comfort to the villagers and giving them some gold, Lin Mu had left. He had to hurry to the outpost or there might be more trouble coming his way. He also saw the villagers searching for their loved ones who had not made it.

Lin Mu was unable to get all of them in that time and about five percent of the population of the village had died. While the other five percent that was left behind in the village was injured.

Some were lightly injured with some of them being crippled for life due to the houses and other things collapsing on them. The force of the explosion was truly strong and Lin Mu understood how severe the consequences of using a self destructing formation could be.

"Not just the formation... the man himself... how could I not tell there was something that would make himself detonate?" Lin Mu wondered.

He had checked the man and didn't find any such danger. While he had felt a strange aura in the man, Lin Mu thought that it was the same as that of the others that had taken the pills or other things that Gu Yao had made.

"It isn't really your fault. There are many ways to hide from spirit sense and Gu Yao has been able to find one of them it seems. At least now you know to be alert whenever that aura is felt.

For others they might not even be able to detect that aura." Xukong consoled.

Lin Mu went silent for a while before finally nodding his head.

"You're a right senior. I have a lot to do rather than hang my head here." Lin Mu replied.

"Though I have to admit... this Gu Yao... he's a genius too and talented in refinement, as well as technique creation." Xukong spoke.

"That... is true." Lin Mu admitted, recalling all that Gu Yao had done.

He had been infected by an invader's avatar once and had managed to repel it. Not only that, he had also grasped a concept from that and made the human Controlling Blood curse.

And now he had made even more dangerous mutated humanoids, that he called the 'Reborn'. The creation of rebirth fluid, refined from the blood and bodies of cultivators, was an evil technique through and through.

Then there was also the cultivation base boosting pills that could be made as a waste product from the failed Reborn. This ability to make up for failure was what made the technique so much more dangerous.

If there was no way to reuse it, the Rebirth fluid would not be much of a problem. But now that the pills could be made from it, it meant that Gu Yao won't be wasting any resources on it.

With this, he could recruit even more people under him, without even needing to use the Human Controlling Blood curse.

Lin Mu didn't know how strong or expansive the human Controlling Blood Curse was now. Before the strongest Gu Yao could control was the Dao Shell realm cultivators. But now that he was probably at the Dao Shell realm as well, he would be able to control Dao Treading realm cultivators.

While the numbers were still unknown, even one of them being controlled depending on their position would be terrifying.

A lone rogue or itinerant Dao Treading realm cultivator was still fine, but a Dao Treading realm cultivator that was the patriarch or the supreme elder of a sect was a completely different game.

Controlling a Dao treading realm cultivator like that meant he would have a majority of the sect under him.

'The only saving grace is that he can't control any Immortal Ascension realm experts, or this would have already ended a while ago. Gu Yao having control over the top three sects would be the worst thing.

Thankfully, his lack of control is still the factor which has prevented them from being enslaved.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The northern Tribes could basically invade the Great Zhou continent at any time and they would have free access to it in its entirety if Gu Yao controlled even one Immortal Ascension realm cultivator.

'But seeing as he has not made a move on the top three sects, it means that the ancestors of the top three sects are still alive and well. If they weren't, Gu Yao would probably have started controlling their Dao Treading realm experts too.' Lin Mu reckoned to himself.

While Lin Mu was thinking all this, Xukong was doing the same.

'Gu Yao might be another talented individual. If he was given enough time, it won't be unusual if he really became the ruler of this world.

And considering the many examples of the many worlds, it won't be unusual or out of the normal either. There is no lack of such experts in the universe.

There is no evil technique... all are the same...

It is the Heavenly Dao that can be biased at times, but the Great Dao will always be neutral. What god and what devil... they're all equal in the end.' Xukong thought to himself as he reminisced some memories.

Xukong turned to look at the ethereal altar in the distance and muttered, "and where will you stand? Whatever you are?"

No response was heard to his question, and the ethereal altar stayed the same.

"Seems like only time will tell..." Xukong said before he closed his eyes and went back to cultivating.

Lin Mu continued his journey for another couple of hours before he finally reached his destination.

"Finally..." He whispered.

[Chapter 974 - Meeting The Black Dune Sect's Group](#)

Lin Mu was standing high up in the sky, and the clouds were beneath him.

