

## Walker 211

### Chapter 211 - History Of The Continent-IV

This was the second time Lin Mu had heard about the forbidden continent. He knew that the land beyond the northern mountains was called as the forbidden continent, but thought that it was called so because of the presence of strong beasts.

He did know that there were still people living in that land, though. From all that he had heard, the forbidden Continent was cold and desolate. It was populated by the beasts that roamed the forests within it. Even in the peak of summers, the forbidden continent was said to be covered with snow and ice.

Lin Mu could hardly think of anyone that would willingly stay in a land like this but now knew that it was not because of their choice but because of what had happened in the past.

"So you mean to say the recent wars that happened, were because of these surviving tribes?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, they have been happening for far too long than that. You should know about the northern frontier, right? The vermilion legion guards it to prevent these northern tribes from attacking the people of the great Zhou continent." Jing Wei shook his head as he spoke.

Lin Mu finally linked the things together and got a better idea of the situation.

"What happened next?" He questioned.

"Oh yes, after these tribes attacked the kingdoms retaliated and pushed them back. By now major changes had occurred in the newly formed continent. The kingdoms were now vying for supremacy after having stayed silent for a long while.

In this race for supremacy, the forerunner was the Zhou kingdom as it had to the strongest background and had the most amount of cultivators. While the cultivation sects could have also staked their claim, they chose to not do so and instead decided to follow the advice of the last immortal that had left behind the prophecy.

They came to an understanding with the kingdoms and decided that they would separate the ruling powers back into two as they were before. The kingdoms would rule over the mortals, while the sects would do so over the cultivators. Of course, the cultivators were not restricted from joining the kingdoms and could do so as they wished.

Still, because of this a delicate power of balance was created, where the kingdoms and cultivation sects would respect each other. Thus the cultivation sects decided to not get involved with the conflicts of the kingdoms.

Eventually, the competition for supremacy led to two kingdoms being at the top. Zhou kingdom of the former central continent and the Eastern Ming Dynasty of the former eastern continent. These two kingdoms had always been powerful and have had conflicts in the past.

Now the situation came where the remaining kingdoms had to choose to become vassals of each of the two kingdoms in order for them to become the Superior one. A hundred years passed during which

countless negotiations and trades happened in order to pull these smaller kingdoms under each of the two kingdoms.

The northern lands that we live in right now was once a vassal of the Eastern Ming dynasty back then. This included the Shuang Qian kingdom and the newly formed Black Dawn kingdom. Eventually, in the end, the Eastern Ming Dynasty lost and Zhou kingdom prevailed.

According to their previous agreement, the loser would have to become a vassal kingdom of the other, and that is what happened. Still, to do this a marital alliance was required. The then king of Zhou kingdom decided to marry his second son to the first princess of the Eastern Ming Dynasty.

Still, their enmity had not completely ended yet. The prince of the Zhou kingdom who was to be married off to the princess had some grudges against them and decided to settle them.

The second prince of the Zhou kingdom was less talented than the first princess of the Western Ming Dynasty and thus had a lower cultivation level than her. In order to get his revenge, he humiliated her by asking for her cultivation base to be dissipated and for her to start over again.

The people of the Eastern Ming Dynasty found this out and were in an uproar. Still, the princess was wise and understanding. She knew that if she did not follow the orders the consequences would not be good. She decisively crippled her own cultivation, giving her kingdom a saving grace.

The royal family of the Eastern Ming Dynasty was in tears over her sacrifice and vowed to take revenge in the future tenfold. Still, they gritted their teeth and held on. But the relationship between the two kingdoms stayed tense.

Eventually, the Zhou kingdom took over all the kingdoms on the continent under it and became the Great Zhou Empire.

Three thousand years passed as such in relative peace until when the people from the forbidden Continent acted. The remnants of the Grand northern alliance had somehow united again and had unearthed the relics of the Yao clan.

Using these very relics, they made shrines that they then used to summon more invaders. Over the years, the barrier of the world had gotten weaker and some flaws in it could be found. The Northern tribes used these very flaws and tried to summon invaders from other worlds.

This time though, the empire was ready and so were the cultivation sects as well. For far too long had they been waiting, and finally it had come. They thought that the prophecy was finally coming true. A great war was fought back then, and even I fought in it on the front lines.

My clan had long been dedicated to fighting against the invaders and specialized in refining spirit tools and forging spirit weapons. We were the ones that supplied weapons to the empire and to the sects as well.

It was during this time that I had my first encounter with a being that was beyond the immortal ascension realm. We were in a shrine that the invaders were using to summon invaders. The being in question was a beast that was beyond the immortal ascension realm and had nearly broken through the world barrier.

Still, with a great sacrifice, we were able to stop them. That was the end of the last great war.

It was after that the vermilion legion was formed and deployed in the northern frontier. A great wall was erected that separated the two continents, which was eventually called the Pearl's Belt." Jing Wei concluded.

### **Chapter 212 - The Workshop**

Lin Mu was amazed after hearing the entire history of the Continent was absolutely amazed by it. He had never known that such intricacies were hidden beneath it and most people did not even know about it. At least the commoners did not know. Lin Mu had even talked with the Hei Corps about it previously and even they did not know as much as Jing Wei.

But in their entire narration, Lin Mu had picked up a few things. The biggest being that Jing Wei had participated in the Great War a thousand years ago and had contended against a beast that was at a realm beyond the immortal Ascension realm.

"Senior, this means..." Lin Mu spoke in his mind.

"Yes... This man Jing Wei has been living for more than a thousand years. Just from this and how he had contended against a beast like that, I can come to the conclusion that he is at the Dao Treading realm as well. There is no other way he would have been alive till now.

Dao Shell Realm cultivators have a lifespan of about two thousand years, while the Dao Treading Realm cultivators have a lifespan of three thousand years. Even if he were not a Dao Treading Realm cultivator back then, he is definitely one Right now.

Still, the question stands, why would he seal his cultivation base?" Xukong replied.

