

Walker 311

Chapter 311 - Trunk-Faced Cow

After hearing the name Lin Mu saw that it matched the beast's description quite accurately. Though the sounds it was making were nothing like a cow and were rather strange. He looked at the beast from behind the trees, and the beast also seemed to be trying to find him.

It sniffed the air, but to Lin Mu's advantage, the wind was blowing towards him, which prevented the beast from detecting him fast enough. Though seeing that the beast had not used its spirit sense till now and was only using its nose, relieved Lin Mu a bit.

This meant that the beast had only recently reached the Core condensation realm and had yet to refine its spirit sense. This gave a big advantage to Lin Mu as a being with or without spirit sense had completely different danger levels.

Lin Mu had been using his spirit sense as a big tool to help in his battles and knew that he would probably lose his advantage if his opponent knew how to use it too.

Seeing that the beast had still not reacted, Lin Mu circled around a bit in order to get closer to the beast. He wanted to ambush it like he did with most of the other beasts and needed to be in the range of about ten meters in order to use the second skill blink.

Just as Lin Mu got into a proper position, the direction of the wind started blowing towards the beast and it smelled him.

"Hrnnnggg" The beast grunted before turning towards Lin Mu's location.

Lin Mu did not panic and immediately used the second skill blink, appearing to the side of the beast with his short sword ready in his hands. He amplified it with his strength and slashed at the beast's neck. But to his surprise, the beast was quite agile despite its size.

It dodged the slash by a hair's breadth and grunted again. This time Lin Mu could feel the waves of spirit qi rolling off its body. It was doing something, and Lin Mu had an inkling of what it was. A yellow glow appeared on its head as it started charging towards Lin Mu.

"It's using a spirit qi skill, be careful of its attack. This skill should be a charge skill which allows it to form a tough layer of spirit qi around its head." Xukong informed.

Lin Mu nodded and blinked away to another side. The beast easily missed its target and changed its direction towards Lin Mu again. Lin Mu did not blink this time and simply let his short sword attack the beast, while he himself pulled out a lance from his ring.

This lance was the longest weapon he had in his ring and was one of the weapons he had custom made from the Hei corps. He had not used it till now as there was no proper occasion, but now it seemed to be the perfect to attack a beast like this.

While the short sword slashed at the beast's back, Lin Mu charged at the beast as well, with the lance propped straight at the beast's head. Several small cuts were opened up on the beast's back as the short sword was unable to pierce any deeper due to the natural defenses of the beast.

If it were Lin Mu himself who was holding the short sword and attacking the beast, the short sword would have been able to cut through the beast's skin easily, but when using it with his spirit sense, the power of the sword was reduced.

Still, the beast had been distracted enough that Lin Mu was able to stab with his lance. Though the beast had once again dodged and swung its head to the side. But this did not mean that it didn't get injured. Lin Mu was still able to stab the lance into the side of the beast's shoulder.

The lance went about four inches deep before it was stopped by the bones of the beast.

"HRNNNGGG" A pain filled grunt came from the beast before its eyes turned red.

The spirit qi fluctuation coming from the beast intensified and the yellow glow surrounding its head vanished. Now it was prodding the ground with its front hooves and shaking its head. It then raised its head to the sky and let out a loud sound.

"MOOOOOOO"

"I thought it couldn't do that?" Lin Mu muttered to himself as he retreated a few meters away.

He then saw a red glow surround its body and concentrate on its head. The wounds that were on its back were also healed, along with the one that was recently made on its shoulder.

Then two large horns sprouted on its head along with two tusks from its mouth. Its trunk also elongated, and a metallic sheen now covered its skin. The same metallic sheen covered its horns and tusks, turning them impeccably sharp.

Looking at the sharp horns and tusks, Lin Mu knew that he would be heavily injured if he allowed the beast to get any closer to him. Lin Mu withdrew a few throwing daggers and hurled them at the beast's eyes while stepping around the beast.

He charged with the lance again, but this time it was blocked by the metallic sheen that was covering the beast's skin. The beast reacted quickly and slapped the lance with its tusks, making Lin Mu let go of them, in order to not be pushed along with it.

"You'll have to use your short sword, normal weapons will not be able to cut through its defenses," Xukong advised.