This was the highest he had ever reached flying on his own and it would have been a surreal expression if not for the fact that Lin Mu was here for a serious situation. Peering through the clouds, Lin Mu's eyes gazed upon the few buildings below.

Around the building, there were several hundred tents, half of which were broken and destroyed. There were fires raging in some of the areas, while some areas were filled with ground that had been upturned.

The signs of battles were clearly present, though no battle seemed to be currently ongoing.

"Where is everyone?" Lin Mu wondered.

He couldn't see anyone on the ground just from his eyes thus he extended his spirit sense.

~shua~

In the next moment, his spirit sense rained down like hail and covered the entire area before penetrating deep into the ground, showing him all that was hidden.

There, Lin Mu finally found the people he had been looking for.

~WHOOSH~

In the next moment, Lin Mu stopped flying and let his body drop down.

~BOOM~

His speed of falling continued to increase until he broke through the sound barrier, creating a sonic boom. The sound was loud enough for the people hiding underground to hear it as well.

"What was that?" A disciple wearing the robes of the Black dune sect asked.

There were several injuries on his body, and one of his eyes seemed to be missing as well.

"Dammit, is it another group of those Gu Legion bastards?" Another disciple scorned.

All the disciples quickly became alert and started to prepare for whatever that was coming. But not even a second later, they heard a faint voice in the underground hall where they were.

"Phase..."

"WHO!?" A bald elder wearing a hood shouted.

There were bloodstains all over his robes, but he himself didn't seem to be injured. His aura was also rather strong, being at the Shell Initiation stage of the Dao Shell realm. But then they all saw a man materializing in front of them.

As if appearing out of thin air, Lin Mu looked mystical to them at that moment. His body had gotten larger and his muscles had increased in size as well. His face was handsome and his jaw bone looked like it was chiseled out of the finest marble.

His long hair hung loosely over his back as a golden sheen highlighted it. The golden sheen was coming from none other than Lin Mu's skin, making him look like a deity that had appeared.

While all the disciples of the Black Dune sect were staring at Lin Mu, he too glanced at them.

~shua~

His spirit sense did a quick sweep, overwhelming the disciples enough that they all took a step back.

"Fifty six with light injuries, thirteen with heavy injuries and two dead..." Lin Mu assessed.

Upon hearing his voice though, an identity appeared in the minds of the disciples.

"Alliance leader Lin Mu!?" They all said in unison.

Even if Lin Mu's appearance might be different, they could never forget his voice. After all, the oath that he had taken with many others had been recorded and replayed in all three sects.

The disciples had already taken him as an idol and there was no lack of those that wanted to learn from Lin Mu either.

Back then, it was mostly the elders who had seen Lin Mu face to face, but the elders had gotten portraits of Lin Mu to be shown to the disciples. So now every disciple knew of Lin Mu.

~step~step~step~

"Greetings alliance leader Lin Mu... I can't tell you how grateful I am for you to be here," The Dao Shell realm elder of the black dune sect said while cupping his hands.

"GREETINGS ALLIANCE LEADER LIN MU!" Hearing their elder talk, the disciples joined in as well.

"It is nice to meet you all too... though I wished it was under different conditions." Lin Mu said with a tinge of regret.

"It is all good now that you are finally here, alliance leader Lin Mu." The disciples said with joy.

Even the ones that were injured seemed to be happy all of a sudden. Still, it wasn't enough to put a smile on Lin Mu's face.

"I would have liked to talk more, but we have more pressing matters at hand. The elders of the Long Cloud sect told me you needed help?" Lin Mu stated.

"Of course, it is completely understandable." The Dao Shell realm elder spoke.

"We did need help before, but we managed to push the Gu Legion members back." One of the disciple standing next to the elder spoke.

He had a cultivation base that seemed to be the highest among the disciples here right now, being at the Child Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm.

"You did? What exactly happened? I didn't get any details before." Lin Mu said in response.

"Very well. Please, come to my quarters. I'll brief you on it." The elder said before turning to the disciples. "You all should rest and recover. We don't know how long we'll have before they return."