Although Lin Mu had estimated that Jing Wei's cultivation base was high, he was still shocked after getting this confirmation. He wanted to ask him right away about his cultivation, but knew that it would not be the proper method. He thus thought for a moment before speaking again.

"Then, you don't mean that the northern tribes are behind this invader as well?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes, although I can't say for sure, but it is the most likely possibility. Still, there is a chance that the invader had been brought by someone else here, but how we do not know that." Jing Wei answered.

After listening to his words, Lin Mu was lost in his thoughts. Lin Mu knew that the beast storage treasure was used to store the Great Slumber Bear and that the beast had a cultivation base that was beyond the immortal Ascension realm.

But the beast storage treasure could only be used by someone that was a cultivator. This meant that there was probably a rogue cultivator behind this. Lin Mu could also surmise that it was perhaps a lone cultivator from the northern tribes who had released the Great Slumber Bear in the northern forest. But the beast inciting powder was still a mystery.

'Why would that person not use the beast inciting powder? Or did he perhaps drop it there by a mistake?' Lin Mu thought to himself.

*~Sigh~*

Jing Wei took a long sigh after finishing the story. Evidently, this had also stirred some bad memories for him that he did not want to remember, perhaps. Duan Ke could see this can come forward to hold her grandfather's hand.

She gently squeezed his hand and looked at him with a gentle smile on her face, as if telling him that everything was fine now. Jing Wei felt good after this gesture of hers and lifted his spirits up.

*~Clap~*

"Now then, we should get you your reward. After all, I did promise you that I would give you a spirit spear." Jing Wei suddenly spoke.

Lin Mu snapped out of his thoughts after hearing him speak and lifted his head to look at him.

"Ah yes, I almost forgot about it. Let's go." Lin replied with a slightly excited voice.

Jing Wei and Duan Ke now took him to a different part of the mansion. Lin Mu could observe the change before he even reached their destination. The walls of the mansion as well as the floor had now changed from a wooden material to stone and steel.

Lin Mu realized that they were moving in a downward direction as they eventually arrived at a stairwell. The stairwell descended into the ground and Lin Mu could not tell how deep it went as it was dark. He used his spirit sense and found out that even at its maximum range it did not reach the end of it.

Jing Wei and Duan Ke continued on, and Lin Mu followed behind them. On the way, he passed through four floors, and even then he could not sense the bottom of the stairwell.

'Seems like this mansion extends deep into the ground. But how far deep can it go, I wonder?' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"It should be at the same depth as the height of the courtyard's barrier. You can estimate from that perhaps." Xukong suggested.

Lin Mu thought over it and remembered that the barrier of the courtyard was more than a thousand meters wide. If he thought of the courtyard as a spherical bubble, then it should be about five hundred meters deep into the ground and five hundred in the sky as well.

Eventually, they reached their destination after four more floors. Along the way, Lin Mu could see that each floor had multiple rooms that were hidden behind closed doors. He had tried to see behind these doors with the help of his spirit sense but discovered that it could not pierce them, making it impossible for him to know what was behind them.

Their destination was a set of large doors that were about ten meters tall and five meters wide. They seemed to be made out of solid bronze and when Jing Wei opened them he saw that they were nearly ten inches thick.

Jing Wei did not have to do much to open the doors as they automatically opened when they got close. When he finally saw the inside of the room though, Lin Mu didn't know what to think of it.

The walls of it were made from stones stacked up on top of each other and stuck together with the help of mortar. At the end of it was a large forge that seemed to be covered with soot. Lin Mu could only compare it to one thing; a blacksmith's workshop.

### **Chapter 213 - The Spirit Spears**

Lin Mu walked in from behind Jing Wei and Duan Ke and then saw that the room actually had another part to the right. This area was hidden from the angle that Lin Mu saw it from, thus did not know that it existed. But upon seeing it, he was amazed.

There were hundreds of weapons in this area. Some were placed on stands, some were hanging while some were simply kept on the ground. While this would not have been that uncommon as Lin Mu had seen a common scene in the other Blacksmith's, but what made it different was the sheer amount of spirit qi that was in the area.

"All of these are spirit weapons?!" Lin Mu muttered with shock.

There was a wide variety of weapons ranging from the most common weapons such as swords, axes, spears, all the way to unorthodox weapons like hooked halberds, chain whips, ringed blades, and sharp discs. This was the first time Lin Mu had seen such a wide variety of weapons apart from the ones he had gotten from the Hei corps.

Lin Mu could even see that some of the weapons that were designed according to the specifications of the thousand armament blade scripture here. Still, Lin Mu did not feel like he needed every weapon for using with the thousand armament blade scripture as that was not its main aim.

The main aim of the thousand armament blade scripture was for one to acquire the skills of multiple types of weapons and assimilate them into a sword technique. Lin Mu knew that he was not even ten percent through to learning the thousand armament blade scripture, thus knew that he shouldn't bite more than he could chew.

Lin Mu's attention was pulled back to the soot-covered forge. One could tell that the forge had not been used for a long time and had been idle since time unknown. It had not even been cleaned, which only showed that perhaps its purpose had been long since forgotten.

Lin Mu curiously checked the forge with his spirit sense and discovered that while it looked mundane and looked as if it was made from common rocks and bricks, it was not so. There were multiple formation arrays hidden within its structure, that Lin Mu could sense with his spirit sense. He couldn't tell their purpose but knew that they were complex.

"Now then, let's look for a suitable spirit spear for you." Jing Wei spoke, breaking the silence.

Lin Mu immediately turned his attention to Jing Wei, who had spoken.

"Ah, yes. Please." Lin Mu replied.

Jing Wei nodded his head and then went to the section where the spirit weapons were kept. He picked five spears from the area. Some were hanging on the walls while some were kept on the shelves. He then brought these spears to the side of the room where a large work table was kept.

Unlike the forge though, this table was clean and seemed to be made of a single sheet of metal. Jing Wei placed down the five spirit spears on the table and showed them to Lin Mu.