Lin Mu nodded his head and withdrew a pair of slim swords. He slashed them at the beast incessantly while running around the beast. He had already amplified his legs with spirit qi which increases his speed for a short while.

With the endless blows, the beast could only try to block them or dodge them. It was evident that the beast was only able to last this long because it had used its bloodline awakening and was using the bloodline skill that it got.

Chapter 312 - Enmity

Finally, while slashing around an opportunity appeared in front of Lin Mu's eyes and he used flicker to pass through the beast, making it a bit disoriented. The short sword returned to his hand, and he poured spirit qi into it, and not just any spirit qi but rather the liquid spirit qi.

This was the first time he had used the liquid spirit qi drops to amplify his short sword, and the effect was quite obvious. The short sword hummed with power, and a grey glow covered its edges.

"HAA!" Lin Mu shouted as he stabbed the Short sword towards the beast.

Lin Mu knew that while a slash may be blocked by the metallic sheen of the beast's skin, a stab might not be.

~Thuck~

~Splatter~

And just as he had expected, the short sword pierced through the neck of the beast rather effortlessly. But Lin Mu had underestimated the vitality of the beast, as it was still not dead, and while it cried in pain, it was still resisting him.

"Damn, this is one tough beast!" Lin Mu cursed.

"Trunk faced cows are known for their defensive abilities and vitality. Their bloodline ability not only increases this by threefold but also increases their offensive abilities by letting them grow extremely hard horns and tusks." Xukong quickly informed.

Lin Mu listened to his words but did not lose focus.

"If one stab didn't work, then ten more should do the trick," Lin Mu stated before drawing the short sword back.

But he found it to be stuck in the neck of the beast.

"What the..." Lin Mu uttered before he saw the muscles of the beast's neck twitch.

'The beast is using his muscles to squeeze the short sword?' Lin Mu realized.

Seeing that this would not work, Lin Mu immediately used another strategy. He used flicker and the short sword was effortlessly pulled out of the beast. No blood was stuck to the sword either, letting it stay clean and shiny.

"Huh, I gotta keep this in mind when I clean the short sword next time..." Lin Mu muttered with a little amazement.

The beast had clearly not expected for Lin Mu to do something like this and staggered due to it losing the pivot it was putting its strength in i.e. the short sword. It stumbled to the left, and Lin Mu had an idea in that instant.

He simply blinked to the side the beast was stumbling towards and pointed the short sword towards it.

~Shing~

~Slick~

In the next moment, the short sword was buried in the beast's jaw and pierced through the palate into the brain. Lin Mu didn't even need to push the short sword, rather the beast did it on its own as it had lost its balance and collided with the sharp tip.

The weight of the beast did most of the job and all Lin Mu had to do was to hold his ground, which was relatively easy, as the weight of the beast was sufficient for Lin Mu to handle. He had not tested his raw strength yet, but knew that he could easily lift a couple of tons.

The beast let out a few more grunts before all life faded away from its body.

~Shing~

Lin Mu withdrew the short sword and looked at it. He saw the blood covering it and thought of what he had learned before. He then used flicker and saw all of the blood that was covering the short sword separating from it and falling to the ground, leaving behind the shiny surface of the blade.

"That's convenient..." Lin Mu muttered.

He then kneeled down and probed the beast for the location of its beast core. He found it to be in the belly of the beast rather than the head or the chest which was a bit surprising to him. Still pushing these thoughts aside, he used the short sword to cut a hole before he pushed his hand inside.

It didn't matter to him that his clothes were getting bloodied, all he wanted right now was to get a closer look at the beast core. He fiddled around with the innards of the beast before he finally touched a small marble.

He could feel the hidden yet potent spirit qi that was contained within the beast's core and his heart throbbed with it. It was almost as if the beast core was alive and still had a pulse. He wiped the beast core clean and took a closer look at it.

The beast core was brown colored with yellow patterns printed on it. The yellow patterns looked like the horns and the tusks of the beast, which showed that this beast core belonged to a beast that had awakened its bloodline.

In the very next second that Lin Mu glanced at the beast core, he suddenly had a feeling of danger and the hair on his arm stood on its ends. Without hesitation, he used blink and appeared the maximum distance he could from the area, but his hand felt empty. The beast core had fallen.