Lin Mu nodded in agreement and followed behind the elder. The disciples all split up and went to do their respective. Some went to heal their injuries while some helped them. Other than the elder, the disciple at the Child Soul stage of the Nascent soul realm also came to the quarters.

"Please take a seat, Alliance Leader." The elder spoke. "My name is—"

"Elder Zhan, I remember." Lin Mu interrupted the bald man.

The bald man raised his brows in surprise and smiled before taking a seat as well.

"I'm honored that you remember me, even though we only had a short acquaintance back then." Elder Zhan replied.

"If I am to be an alliance leader, isn't it important for me to remember the names of my allies?" Lin Mu stated with a hint of respect in his eyes.

[Chapter 975 - No Traces Of Bodies](#)

The two men stared at each other for a moment in appreciation before stopping.

"Well then, I should start the briefing." Elder Zhan spoke.

"Yes, please tell me all that happened here." Lin Mu replied.

"Basically, this place was one of the outposts the merchants who are the members of the Merchant alliance used. The buildings on the surface were the facade while the actual storage places were these ungrounded rooms.

We have been using this for a long time and this place was one of the outposts supplying to the cities and towns nearby.

There would be regular caravans coming here and leaving here to the different places. They would store some of their goods here while some would exchange it here. Of course, the normal merchants were also allowed to use this outpost, though they didn't know the secret underground areas.

That was also how we were making more profits. Since our merchants could leave a part of their merchandise here to be exchanged with other external merchants. It saved them both time and effort, while netting extra profit.

All was going well until Gu Legion found out about it somehow. They mounted an offense here and attacked the outpost." Elder Zhan explained.

"And I'm guessing you all were heading here with another caravan as a guard?" Lin Mu asked.

"You're right. Thankfully, we were nearby or many more merchants would have died. Currently, half of the merchants that were here at that time died under the force of the Gu legion and the other half managed to escape.

We split a part of our group to help them escape and they should be relatively far by now." Elder Zhan replied.

"Hmm... I noticed. Though it still makes me confused that there are no bodies up on the surface. How's that possible?" Lin Mu questioned.

"That... is something the Gu Legion has come up with. We don't know what they do to their bodies, but their members that come of offensive missions like these don't leave behind bodies.

After they die, their bodies turn into liquid and seep into the ground. Some part of it even turns into vapors and floats away into the wind, leaving behind little to no traces.

I've heard of certain poisons and acids being able to do that to bodies before, but seeing this happen automatically after death is strange." Elder Zhan said.

Hearing this, several thoughts came to Lin Mu's mind and he remembered something similar.

"Didn't the beasts of Kushao ruins do the same? Their bodies disappear after a certain time too." Lin Mu stated.

"Yes, we did find it to be similar to that as well. But in the case of Gu Legion members, the speed of these bodies dissolving is very fast. Not even a couple of minutes after dying their bodies will start to melt.

Not just that, but all the clothes and other items they have on themselves will melt as well." Elder Zhan replied.

"Really? They don't leave behind any spirit tools or spirit weapons either? Not even a spatial storage treasure?" Lin Mu questioned, finding it unusual.

He knew that the other items shouldn't damage so much that they would directly disappear.

"Yes, everything disappears into the puddle their bodies turn into. And yes, not even a spatial storage tool survives." Elder Zhan answered.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows as he wondered if this was intentional or not.

"These Gu Legion members... would you say they are stronger than the average cultivator?" Lin Mu asked.

"Of they definitely are! At least the ones that attack us are all of a decent level. They are good enough to almost go against trained sect disciples." Elder Zhan replied quickly.

"Hmm... seems like the Gu Legion is afraid of leaving behind traces." Lin Mu muttered.

"There are some exceptions to this too though, Alliance leader Lin Mu." Elder Zhan added.

"Yeah, I noticed that. The Gu Legion members I fought in the previous area where the Long Cloud sect was fighting were not like this. Their bodies didn't disappear." Lin Mu stated.

"Yes, that's the thing. We don't know why there is a difference or what makes this difference. We've assessed dead bodies but were unable to find the reason behind it. While there are certain poisonous alchemical pills that can have the same effect, we've never seen any Gu Legion member take them.

It's almost like it is built into them." Elder Zhan said with frustration.

Lin Mu thought over it for a few seconds before speaking again.