"After observing your style and how you fought Duan Ke earlier, I reckon these would suit you." Jing Wei spoke and pointed to the spears.

Lin Mu extended his spirit sense and observed the five spears. Three of them had relatively simple designs and didn't look that impressive similar to his short sword. While the other two were different. One of them was quite flashy, having a golden spear tip with a dark brown shaft that was made from some kind of wood. There were runes carved into the shaft and looked like they would activate when the spirit qi was poured into them.

The other spear was completely opposite to the flashy looking golden spear. Its spear tip was dark grey, almost bordering on black, and its shaft was made from a similar colored metal. While it looked like the entire spear was carved from a single piece of metal, it was not so. Lin Mu could sense that the inside of the spirit spear was complex, and it looked like it had more parts than he thought.

But still, Lin Mu could tell that each and every spear was a high tier spirit weapon by comparing it with his short sword.

"Go on, try them. See which one you like the best and you can take that one." Jing Wei spoke up and gestured to Lin Mu.

Lin Mu decided to try out the three common looking spears first. While the three spears had a similar design, there were some minor differences that allowed them to be differentiated from each other. One of the spears had a longer spear tip than others, while the second one had a thicker shaft and the third one had a spear tip and shaft that were of equal thickness.

All of their spear tips were dark silver colored just like steel and had shafts that were made from light brown wood that had been polished to an even finish. There were fine grooves carved into the shafts which allowed the user to have a better grip.

The bottom end of the shafts was capped with a blunt metal end which prevented the shaft from getting damaged.

Lin Mu randomly picked one of them and tried it out. He used the moves of the thousand armament blades scripture and concluded that this spear was much better than the one he had bought from Jing Wei before. Its performance was much better than the ones he had gotten from the Hei corps as well.

Lin Mu wanted to use his spirit sense to control the spear, but found out that he couldn't for some reason.

"You won't be able to use it without putting a wisp of your spirit sense on it. But you can't do that either right now, as this is a high grade spirit spear. Your current spirit sense is not enough to handle two spirit weapons.

Although you should be able to use it with your spirit sense later, I think it's better that you don't waste your time in that, as you may not even choose that." Xukong explained to Lin Mu.

"I understand, Senior." Lin Mu nodded and replied in his mind.

He then placed this spear down and did the same with the other two common-looking spears. He repeated the same moves and techniques he used with the first spear so that he could get a relatively good comparison.

He eventually came to the conclusion that all of them were quite similar in performance and were quite comfortable for him. Still, that was all, they were comfortable but not too special. Lin Mu's attention then went to the flashy looking golden spear.

But when he went to pick it up, he noticed something.

'So heavy!' Lin Mu thought.

The spear was much heavier than it looked like, and while it was not difficult for Lin Mu to lift it; it was still at least three times heavier than the other three spears he had used. In fact, this was the heaviest spear he had used till now.

### **Chapter 214 - The Effects Of The Spears**

Lin Mu's current strength was enough for him to lift a hundred kilograms easily, with no effort. And if he used vital energy and spirit qi to amplify his strength simultaneously, it wouldn't be a problem for him to lift a thousand kilograms as well.

Still, when using a weapon this weight became a completely different factor. While weight was an important factor and was quite beneficial for certain weapons such as hammers and maces, it was a different story in the case of weapons that worked more on technique such as swords and spears.

Here more weight did not mean that the weapon would be that much more powerful. In fact, a heavier weight may even restrict the user's full potential in using the weapon. Thus it was important for the weapon to be well balanced.

Lin Mu could feel that very thing right now. While the golden spear in his hands was heavy, it was well balanced. The weight of it was equally distributed and when he held it in the center of the shaft, it held straight.

Lin Mu estimated that the spear was about fifty kilograms in weight, which was quite heavy to be honest. His short sword was barely four kilograms in weight, and the previous spear that he had used was at most twenty kilograms in weight.

Still, Lin Mu started to use the spear and swung it around. He could sense that there was more to the spear and channeled his spirit qi into the spear. As soon as he did, the runes that were carved into the shaft lit up and the sharp edge of the spear started shining.

Lin Mu stabbed forward and this caused a yellow beam of light to shoot out from the spear tip. The beam traveled for ten meters before it faded away. Lin Mu then swiped the spear in the air, creating arcs of energy that traveled for four meters before fading away.

"Good spear!" Lin Mu muttered, feeling impressed.

"Indeed, this spear is different from the previous three that you used. Different forging techniques were used in its creation and its type is different from the others." Jing Wei spoke.

Lin Mu was intrigued by this information and wanted to know more.

"Oh, what types are there?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Spirit weapons can be forged using many methods, but they are classified broadly into three types. Pure forging in which the quality of the weapon and its strength comes from its raw materials. Such kinds of weapons don't have formations placed on them. The previous three spears you used are of this type.

Enchantment, in which the strength of the weapons comes from the formations placed on the weapons. The materials used to make them may not be as durable or strong as those compared to the ones used in pure forging, but they can give special effects and skills like the one you saw. That golden spear is a spirit weapon of that type and can release energy when spirit qi is poured into the formation placed on it.

The finally, there is the hybrid type, which is a combination of the previous two types. These are much harder to forge and require proper planning and compatible materials. An example of this is your short sword, you must have felt it when you used it, didn't you?" Jing Wei replied.

Lin Mu nodded as he remembered that the short sword did have a slightly different effect than normal. While it was not as apparent as the golden spear. The effect that the short sword had was enhanced amplification. Whenever Lin Mu poured spirit qi into the short sword, it would result in an amplification that was much stronger than normal. His short sword also had formations on it that enhanced the durability and sharpness of the blade.

Seeing that Lin Mu seemed satisfied, Jing Wei spoke again.

"Go on, try the last spear. It is also a hybrid one, but is rather unique."

Lin Mu picked up the final spear and found it to be relatively light. But he could tell that its weight was concentrated a little more towards the tip of the spear. Lin Mu used the thousand armament blade scripture and discovered that he was much more fast while using this spear.