Lin Mu looked at the scene and saw the reason behind it. His hand had been hit by a wind attack at the very instant he had activated the skill blink, which led to the beast core getting knocked out of his hand while he himself teleported away.

"No! That's mine," Lin Mu shouted as he looked at the people that had attacked him.

They were none other than the four disciples of the Tri cauldron peony sect that he had seen before.

"Very good junior brother," spoke the Senior brother as he clapped his hands.

"This beast core with an awakened bloodline will serve as the perfect gift for sister Ye Zi Jin." The eldest brother stated.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth as he saw the junior brother put the beast core in his pocket.

"Give that back, if you do not want enmity between us." Lin Mu wandered.

"Hahaha! Enmity? What right does a mere wandering cultivator like you have to say that? Just because you have a little strength to kill an early stage core condensation beast?" The Senior brother taunted.

"He also seems to have some unique movement techniques, perhaps we should interrogate him a bit, what do you say brothers?" Spoke the junior brother adding oil to the fire.

As soon as Lin Mu heard that, it was as if the last straw was broken. The story that Jing Wei had told him came back to him, and his dislike of the sects climbed another step higher.

Lin Mu knew that he could not let these men go now. Not only had they stolen the beast core that he had obtained, but they had also seen the skill that he used and were coveting him. The enmity between them was now sowed, and Lin Mu was determined to reap the crop, whether it be rotten or unripe.

"Careful junior brother!" The eldest brother yelled as he blocked Lin Mu's short sword that had come flying.

"YOU DARE!" The Senior brother yelled.

But suddenly Lin Mu disappeared in front of their eyes, but then they heard his voice.

"Boulder collapsing fist: First form- Impact!"

Chapter 313 - Battling The Disciples

~Splatter~

Blood and brains covered the faces and bodies of the three disciples. They looked on with horror as the headless corpse of their junior brother fell to the ground. Because they were frozen due to the scene, Lin Mu took advantage of it and quickly took the Beast core from the dead man's pocket.

It was then that the three disciples were finally able to react and anger appeared on their faces.

"JUNIOR BROTHER, NOO!" Shouted the Senior brother.

The other two men got into an attacking stance and withdrew their weapons.

"You! You dare kill a disciple of the Tri cauldron peony sect! You shall suffer for this." The Junior elder Fa Shiu declared as the waves sprite qi rolled off his body showing his mid stage core condensation realm cultivation.

Lin Mu also quickly scanned the three disciples and discovered their cultivation. The one called as the senior brother was at the peak stage of the qi refining realm while the eldest brother was at the early stage of the core condensation realm. It was only the junior elder that was at the mid stage of the core condensation realm.

While these disciples were stronger than Lin Mu in terms of cultivation, Lin Mu did not back down. He had confidence in himself that he could handle them and did not fear them.

Without speaking another word, Lin Mu blinked to another location and controlled his short sword to strike at the Senior brother.

~Clink~

The Senior brother blocked it with his own sword, while the eldest brother and the junior elder ran towards Lin Mu.

"Careful, his movement technique is strange. I haven't seen anything like it." The junior elder spoke.

The other two nodded, and Lin Mu blinked again disappearing from his location. He appeared at the back of the senior brother and slashed with the two slim swords that appeared in his hands.

"Gah!" The Senior brother grunted as he felt the force behind the strike.

'How is he this strong?' The senior brother thought as he probed Lin Mu with his spirit sense.

"He's only at the peak stage of the qi refining realm?!" Senior brother muttered in shock.

The Junior elder leaped towards Lin Mu's back, seeing that he was involved with Senior brother. But just as his sword was about to slash Lin Mu's back, he found it to pass through him as if it were air.

"WHAT! HOW?" The junior elder exclaimed in shock.

"You don't need to know..." Lin Mu replied before he jumped to the side, dodging the three disciples' attacks.

The twin swords disappeared from Lin Mu's hand as a battle Axe appeared in their stead. The short sword came flying and cut a wound on the Senior brother's hand. Lin Mu clashed with the Eldest brother and nearly made him lose his sword.

"Enough!" The Junior elder spoke before gesturing with his left hand and shooting a fire ball out from it.

Lin Mu was surprised for a moment but then quickly dodged the incoming fireball. He spun around and hurled the battle Axe in his hand towards the Senior brother.