"I think I might have an idea what makes that difference, though we'll need more evidence to confirm it." Lin Mu said.

"OH! You know that? Please do tell," Elder Zhan hurriedly said.

Lin Mu nodded his head and then told him about what he had done in the past day. He had saved the Long Cloud sect's people, killed Tie Niu and took over Iron Bull city as well as wiping out a hideout of the Gu legion's people near the Coal Fell Village.

Hearing all this, Elder Zhan was stunned.

"You did all this in just a day?!" the disciple watching them said with shock.

"Yes... well, approximately." Lin Mu agreed.

~Gasp~

Elder Zhan and the disciples standing next to him couldn't help but take in breathes of air wondering just how had Lin Mu done it all. To them, his progress in cultivation was very fast and his skills were excellently strong too.

"Gu Yao has certainly gotten brazen over the months. Making a mutant humanoid like that is very evil. The karma of the people will not let him live in peace..." The Nascent soul realm disciple said in a low voice.

"This is also the problem we need to deal with. Now that the Iron Bull city is without a leader, Gu Yao will learn that soon and might want to take over it again. It's best we send some to guide them." Lin Mu suggested.

"Very well! I'll go there myself with a few more of the disciples.." The Nascent soul realm disciples said.

[Chapter 976 - Impressed Elder Zhan](#)

Hearing the words of the Nascent soul realm disciple, Lin Mu agreed.

"Very well..." Lin Mu said before tossing him a metallic token. "Take this,"

"What's this thing?" The nascent soul realm disciple asked.

"It is the command token of the mayor of the Iron Bull city. If you have it, your authority is that of the mayor." Lin Mu casually replied.

The disciple nodded his head and took the token from Lin Mu.

"Core disciple Fa is a good leader and has experience commanding and managing multiple people. He shouldn't have much trouble in managing the city." Elder Zhan assured.

"If you say so then, it's really good." Lin Mu felt better with a competent person taking over for the time being.

"I won't disappoint you Alliance Leader Lin Mu." The disciple named Fa said with determination.

"OH! Another thing... the Coal Fell village is no more, so I'd like you to deal with the villagers as well. They are homeless for the time being and have nowhere to go." Lin Mu added.

"I'll deal with that as well. Our disciples can handle something like that with ease, they have plenty of experience... though if it were any time, I would have preferred for them to not have to go through all this." Elder Zhan stated.

"Oh?" Lin Mu said, feeling curious.

"It... it's not the first villager or town that Gu Yao has eradicated. Or has been eradicated under the effect of Gu Yao. We've had to rehabilitate several places over the past two years." Elder Zhan explained.

"I see... it truly is grim the level of suffering commoners have to go through for the plays of the cultivators." Lin Mu muttered in a sad tone.

~Sigh~

"The only thing we can do is stop Gu Yao and make sure that others don't suffer the same in the future." Elder Zhan stated.

Silence descended in the room for a couple of minutes after which they all looked towards each other.

Feeling a bit awkward, Core disciple Fa spoke again.

"I shall take my leave then, elder and Alliance leader." Core disciple Fa spoke.

In the next second, he had left the hall and went to do his duty.

"I want to know more about what happened." Lin Mu spoke, seeing that they had kinda left the earlier topic incomplete.

"Ah, yes... Well, after we got the request for help, we rushed here and found a small group of Gu Legion members attacking the outpost. We mounted out offense and quickly wiped out half of them due to our superiority.

But then, they suddenly got more reinforcement and the battle got tougher. We kept on fighting them again and again, while they too kept on bringing in more reinforcements.

With my cultivation base as the Dao Shell realm cultivator, I was able to stop them for the most part, yet some of the disciples still managed to die along with the merchants.

At the expense of their lives, our disciples escorted the merchants away." Elder Zhan finished.

Lin Mu couldn't help but clench his fist upon hearing this and he wished it had not happened at all.

"You said they retreated... how did that happen?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Umm, about that... we don't exactly know. Though there were a few disciples who managed to listen to the conversations of the Gu Legion members and learned of something that had happened nearby to the Gu Legion's base.

They hurriedly retreated, allowing us time to rest and recuperate." Elder Zhan answered.