Then came the time for the big reveal, Lin Mu wanted to know what kind of effect would the formations on this spear have. There were no runes present on the surfaces of the spear, and Lin Mu could tell that the spear was slightly hollow from the inside.

He channeled his spirit qi into the spear and saw some changes happening in it. The spear lightly vibrated and four small openings appeared at the base of the spear tip. grey colored material energy was released from these openings and wrapped around the spear tip.

But it didn't stop there. The energy kept on layering over and over until the spear tip was now much bigger than before. The spear tip was now no longer flat, but instead had four intersecting edges forming a cross shape. The weight of the spear had also increased by three times by this.

Lin Mu looked at the gruesome looking tip that had now formed and felt the change in weight. He stabbed out and saw its effect.

*~Whoosh~*

*~Crack~*



The floor underneath him cracked with the stomp of his foot and the increased weight of the spear. The spear stabbed into the air and created ripples that spread out. Finally, at the end of the strike, the Grey energy that had wrapped the spear tip spread apart in the form of sharp blades.

~Gulp~

Lin Mu could imagine the effect something like this could have if it was stabbed into a person or a beast, and then the skill was triggered. The effect would shred the person or beast from inside, causing massive injuries.

"That's not all, you felt the weight difference, right? This spear is essentially two different spears combined into one. The basic form that is fast and efficient while the activated form which is heavy and powerful. The finishing skill is an added benefit which can be used as a trump card to surprise your enemies." Xukong analyzed.

### **Chapter 215 - Iron Thorn Spear**

Lin Mu thought over Senior Xukong's words and indeed found them to be right. He had now made up his mind, he now knew which spear to choose. Lin Mu turned to Jing Wei and placed the spear on the table.

"I want this spear," Lin Mu said as he pointed at the dark grey spear he had just placed down.

Jing Wei nodded in acknowledgment, as if he had already expected this outcome.

"Alright, this spear does suit you. Though you may have problems using it right now once I remove the seal on it." Jing Wei spoke.

"Seal? What seal?" Lin Mu questioned as he tilted his head in confusion.

"There are seals on all high grade spirit weapons here. The seal prevents their instincts from awakening, which allows you to use them without putting your imprint on them. But their potential is also reduced by more than a half because of that. Also, considering you already have the short sword which is also a high grade spirit weapon, it will take you a lot of effort to add another High grade weapon as you will need to further refine your spirit sense to be able to control it." Jing Wei spoke.

Lin Mu was surprised about what Jing Wei had just spoken. He didn't know that the spears were being restricted.

"Restricted? You mean the power that I saw was not even half of what they can show?" Lin Mu questioned, feeling a bit astonished.

"Of course, what did you think high grade spirit weapons are? Even your short sword is much more powerful. The only problem that you have is that your cultivation is too low for you to be able to use it. Once you reach the core condensation realm, you should be able to unearth more of its strength.

Though I should warn you not to reveal them to strong cultivators easily. High grade spirit weapons are sought after by even some Dao shell realm cultivators. There isn't much of a problem with the short sword as its strengths lie in pure power, but that is not the same with this spear. Its ability would give away its identity rather easily." Jing Wei answered.

"He's right." Xukong acknowledged.

Lin Mu then thought over his memories and realized that most of the people that he had met never gave his short sword a second glance because of its looks. Even when using it with his spirit sense, the cultivators of the Hei corps while being impressed did not look interested in it.

'The short sword is indeed low-key. Hmm, I'll have to be careful with the spear.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Alright, I understand." Lin Mu replied to Jing Wei.

Jing Wei nodded before waving his hand over the spear. As soon as he did, the spear glowed and two circular formations appeared on it along its shaft. One of the formations faded away while the second one stayed there. A second later it disappeared along with the glow.

"Here you go, take the Iron thorn spear," Jing Wei said as he handed Lin Mu the spear, before speaking, "I removed the restriction seal but kept the concealment seal on it. While you would be able to still use it, the concealment seal will prevent others from noticing its grade. But, know this that if you use its skill, that seal will be broken as well and others will be able to sense the spear's grade."

Lin Mu nodded to show that he understood before asking, "So its name is Iron Thorn spear?"

"Yes, that is its name." Jing Wei replied.

Lin Mu thought for a moment before asking again, "Umm, does the short sword also have a name?"

*~Chuckle~*

"It did have a name once upon a time, but not anymore. Though if you want to, you can name it yourself." Jing Wei replied in a pleased tone.

Lin Mu then stored the Iron Thorn spear into his ring and then remembered something. He realized that he had a lot of spirit cores that he had stored in his ring. He had always stored them into his ring whenever he hunted spirit beasts, and had thought of selling them later on when he got the right opportunity.

Lin Mu already knew about the uses of the spirit cores and now that he had a few goals that he wanted to accomplish he knew that he required resources. Resources that would speed up his progress in cultivation.

He was now in a strange kind of a dilemma. On one hand, he wanted to obtain and assimilate the bloodline of the Great slumber bear and on the other, he now had his new goal which was to avenge his parents by hunting down the invader.

He could either leave the town right now and go hunt the avatars of the invader, or he could wait and cultivate in seclusion. He was at a loss of what to do till now, but he teased one key point. The only thing that was restricting him right now was his cultivation base and time.

His deadline was of about ten months before the Great slumber bear would weaken. But there was also a Chance that the Invader may do something else in this time period. Another problem was the culprits, but that was not high up in Lin Mu's list, now that the Hei corps had stabilized the situation.

If he could somehow reach the peak stage of the body tempering realm before the deadline along with increasing his cultivation base to the next sub-stage, Lin Mu would be able to go out to hunt the invader beforehand and then return when it was time for the Great slumber bear to be weakened.

Duan Ke had been observing Lin Mu from the start to the end and was now wondering why he had gone silent and had a perplexed expression on his face. Feeling curious, she decided to speak up.

"What's the problem? Do you perhaps need something else?" Duan Ke asked.