"Quick while, he's unarmed." Spoke the eldest brother.

But before he could say the next sentence, he went silent and his eyes went wide.

"Boulder collapsing fist: Second form- Piercer!" Lin Mu had shot the thin needle of spirit qi into the man's chest.

The spirit qi needle pierced through the man's heart, exploding it inside his chest while the needle left through his back and embedded itself into a tree, exploding its trunk as well. The splinters of the bark startled the Senior brother as he was close to it and he closed his eyes to protect from the splinters.

"Bah!" The eldest brother spit out blood before he collapsed onto the ground.

None of the three disciples had seen what had struck the eldest brother, and they were shocked.

"You! Who are you? There is no way someone with such skill can be a wandering cultivator. State your name!" The Junior elder Fa Shiu said feeling angry.

"There is no need. You are the ones who sowed the enmity now you are the ones who will get the fruit." Lin Mu said before disappearing from their vision.

He appeared behind the senior brother who had his eyes closed and stabbed the short sword through his back, instantly killing him.

"Three down, one to go..." Lin Mu muttered to himself as he looked at the junior elder.

The look in Lin Mu's eyes terrified Fa Shiu, and it was unlike anything he had seen.

"AAAAHHHH!" The junior elder shouted as he clashed with Lin Mu.

Both of them exchanged blow after blow, with no one coming out at the top. Even with Lin Mu using blink and circling around Fa Shiu, he found himself unable to find an opening.

'Seems like fighting a mid stage core condensation realm cultivator is still a bit too much.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Lin Mu actually wanted to see how much he could keep up against with a mid stage core condensation realm cultivator just by using his weapon skills. But now that he had received his answer, he knew that he should end it quick.

The Junior elder started using the spirit qi skill that he had used before and started throwing more of the fireballs. Lin Mu was able to dodge them but was getting annoyed by them.

Finally, he started chanting the severing heart sutra targeting the Junior elder.

Fa Shiu entered a daze and became still. Lin Mu used this opportunity and got close to him, but just as his sword was about to slash at his neck, Fa Shiu awakened and jumped back.

'That was close...' Fa Shiu thought.

"What did you do?" He questioned, feeling shocked.

'Tch, seems like using the severing heart sutra on a mid stage core condensation realm cultivator is not as effective.' Lin Mu thought.

He then gestured and ordered the short sword to attack the junior elder, but the man had instead started running away.

"What!" Lin Mu muttered and then started running after the man.

Chapter 314 - Checking The Spoils

Lin Mu chased after the Junior elder but the man used some kind of a skill and increased his speed by fourfold, escaping.

"DAMMIT!" Lin Mu cursed.

Lin Mu had not expected that the man would escape mid way through the Battle.

"You can find him later, you know where he would turn up," Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu then remembered what the four men were here for.

"Yes, if they were here to find a gift for that sister Ye Zi Jin, then they are bound to be at Wu Lim City later. I just need to bide my time and find them there. If I inform Hei Wen, she should be able to help me, at least that guy doesn't know who I am." Lin Mu spoke.

But Lin Mu knew that he would have to find the man before he fiend's him and eliminate him, or there could be big problems.

Lin Mu returned to the site of the battle and checked the three corpses. He gathered their weapons and found the three swords to be low grade spirit weapons. Lin Mu held them and channeled spirit qi into them only to find there to be Resistance.

"Huh, so this is how low grade weapons are like..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He stored them in the ring and then searched the bodies. He took the bangle from the senior brother's arm and looked at it.

"He called this the spirit qi sensing bangle, right?" Lin Mu spoke before trying it out.

The gem on the top of the bangle glowed for a bit before it cracked and the bangle broke.

"What the! Why did it break?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It was a low grade spirit tool that to one that could only be used by a single person." Xukong answered.

"A single person? What do you mean Senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"There are certain spirit tools that are made in such a way that if anyone other than its first owner tries to use it, they are destroyed. This one was like one of those tools. A lot of sects do something like this to the things that they issue to their disciples." Xukong replied.

"Though, this is likely only because this was a low grade tool. If it were a mid grade or even a high grade tool, the sects would not be able to bear the losses, so they should not have the same characteristic." Xukong added while made Lin Mu relived.