"The Coal Fell mine... of course!" Lin Mu exclaimed, having linked both of them.

"Yes, considering the information you've given me Alliance leader Lin Mu, the Gu legion members might have truly left because of that." Elder Zhan spoke.

"But that also means that they can monitor the situation distantly despite the lack of communication jade slips working." Lin Mu replied.

"That is something we've known for a while but were not able to tell what spirit tool they are using that allows them to talk despite the jamming formations." Elder Zhan said with frustration.

"I'll try and see what kind of a method they truly use as well as try to get that method." Lin Mu spoke after thinking.

Elder Zhan was in agreement and felt better that Lin Mu was with him here.

The two of them discussed a bit more and Lin Mu learned the other things that had happened in the past two years. Elder Zhan was at the Dao Shell realm and thus had access to a lot more confidential information.

The two of them talked for about an hour, during which the elder told Lin Mu about all that he knew.

Right from the conflict that ignited after Lin Mu's seclusion, to the rapid spread of Gu legion and the conquest of the Zither Wind alliance.

Even now the three sects of the Zither Wind alliance were suppressing the Long Cloud alliance's sects making them unable to leave their sect's territory. Only a few that were already out were doing missions.

Though if the need arrived, some were sent out using the teleportation gate.

This was one of the things Lin Mu was feeling fond of. The teleportation gates had already become a stable factor that had allowed the alliance to progress and protect the world.

"Right now, those that are at the teleportation gates convey the messages that cannot be send due to the communication jade slips being blocked. Though it also restricts the messages to be sent to those places that are already on the teleportation network." Elder Zhan said.

"That's good. Though we'll have to find a solution to this blockage." Lin Mu replied.

"Indeed... we have been looking for one for a while now. With you here, I feel like we now have a chance against them all." Elder Zhan admitted.

Lin Mu nodded his head and took a pause momentarily before continuing the conversation and learning more about the Empire's condition.

Another two hours passed in the blink of an eye doing this.

[Chapter 977 - Elder Jing Luo And The Savior Beast?](#)

Having conversed and discussed the current situation, Lin Mu and Elder Zhan finally came up with the plan of action.

"I will then pursue the Gu Legion members and if I find them, I'll extract all the information I can from them. Perhaps we'll also get the information about the communication jamming formations and where they are hidden." Lin Mu spoke.

"That'll be the best." Elder Zhan replied. "Though once you do that, you should also head to the Hong Lin kingdom and asses the situation there. The last we heard from there, some conflicts were ongoing there." He added.

Lin Mu nodded his head, as he was intending to do that very thing. Besides, heading to the Hong Lin kingdom was a simple thing as he could just go there using the teleportation gates.

"Also... by any chance do you know where Jing Luo and Little Shrubby are?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Hmm... Elder Jing Luo has been supporting the different fronts and moves around a lot. You might have to go to all the places and ask around from the teleportation gates. He has mostly stayed close to the locations where the teleportation gates are since we need to protect them.

We already had two of them broken before." Elder Zhan added.

From his words, Lin Mu picked up a couple of bits of information that surprise him.

"Two teleportation gates were broken? How? I thought all of them were supposed to be secret." Lin Mu questioned.

He had seen the gates at the nexus and while there were indeed more than before, he couldn't tell if any were destroyed and removed since they could be changed around.

"Yes, one of the Teleportation gates at the Green Loom Kingdom was destroyed and one at the very frontier, at the edge of the Shuang Qian kingdom, was destroyed as well. We managed to rebuild the Green Loom Kingdom later on, but the one at the Shuang Qian kingdom is still the same and is broken.

As for them being discovered... thankfully, that didn't happen. Their destruction was more or less collateral damage rather than being intentionally targeted.

The Zither Wind alliance basically bombarded a large area where they suspected our people to be hiding and flattened it entirely. This was the case for the Green Loom Kingdom's teleportation gate. This impacted the finances of the Alliance for about six months before we finally managed to rebuild.

As for the one at the border of the Shuang Qian kingdom and Eastern Ming Dynasty, it was not destroyed due to the Zither Wind alliance, but rather due to the Northern Tribes. The location we picked was rather volatile, and they had been doing some kind of an experiment there.