### **Chapter 216 - Twelfth Stage Of The Body Tempering Realm?**

Lin Mu was woken from his thoughts by Duan Ke's question.

~Huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath before a determined expression appeared on his face.

"Yes, I do actually. I am in the need of resources and want to sell some things. I would be grateful if you would be able to help me." Lin Mu spoke in a needing tone.

Duan Ke looked at her grandfather for a moment who nodded in response before speaking.

"Of course we can. Now that you have been ordained by the world's will, we have a duty to assist you. Our clan has been fighting against the tribes of the forbidden continent and the invaders for thousands of years now. We will help anyone that in enemies against them." Jing Wei spoke with fervor.

"Show me what you have and then we can see what you need." Duan Ke chimed in.

Lin Mu had a pleased expression on his face before withdrawing all the spirit cores and the pelts that he had stored in the ring. He even pulled out the bones of all the beasts that he had eaten until now. Soon four piles were formed in the room.

One of them was a small pile of spirit cores, most of which were the size of a pea and one that was bigger and of the size of an olive. The pea sized spirit cores were from all the qi refining realm beasts that he had hunted till now and the bigger Olive sized spirit core was that of the core condensation realm beast that was the Alpha steel back wolf.

The pile had more than two hundred spirit cores and was gleaming in from the light of the lamps in the room. The next pile which was more like a hill was made up of all the pelts that he had obtained from the beasts. Unlike the spirit cores though, their numbers were much higher as it also included normal beats in it too.

The third pile was that of the bones of the beasts that he had eaten till now and was even bigger than the previous one. The Fourth and final pile was composed of the other remaining parts of the beasts, which included miscellaneous things such as their horns, fangs, feathers, etc.

Looking at the four piles, Duan Ke was astounded, to say the least. Though she was more shocked by the number of spirit cores that Lin Mu had placed down. Her attention was especially brought to the olive sized grey colored core that had Brown patterns on it.

Duan Ke had already heard how he had hunted the Alpha steel back wolf before and knew that he must have obtained the core. But looking at it, she still felt a bit surprised.

*~Haha~*

"Seems, like you have plenty of goods." Jing Wei spoke, feeling amused.

His expression then calmed down as he remembered how he had given Lin Mu a large amount of gold coins. Though he realized he didn't know how many coins he had actually given him, as he had just randomly pulled out one of the pouches from his spatial treasure in a daze.

'Hmm, is his master intending to temper his character by letting him obtain his own resources, perhaps? That should be it, though it seems like he depleted the gold coins I gave him already. How many did I give him though, was it a hundred thousand? Or perhaps a million?' Jing Wei thought to himself.

Duan Ke quickly got to checking all the items Lin Mu had just put down while Jing Wei was lost in thought. A minute later, Jing Wei scratched his chin and spoke.

"Lin Mu... How many gold coins did I give you on that day?" Jing Wei questioned, feeling curious.

Lin Mu turned to look at Jing Wei, who had just spoken.

"You gave me five thousand gold coins, for which I'm very thankful." Lin Mu spoke in a grateful tone.

As soon as Jing Wei heard Lin Mu's words, his mind shut down for a moment before the corner of his eye twitched. Cold sweat appeared on his back and he forcefully suppressed his expression that was about to show on his face.

"Ah, I see... I see..." Jing Wei replied while nodding his head.

'Did I really give him only five thousand gold coins? Damn it, if his master comes to settle this, it won't bid well for us. Ugh, I need to reorganize my spatial treasure, too much clutter has been accumulated in it now.' Jing Wei secretly thought.

Jing Wei turned around to face the wall as he started to think about something while Lin Mu looked back at the goods being checked, seeing that Jing Wei was distracted.

Ten minutes passed before, Duan Ke was finally able to calculate the value of all the items.

"Now then, what is it that you exactly need. I'll give you the equivalent of the items here." Duan Ke spoke.

Lin Mu's first thought went to pills that could help him reach the peak stage of the body tempering realm early. Senior Xukong had warned him before about not using the other pills, thus he wanted to know whether they had one that was specially made for it.

"Do you have any alchemical pills that are effective for body tempering realm cultivation?" Lin Mu questioned.

Duan Ke tilted her head almost instinctively upon hearing his question. She wondered if it was because of his body tempering realm cultivation which was no longer apparent to her. She wondered if he had some kind of injury or had his cultivation regressed.

"We do have some alchemical pill that can help in that aspect, but they are only effective until a certain cultivation stage. What stage are you currently in?" Duan Ke replied.

"I am at the twelfth stage of the body tempering realm and want to reach its peak." Lin Mu answered in a calm tone.

"I'm sorry, did you just say the twelfth stage of the body tempering realm?!" Duan Ke reiterated.

### **Chapter 217 - Obsolete?**

Duan Ke could not believe her ears when she heard Lin Mu reveal that he was at the twelfth stage of the body tempering realm. It was not just because she couldn't sense any vital energy from his body but also because of the stage itself.

'How did he even?... Why is he still cultivating in the body tempering realm, if he's already a cultivator? And how did he even break past the tenth stage?' Multiple questions were currently stirring within Duan Ke's mind.

Jing Wei too was frozen upon hearing what Lin Mu had spoken and a shocked expression was on his face. He was lucky that he was facing away from the two of them right now or they would have seen it. He definitely did not want to break his composure again and show them and unsightly look. That would definitely not suit someone of his stature.

"Yes, I did say that. Why, is there a problem?" Lin Mu inquired with a curious expression.

At this point, Duan Ke did not know how to respond to his question. She did not know whether to praise him for accomplishing this or to call him a fool to waste his time like this.

'Even the disciples of the top sects only cultivate till the tenth stage of the body tempering realm and stop. There is no reason for them to continue on as they only do this because of the minimum requirements of the cultivation techniques. Why is he still trying? And where would he even get a tempering technique that would let him exceed the tenth stage? Aren't they obsolete now?' Duan Ke thought to herself.