Lin Mu did not want to come out without any benefits if he ever got into a battle with the disciples of cultivation sects in the future. If all of the spirit tools were like this, then it would be a shame.

He also found two small bags hanging on the waists of the Senior brother and the Eldest brother. When he touched them, he could actually feel faint spatial fluctuations.

"Are these..." Lin Mu muttered.

"Yes, they are spatial storage treasures. Albeit of the lowest grade. These are spatial storage bags and are the most basic kind of a spatial storage treasure. They are relatively easier to make but also have a very small capacity. Their durability is also rather bad and they can be damaged easily by stray attacks." Xukong explained.

Since the two men were dead, their spirit sense signature was wiped from the two bags. Lin Mu easily put his own signature on them and checked what was in them.

Upon checking, he saw that the volume of the bags was very small, being one cubic foot.

"This is tiny, what do they even keep in this?" Lin Mu muttered he scanned them for items.

From the two storage bags, he obtained about thirty low grade spirit stones, a few healing pills and basic qi pills. And finally, he also obtained a small booklet that had a qi skill written in it.

Lin Mu read through the booklet and realized that this was the qi skill that the junior elder Fa Shiu had used.

"This is good, at least I got some spirit stones and pills along with this qi skill." Lin Mu said.

Lin Mu read the booklet and saw that the name of the skill was minor fireball technique.

"That's rather simple." Lin Mu muttered as he continued reading the instructions.

Five minutes later he had learned them and he tried to follow the method that was described in it.

A few seconds later, a small fire ball was floating in Lin Mu's hand.

"I thought this would be harder? Learning the Boulder collapsing fist was a hundred times more difficult than this." Lin Mu said as he felt a bit surprised.

If the Junior elder were to see what Lin Mu had just done, his jaw would be wide open. Lin Mu had just learned a totally new qi skill in five minutes.

Lin Mu looked at the fireball in his hand and played with it for a bit, before understanding how it worked. He then threw the fireball onto the headless corpse of the Junior brother and watched it get reduced to ashes.

Seeing that this was rather effective, he threw fireballs on the other two corpses as well and turned them to ashes as well.

"This will make it convenient to cook, nice." Lin Mu spoke, feeling a bit happy.

He amplified his hand with spirit qi and waved it hard towards the ashes, blowing them away. He then stored the trunk faced cow's corpse in the ring as well and started his journey back to the northern town. Now that he had the beast core of a beast with an awakened bloodline, Lin Mu wanted nothing more than to practice the method to refine and prepare it for assimilation.

But before that, he needed to info Hie Wen of what happened and to keep an eye out for that Junior elder named Fa Shiu. While running away, the man had gone in the eastern direction but Lin Mu knew that he could have gone anywhere from there.

'It will be faster for the Hei Corps to find that guy rather than me roaming around.' Lin Mu thought.

Chapter 315 - Refining The Trunk Faced Cow's Awakened Bloodline

Lin Mu returned to his room after having told Hei Wen of what had occurred a little while ago. She was shocked, to say the least upon hearing it, but then her expression turned serious after that. She simply told Lin Mu that she will inform him if anything happens or if that man is found.

Lin Mu returned to his house after that, seeing that everything would be handled. He now had the most important task of practicing the method that was used to refine the awakened bloodline.

"How do I start then, Senior Xukong?" Lin Mu asked.

"First, you will need a large container for the blood," Xukong spoke.

"Blood?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes, the blood of the beast. The entire beast is required in order to prepare the bloodline. You need a large container in which you will be draining the blood of the Trunk faced cow. Then you will be creating some formations which I will instruct you on." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu nodded and took out of the large barrels he had bought long ago. He then took out the corpse of the trunk faced cow and slit its throat, letting all the blood spill into the barrel.

"While the rest of the blood collects into the barrel, you can use the amount that is in it to make the formation runes." Xukong instructed.

Lin Mu dipped his fingers into the blood and drew the formations runes onto the floor of the room. Lin Mu would have preferred not to make a mess in his room, but he couldn't actually draw this any place else and certainly not on the soil, thus this was the only choice.

Xukong kept on speaking and showed him how to move his fingers to write the runes. There were different kinds of runes, most of which Lin Mu could not understand. The runes included some in the common tongue and some in the Dao script. There were even some other runes that Lin mu had no idea which language they were from.