One day, that place spontaneously exploded... we lost about 120 of our people there, sixty of them being from the Light Harmony sect." Elder Zhan explained.

Lin Mu's expression darkened upon hearing this, and he could only compensate the souls of the dead later on.

"And what about Jing Luo... why did you call him Elder?" Lin Mu asked curiously.

"Oh, everyone calls him that since he is unofficially the second in command of the Alliance. His skills with formations and spirit weapons make him really strong, even stronger than several Shell Genesis stage Dao Shell realm cultivators and even some Shell completion stage cultivators!" Elder Zhan replied.

"You mean to say... he reached the Dao Shell realm?" Lin Mu asked, his eyes excited.

"Yes! He's had rapid progress, shocking enough for the alliance. Even I've never seen anyone reach the Shell Genesis Stage of the Dao Shell realm this fast... he was barely in the Shell Initiation stage of the Dao Shell Realm for a month before he reached the Shell genesis stage." Elder Zhan replied, veneration apparent in his eyes.

Hearing that Jing Luo had not only reached the Dao Shell realm but even progressed to the Shell Genesis stage made him feel amazed.

"That's good..." Lin Mu muttered, before he remembered Little shrubby.

He lightly closed his eyes and tried to sense Little Shrubby again, but it was the same as before being a faint link. Other than knowing that little Shrubby was alive, Lin Mu couldn't tell his cultivation base, nor could he communicate with him.

'Is he really that far?' Lin Mu wondered before looking back at Elder Zhan.

"Umm... do you not know about Little Shrubby? I asked before," Lin Mu questioned again.

"Alliance Leader's Tamed Beast?" Elder Zhan recalled the name.

"Yes." Lin Mu nodded.

"OH! I couldn't recognize the name... he goes by a different title now. Every calls him that respectfully." Elder Zhan spoke.

"He does? What is it?" Lin Mu said in surprise.

He had not expected Little Shrubby to have gained a title in this time either.

"He's now known as the Saviour Beast." Elder Zhan said.

"Huh? How that did that title come about?" Lin Mu found it to be far different from expected.

"Well, with the number of people he has saved, it was understandable. With his speed, he is the first one to reach wherever there is trouble." Elder Zhan explained. "His strength is terrifying too..." he added, a hint of fear visible in his eyes.

"What's his cultivation base now?" Lin Mu questioned.

"We... don't know. We think that it is at the Dao Shell realm since he's battled and killed two Dao Shell realm experts before. But other than that, no one has been able to verify his actual cultivation base.

I think elder Jing Luo might know though, he is the only one who can somewhat communicate with the Saviour beast." Elder Zhan answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu understood what might be the reason.

"He's having the same situation as you. His aura is strong enough to restrain other's spirit sense probes. Though it might also be his bloodline having a different effect. We don't know if his breakthrough gave him a new ability or not.

He might have developed it on his own too.." Xukong spoke up.

[Chapter 979 - Off To The Hong Lin Kingdom](#)

Lin Mu didn't want to admit, but today his anger had made him lose control again. He gazed at the scene of slaughter below, but couldn't feel regret.

'What was I supposed to do?' Lin Mu questioned himself.

But when he looked at the faces of the villagers, he knew that this might have been for the best.

"There's more of them, so you don't need to worry about missing any information. You can probably find more go Gu Legion members later on." Xukong consoled Lin Mu.

"I know..." Lin Mu said and descended onto the ground.

The villagers looked a bit afraid at first, but then recognized Lin Mu to be the one who had saved them before. They had a lot of questions for him, and Lin Mu slowly answered them while tending to those that were injured.

He first freed them all, then used some of the pills and healing items he had to fix the injured villagers.

By the time Lin Mu was done, the detachment of Black Dune sect disciples that were heading towards the village had arrived, too.

"A-alliance leader Lin Mu!" the disciples were surprised.

"Take care of the villagers and get them settled. I have to go ahead... also, see if you can gather any information from the dead bodies too." Lin Mu said. "At least the ones that are still intact."

He had already scanned the dead bodies when he had killed them, but couldn't find much on them. He also got to see how they were liquefied first hand. After he killed them, they started to melt just after five minutes.