"I'm sorry, but we can't help you in that aspect." Jing Wei suddenly spoke upon seeing that his granddaughter was unable to respond in time.

"Ah, why is that? Do you not have the pills for this stage?" Lin Mu questioned as he tilted his head in confusion.

"No it's not that, but rather that alchemical pills of that level do not exist. Honestly, we don't even know how you managed to even exceed the tenth stage of the body tempering realm. According to my knowledge, all the tempering techniques now only allow one to reach the tenth stage at the maximum. It has been more than five thousand years since they became obsolete." Jing Wei explained.

Lin Mu was now more confused than at the start and was now wondering if he had made a mistake, perhaps.

"WHAT FOOLS!" Xukong shouted.

Lin Mu was startled, to say the least upon hearing the voice of Senior Xukong suddenly, that too one that was so loud.

"What's the matter, senior?" Lin Mu asked with concern.

"They are fools, I say. All of them. Calling body tempering technique obsolete when they have no basic understanding of them. Seems like this world becoming sealed had more bad effects than were probably intended. The cultivators of this world have lost their view." Xukong replied.

"Is it really that bad senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Indeed, it is. While it is fine for them to not cultivate past the tenth stage as they can progress to the qi refining realm before that, it is absolute stupidity to call something that had been existing for thousands of years and was created by the ancestors that came before them. Body tempering techniques are very important and should not be neglected this way." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu now knew that Senior Xukong had been agitated by this, and perhaps it was best for him to change the topic for now. He certainly did not want to stay silent like this on the surface while talking to Senior Xukong in his mind. Otherwise, the two people in front of him may find him strange.

"Alright, I understand." Lin Mu spoke, both to Xukong and Jing Wei.

Jing Wei could sense that it would not be good to ask how Lin Mu accomplished this either thus he did not ask further. He could guess that it was probably because of his master and did not want to invite trouble.

"Though we can offer you other resources that can help you in cultivation." Duan Ke spoke up, seeing that Lin Mu seemed a little disappointed to her.

"Ah yes, that would work too. Do you perhaps have spirit stones?" Lin Mu questioned.

Duan Ke had a complex expression on her face as she sent her grandfather a gaze. As if asking him to help her out.

*~Ahem~*

"Umm, we do indeed have spirit stones, but I'm afraid we cannot give you as many. Though if you're intending to use them for cultivating directly, we have a better option. You can use the basic qi pills for that very thing." Jing Wei spoke up.

Lin Mu didn't know why they didn't have spirit stones, but he didn't want to pry either. He would be happy even if he gets other resources.

'Senior, what are basic qi pills?' Lin Mu secretly questioned.

"They are what their name means. Their function is to supply the cultivator with spirit qi." Xukong answered.

"Umm, then they are the same as spirit stones?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, they are different. While spirit stones can be used for cultivating, they can also be used for countless other things. Spirit stones are perhaps one of the most versatile resources, which in turn makes them more valuable than basic qi pills.

The basic qi pills which Jing Wei is speaking about are made from some basic spirit herbs which have the sole purpose of providing you with qi. Although they provide the same amount of spirit qi as a low grade spirit stone, their main drawback is that the process is not as fast as like that with the spirit stones.

Another hidden problem with them is the Pill toxins. These pill toxins are naturally created upon the refinement of the pill and are the impurities present in them. While they do not cause any damage in low quantities, they can be a harm to the cultivator's progress if they accumulate too much.

In fact, there is even a chance that the cultivator may get qi deviation if too many pill toxins accumulate in their body." Xukong explained.

Lin Mu felt enlightened after hearing Senior Xukong's explanation and felt like he could make do with it for now.

"Alright, that will work too."

### **Chapter 218 - Toxin Cleansing Pills**

Jing Wei nodded his head upon hearing Lin Mu's words and felt secretly relieved.

'Good, that he accepted it quickly, we can't afford to give him too many spirit stones. At least not now, but perhaps in the future. Still, if he wants gold, we can give him that too, we have plenty of it at least.' Jing Wei thought to himself.

"Do you just want those pills or do you need other pills too? Do you need pills for healing?" Duan Ke asked.

Lin Mu thought for a moment before remembering that he didn't have many healing pills. The ones that he had were of low quality and were given to him from Hong Luo. Though luckily he hasn't had a chance to use any of them till now.

His own healing was good enough for most of his injuries. The only time he actually needed healing was when he used the boulder collapsing fist at its full potential and mangled his arm.

'I haven't tested that again since then. Perhaps I should use it soon, I wonder if its power increased now that I've reached the late stage of the qi refining realm.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"You should get some healing pills for that technique. We don't know if it will have the same effect again. Though I'm sure that once you reach the peak stage of the qi refining realm, along with the peak stage of the body tempering realm, your body should be able to handle it.

And of course, you can't keep on using the four vessels restoration pills for injuries like this. They are intended for more dangerous ones." Xukong suggested.

Lin Mu inwardly nodded and agreed with Senior Xukong's words. Though he also wondered if Jing Wei and Duan Ke had any four vessels restoration pills with them. While Lin Mu was not thinking of getting injured anytime in the future, he still wanted to be ready just in case.

"Yeah, I would like some healing pills too. Also, do you have these pills?" Lin Mu replied and pulled out the bottle contain two pills that had spiral markings on them.

Jing Wei and Duan Ke looked at the pills, and their brows furrowed.

"Four vessels restoration pills? Yes, we do have those too, but not many. Neither of us two can make a pill of that level so we don't really have a large stock." Jing Wei replied.

Lin Mu was actually a bit surprised by this and did not expect them to have a small stock of it as well. He was now wondering if Jing Wei was so strong and his clan had a great background, why were they poor and hiding. Another thing he picked up from his words was that they could potentially refine alchemical pills as well.

"Oh, it is fine if you don't have much. I'll be fine with a single one too." Lin Mu replied in an understanding tone.

Jing Wei nodded in response and then spoke. "Ke'er bring him to the pill repository. Give him the basic qi pills he wants and also some supplementary pills to help with stabilization and healing."

"Oh, and depending on the quantity of the basic qi pills, ensure that you give him the toxin cleansing pills as well." He added as he saw that they were about to move.

'Cleansing pills?' Lin Mu wondered.

"They are used for removing the pill toxins that I talked about before. Although they can't remove all of it, they are still helpful. Toxin cleansing pills are also quite valuable and are hard to refine. Unlike other pills, they need a special type of alchemical fire to produce as these pills cannot have pill toxins of their own." Xukong explained.

After hearing Senior Xukong's explanation, another question popped up in Lin Mu's mind.

"But Senior, if the toxin cleansing pills can be made to be free from pill toxins using the special alchemical fire, then can't the other pills too?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Not always. In order to refine a pill of zero impurities, the alchemist needs to be perfect and their skills need to reach the grandmaster level. Another aspect is that the toxin cleansing pill are made from spirit herbs that themselves have cleansing properties which help in the removal of toxin during the manufacturing process.

Also, this is not just a single type of pill. The cleansing toxin pill they are talking about is likely the most basic version of it. There are multiple variants of the pill and their generalized name is toxin cleansing pill. The actual name may differ depending on the world itself." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu inwardly nodded upon hearing Senior Xukong's words and continued following behind Duan Ke. Jing Wei was not coming along with them and had gone off in a different direction.

"Umm, where is your grandfather going? Is he not coming with us?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I don't know either. Though I'm sure he'll join us later." Duan Ke answered.



She took him to a different room that was two floors above the one that had the workshop. This room had a similar looking door that opened automatically when they walked close enough to it. But when Lin Mu saw the inside of it, he was amazed.

A second later the aroma of herbs assailed his nose and he felt entranced. That only lasted for an instant, though as Duan Ke waved her hand and the formation array in the room lit up. Lin Mu could actually see a mix of pink and green mist roiling in the room.

"What is this?" Lin Mu muttered.

"That is the highly condensed qi of the alchemical pills. Such a scene is common in pill repositories." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu took a few steps inside and could see the mist clear up. Once it was gone he could finally see the rows and rows of shelves which had countless jars, vials, bottles, gourds, boxes and pouches kept on it.

### **Chapter 219 - Getting The Pills From Duan Ke**

Duan Ke gestured with her hand again and pointed at the hundreds of containers that were on the shelves. Soon some of them started floating up and flew towards a table that was kept in the center of the room. Just as she was doing this she halted for a moment and flicked her other hand, making a jade slip appear in it.

She held it for a brief second and then stored it away again. Her brows furrowed for a few seconds after she put the jade slip away and sighed. She then gestured towards the shelves again and even more containers started flying out and landing on the table.

*~Sigh~*

'What is grandfather thinking... But he is right too, we shouldn't take the chance to offend someone we know we can't resist.' Duan Ke thought inwardly.

At the side of the table, one could see a cauldron that was kept on a stand. Looking at the cauldron, Lin Mu could tell that it was not simple. He could also sense the spirit qi lingering on it and then realized that it was actually an alchemical pill cauldron that was used for refining alchemical pills.

The cauldron was bronze-green in color and had four legs on it. It had two handles to its sides and a conical lid on the top of it. The overall design of the cauldron was rather simple, and there were no unique or eye-catching designs present on it.

In fact, if Lin Mu had not known that it was an alchemical pill cauldron then he would have just thought it to be a common cauldron that could be found in the flea markets of the northern town.

"That's not any simple cauldron either. It's a pill cauldron that can be used to refine high grade alchemical pills. That cauldron is no less than a high grade spirit tool itself." Xukong informed Lin Mu.

Lin Mu inwardly nodded, feeling enlightened at this. His attention was then pulled outward by the train of containers that kept on flying out from the shelves and landing on the table. The biggest place was taken up by two large wooden boxes that were rather plain looking and took up around sixty percent of the surface of the table.

In addition to this, there were some smaller bottles that came flying and settled to the side of the boxes. Some of these bottles were made out of glass and were transparent, while some were made out of some kind of an opaque material.

Soon, the table was completely filled and there was barely any space left on it. Finally, a green tinted crystal vial landed at the very center of the table. While the vial was colored Lin Mu could still make out what was kept inside it, it was a pill with spiral patterns on it.

'The four vessels restoration pill!' Lin Mu inwardly thought.

He had experienced the effects of the pill and knew how miraculous its effects were. He knew that they could be a big trump card in a fight if he ever got fatally injured. The pill was even able to supply him with a massive amount of spirit qi when he used it the last time.

After no more items could be seen flying off from the shelves, Duan Ke walked forward and gestured Lin Mu to follow. She came to stand in front of the table and pointed at the two large boxes and they opened up. As soon as they opened up, Lin Mu could feel the dense cloud of spirit qi rising from it.

Lin Mu's eyes went wide as he saw the two boxes that were completely filled to the brim with plain white pills. Each of these pills was the size of a lychee and was perfectly round. Just from estimating their size and the size of the box itself, Lin Mu could estimate that there were easily hundreds of pills in each of the two boxes.

"These are the basic qi pills. They are of low grade and there are thousand in each box for a total of two thousand pills." Duan Ke informed.

Lin Mu was awed at the sheer amount of the pills and was now excited for the future.

Duan Ke then pointed at a group of glass bottles that also had white pills in them. These pills were familiar to Lin Mu, and he knew that they were lesser wound restoration pills and the other white colored pills that were larger in size were the internal replenishment pills.

He had received these pills from Hong Luo before and thus knew about them. If Lin Mu had not seen them before and experienced their spiritual aura, he would not have been able to distinguish them from each other. Even the basic qi pills were plain white in color, making it hard for inexperienced people to differentiate.

In addition to these, there were more pills. The most particular looking ones were the four vessels restoration pill and another pill bottle which contained two yellow-green colored pills. The pills had a clear differentiation of the two colors into half parts.