They turned into a red puddle that was soaked up by the soil and the rest of it evaporated into the air, leaving behind almost no traces. Lin Mu had to admit, whatever this was, it was definitely some kind of a poison.

Though he could also sense the same strange aura among those that were killed.

'They were using the cultivation boosting pills made from the failed Reborn too.' Lin Mu noted.

~shua~

He left the villagers and the disciples behind while making a circle around the area. He didn't know if there was anyone left and wanted to check, just in case. With his wide range of spirit sense, it didn't take Lin Mu long and he was quickly done.

"Nothing... guess I'll just have to continue on for now." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

~huu~

He took a deep breath and activated the anchoring runes on his back. A faint white glow appeared under his robes and a couple of seconds later, Lin Mu disappeared into the light. When he reappeared, he was in the nexus of the Kong plane.

Lin Mu took a moment to assess the area and realized that there were now twenty six different teleportation gates.

"That's... certainly a lot more than when we started." Lin Mu muttered.

He read the labels for them and saw that they covered most of the southern part of the Great Zhou Empire, a significant part of the central part and some areas in the northern lands as well.

The ones that covered the northern lands were three, with one being the main teleportation gate in the Light Harmony sect, one that was located near the capital of the Eastern Ming Dynasty and another one located at a merchant outpost.

So far there were no such teleportation gates in the Shuang Qian kingdom or even the Black dawn kingdom since those two places had become strong hold of the Gu Legion and the Northern Tribes' spies.

The Eastern Ming Dynasty was still hard for the Northern Tribes to tread into due to the presence of the Light harmony sect. Additionally, the Eastern Ming Dynasty's royal family actually took the threat of the Northern Tribes far more seriously than the empire of the top three sects.

While they couldn't outright show it, the warnings of the Light Harmony sect were enough for them to take some precautions. Additionally, with the Light Harmony sect's members checking things regularly, their activity there had been less.

Though if the Rainbow pill sect also joined them, things would have been far easier.

'They won't be swayed easily without the use of benefits, though.' Lin Mu thought to himself as he looked at the teleportation gate marked for the Eastern Ming Dynasty.

It was a place he had heard quite a lot about, and even wanted to visit it at least once.

The Eastern Ming Dynasty was said to be the most beautiful kingdom in the empire if one considered architecture and colors. It was also one of the richest kingdom among the Empire and definitely the richest out of the Northern Lands.

Plus, it was the only kingdom that had two top ten sects located within its borders, making it very high in its reputation. A lot of cultivators went to the Eastern Ming dynasty with the hope of getting recruited into either the Light Harmony sect or the second ranked Rainbow pill sect.

Lin Mu also didn't forget the fact that the Eastern Ming Dynasty was one of the losing parties in the rise of the Great Zhou empire. They had suffered both injustice and humiliation in order to survive.

This was despite the fact that they had contributed in resistance against the Northern Tribes and even had their troops dispatched at the frontier at all times. It was even said that over a quarter of the Vermillion Legion soldiers were from the Eastern Ming Dynasty that guarded the frontier.

'Though the frontier is pretty much a joke right now. Who knows if its all just a facade that the Northern Tribes have let be so that Gu Yao can continue his growth.' Lin Mu thought.

With this thoughts passing, Lin Mu turned toward the teleportation gate he actually wanted to go to.

"Here we go..." Lin Mu muttered and walked into the teleportation gate that led to the Hong Lin Kingdom.

~shua~

When Lin Mu's vision returned, he saw a familiar scene in front of him.

[Chapter 980 - Meeting King Hong Again And A Surprise](#)

At the Teleportation gate of the Hong Lin Kingdom stood several guards. None of them were weak, with the lowest cultivation base among them being at the initial stage of the core condensation realm.

In any other kingdom or even sect, such cultivators would be strong enough to be inner court or even core disciples. And yet, they were being used as guards here.

But it was all for an important reason. After all, the existence of the teleportation gates was? as secret and the trump card that was allowing the alliance to go against Gu Yao and the northern tribes.

Thus it was important to keep them safe and such guards were normal.

But today, the guards had a slight scare.

~shua~

The Teleportation gate suddenly activated, startling them all.

"Huh? What?" one of the guards said in confusion.

"Was there anyone coming today? I don't think there was anything on the roster." Another one asked.