"I think you should be able to tell some of these pills at least?" Duan Ke spoke.

Lin Mu nodded at her words and pointed at the ones he knew of and replied, "I know about these three types of pills."

"Alright, I tell you about the most important pills here first." Duan Ke spoke and then pointed to the bottle that contained the two pills that were yellow-green in color.

"There are the low grade toxin cleansing pills that we were talking about before. These should be enough for you to use after using the basic qi pills. You should use one pill after you finish using up a

thousand basic qi pills. Each pill will be able to remove the pill toxins that are accumulated because of the basic qi pill." After explaining this, she pointed to three other bottles.

### **Chapter 220 - Historical Records?**

"These are the higher versions of lesser wound restoration pills and internal replenishment pills that you know of. They are of mid tier and have a stronger effect than their low grade variants." Duan Ke continued.

There were multiple bottles containing the same type of pills thus Lin Mu understood that they were the same and were just stored that way for convenience. Seeing that Lin Mu had understood until this point, she pointed towards a gourd that was rather conspicuous.

That gourd then flew to her hands and she opened its cap, taking out a single pill from it. This pill was different than all other pills and was light brown in color with small yellow spots on it. Lin Mu touched it with his spirit sense and could feel a different type of qi hidden within it.

This qi seemed strange to Lin Mu. He could feel a sense of heaviness from the pill and it also seemed to exude a muddy aroma, as one would smell after rain.

"This is an earthen qi pill. When consumed it releases earth elemental qi that can form an armor around your body, raising your defense. The defense provided by it is enough to protect against a single attack of a core condensation realm expert. There are fifteen pills in here, use them wisely. You can take a pill before a battle and its effects will last for twelve hours or until the armor is broken." Duan Ke explained.

Lin Mu's eyes went wide upon seeing this pill. He had not expected that he would be getting a pill like this either. He had not asked for it either, but was happy upon being given them. Originally he was only intending to get the basic qi pills and some healing pill, but these earthen qi pills were a good addition too.

"I understand, thank you for them." Lin Mu replied in a grateful tone.

Duan Ke then turned her hand in the air and a small pouch appeared. She passed this pouch to Lin Mu, who opened it to take a tool. It didn't even take him a second to recognize what was inside it, as he could feel the dense spirit qi rising from them.

"While we can't give you too many spirit stones, we can still spare some. In that pouch, there are about a thousand low grade spirit stones. You should save them and either use them for transactions with other cultivators or if you are in a pinch, use them to replenish your spirit qi stores." Duan Ke spoke in a slightly concerned tone.

"Thank you for all of this." Lin Mu spoke and then started storing away all the containers of pills. A minute later everything was stored and the table was once again empty.

"Now then, we should go. Grandfather is waiting for us in the library, he has something for you." Duan Ke said before walking out of the door of the pill repository.

Lin Mu too hurriedly followed behind her, and the door of the pill repository closed behind them. They went up the stairs from where they came and then walked back to the path of the meeting hall. But they did not stop there and instead took another set of stairs to go two floors up.

Lin Mu now arrived in what looked like the biggest library he had ever seen. The library he had seen in the northern town and Wu Lim city did not even come close to one percent of it. Surprisingly, Lin Mu could also feel spatial fluctuations in the room and soon understood why.

"The room is being expanded artificially using the expansion array. It is much bigger on the inside than it is supposed to be normally." Xukong informed Lin Mu.

With the help of the mysterious ring, Lin Mu could sense every part of the formation array. This was different than when he had to trace the formation arrays one by one before. This time it was as if they were showing themselves to him.

The bookshelves were about thirty meter tall and looked gigantic compared to Lin Mu's height. He couldn't even see the top of the shelves. Lin Mu kept following behind Duan Ke, and they reached their intended location after fifteen minutes.

Seeing the amount of time it had taken them to reach the location made Lin Mu get an estimation of the real size of the library.

'The library itself is probably larger than the entire courtyard.' Lin Mu thought to himself, feeling awed.

The two of them then spotted Jing Wei, who was sitting at a desk and had a stack of books kept in front of him. He was staring at the two of them and seems to have been waiting for them intently.

"Took you long enough. Now then come sit." Jing Wei spoke up.

The two of them then went ahead and took a seat across the table.

"What did you want to show me?" Lin Mu questioned, feeling curious.

"I took out some books that may interest you. They have the history of the continent recorded in them and have more details than I can tell you. You can read them to get an idea of the more deeper intricacies. I think that you will need them in the future." Jing Wei answered.

Lin Mu's face lit up with joy. He was happy that he would get to learn more and was excited about it. He couldn't wait to get back to his house and cultivate. An idea suddenly popped up in Lin Mu's mind.

"Umm, I also wanted to ask if you have books having information about the descriptions of pills, spirit herbs and spirit beasts." Lin Mu asked.

Jing Wei tilted his head in confusion upon hearing Lin Mu ask about something so simple.

"Yes, we do have them. But why do you need them? Your master should be more than knowledgeable to help you." He replied.

Lin Mu didn't know how to reply to this, so he quickly made up a lie on the spot.

"Umm, my master only teaches me about cultivation and not much about other things. He's mostly busy and doesn't have time for mundane things such as this." Lin Mu lied through his teeth.

Jing Wei lightly tapped the desk in realization.

"Ahh, I see! Of course, an expert of his standing has to spend his time wisely. Alright, it's not a problem. I can give you those too." Jing Wei spoke and then waved his hand in the air.

Soon a small pile of books came flying towards them and settled on the table. Just from the thickness of the books, Lin Mu could tell that there was a lot of information stored in them.

Just as Lin Mu was about to pick one of the books, Jing Wei interrupted him.

"Oh, wait. I'll compile them together in a jade slip. That will make it easier for you to look up the information." Jing Wei explained.

Lin Mu didn't know how to respond, thus he just stayed silent. Jing Wei meanwhile pulled out a greenish white jade slip and held it to the books for a moment. Soon the jade slip started glowing and runes appeared in the air.