"No... pretty sure not. But it could be someone with direct access." Another Guard said.

Despite all this, they were all ready to act if it was someone not authorize to use the gate.

But when the person finally came out of the gate, they were not expecting it.

"A-alliance leader Lin Mu?!" The guards were startled.

Out of all people, Lin Mu was the last person they would have thought of since he had been in seclusion for so long. If not for the fact that these guards had themselves cultivated in the Kong Plane and quickly increased their cultivation base, perhaps they wouldn't even have recognized Lin Mu.

For the commoners, Lin Mu was still somewhat of a secret.

"Where is King Hong?" Lin Mu asked.

He had already been informed by Elder Zhan that King Hong was out of seclusion, too. Or rather, he had been for a while. Instead of staying there all the time, he would go in and out of Kong Plane every once a week, allowing him to fulfill his duties as a king.

Though in recent times he's had to stay in his Kingdom due to the conditions changing, which was understandable.

"King Hong is in the throne room! I'll take you to him!" The guards hurriedly responded after remembering that they still needed to be disciplined.

"No need. I can find my way." Lin Mu nodded his head as he said that and directly blinked into the throne room.

"He— he's gone..." the guard said with slight disappointment.

In the Throne Room, King Hong was having a briefing with his ministers when a person suddenly appeared in the middle of the hall.

"And like we—" Their conversation was abruptly halted as they looked at the person who had appeared out of the blue there.

No one spoke for about ten seconds, after which an uproar happened.

"ELDER LIN MU!"

"Alliance Leader Lin Mu!"

"He's Back! He's finally back!"

Several minsters exclaimed seeing Lin Mu. King Hong on the other hand stood up, joy clearly visible on his face.

He walked up to Lin Mu before hugging him without a care.

"AHAHAHA! You're finally here! Finally here!" King Hong said.

"Yes... sorry, it took so much time. I got late..." Lin Mu apologized.

"No, no... it's all good." King Hong replied.

"It's not... if I was here earlier, many wouldn't have had to die." Lin Mu stated.

"That is not on you, it is the Gu Legion who is to blame and the Northern Tribes that are behind it all." King Hong assured.

"See, I told you." Xukong chimed in as well.

King Hong then let go of Lin Mu and invited him to sit beside him.

"We have a lot to catch up on, but I have a few things I want to ask before that." Lin Mu said, feeling impatient.

"Of course! Ask away." King Hong replied.

"Jing Luo, where is he?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Elder Jing Luo should be supporting the Fenlong Kingdom against the Kingdom of Shu. I think he went there to reinforce their formations last week." King Hong answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu felt relieved.

'At least now I know where he is. And he's not that far either.' Lin Mu thought.

He could get to the Fenlong kingdom easily with the teleportation gate.

"What about communication jade slips? Do they work here or there?" Lin Mu asked.

"Thankfully, they still do. The Hong Lin kingdom has mostly kept up its defenses, and we didn't have any incidences with the Gu Legion yet. Though there is also the fact that the Fenlong Kingdom is the one who blocks them first." King Hong replied.

"Hmm... that's good. We should be able to contact Jing Luo then." Lin Mu spoke.

"It might or might not work depending on his exact location. Some of the places north of the Fenlong kingdom are being jammed too. If Elder Jing Luo is there, you won't be able to reach him.

Though we can still contact the others in the Fenlong kingdom and have a messenger sent there." King Hong explained.

"Hmm... no need to call him here. Just confirm his location. I'll head there myself." Lin Mu stated.

"As you wish. It's not really a problem." King Hong accepted.

Lin Mu nodded his head and looked at the excited faces of all the ministers.

"So then... what did I miss?" Lin Mu asked.

"Well for one... you missed my grand feast six months ago." King Hong replied.

"A grand feast? For what?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Why don't you see yourself?" King Hong said before a wave of energy came out of his body.

~shua~

Lin Mu felt the change in his aura and the spirit Qi fluctuations that came from him as well.

"You... You reached the Dao Shell realm too?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"I did indeed." King Hong acknowledged.

"How? From the estimate we got, I thought it would take you far longer than that." Lin Mu asked.

He had never expected King Hong to have reached the Dao Shell realm in such a small time either.