Still, Lin Mu did not question it and just kept on writing as he knew that it was not the time and he should simply focus on finishing this task. He knew that there was still a chance of failure and if he really wanted to succeed in obtaining the bloodline of the great slumber bear, he had to be sure.

About an hour passed by, after which Lin Mu had finally finished writing all of the runes.

"What's next Senior?" Lin Mu asked as he wiped the sweat off his brow.

"Now place the corpse of the trunk faced cow in the very center of the formation. Then divide the blood that you drained from it into three parts and place them in the three empty sections in the formation." Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu took out three small containers and split the blood into three parts and placed them according to where senior Xukong had instructed.

"Now comes the most difficult part, you need to release the bloodline from the beast core of the trunk faced cow." Xukong spoke in a serious tone.

~Gulp~

Lin Mu swallowed his saliva and withdrew the beast core from the ring. Xukong started speaking in his mind about what to do and he tried to repeat that, which was quite difficult as Lin Mu was failing a few times at every step.

This was the first time he was actually doing something like this purely using his spirit sense, thus it was no wonder that it was difficult. Xukong had told Lin Mu to sense certain points in the beast core, which was quite difficult due to how dense the beast core was.

The sheer amount of spirit qi condensed in it made it difficult for Lin Mu to observe it with his spirit sense and thus took him multiple efforts to even be able to enter it. But once he did, he was able to find the first point that he needed to unlock.

Lin Mu could see that there were dense nets of spirit qi in the beast core that formed complex shapes, and within the joints of these shapes were the points that Lin Mu needed to unlock. After six attempts, he was finally able to unlock the first point.

But this was only the start, and there were many more to come.

In all, Lin Mu ended up unlocking forty two points in the beast core which took him over eight hours. This was quite taxing on Lin Mu's mind and he was feeling extremely tired mentally. Even if his vital energy or spirit qi had not been used as much, it was still exhausting.

But as soon as the final point was unlocked, Lin Mu could feel the change in the beast core.

"MOOOOO"

A loud cry of the trunk faced cow was heard. If it were not for the illusory formation that Lin Mu had placed on his house, the neighbors and guards would have definitely been alerted. The beast core then started glowing and Lin Mu could see the faint figure of the trunk faced cow moving around inside of it.

"You have to be quick now, or there is a chance the beast core may explode," Xukong warned.

~Huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and forcibly suppressed his exhaustion. He roused his vital energy and spirit qi, making him refreshed again.

"Now you need to put the beast core on top of the beast corpse, and then you will need to manually guide the process using your spirit sense." Xukong instructed.

Lin Mu did as he was told and placed the beast core on the corpse. As soon as he did, the formation runes he had carved on the ground lit up and floated up. The three containers of blood that he had placed in the formation also started floating and the blood came out of them.

The blood formed into three ribbons that started wrapping the beast corpse while the beast core released a bright light.

Chapter 316 - Bloodline Refinement Success!

Lin Mu controlled the runes that would act on the blood and made sure that they worked according to the proper institutions.

The three ribbons of blood completely wrapped the corpse of the trunk faced cow, turning into a red mass and then the beast core melted before merging into the red mass. This red mass floated up and twisted and turned, letting out more noises.

The trunk faced cow's grunts and cries could be heard in the room. Lin Mu was profusely sweating, but he did not dare to lose focus for even one second and continued operating the formations. An hour passed by after which the red mass had shrunk by half and continued to do so.

"How long do I need to keep this up, senior?" Lin Mu asked with difficulty.

"Until it has been reduced to the size of a small pill." Xukong answered.

~Sigh~

Lin Mu let out a sigh and then focused back on the task at hand. Another hour passed and now the red mass was reduced to ten percent of its original size. But it was still far from the size it needed to be. One more hour for a total of three hours passed and now the red mass had reached the size of a fist.

Lin Mu's eyes were blood shot at this point and veins had popped up on his face due to how much he had been straining himself.

Suddenly a new change happened and all the formations runes that had been floating in the air started to fall towards the fist sized mass and hammered on it. With each formation rune that imprinted on it, the size of the red mass shrank by a little bit.

Grasping what he now needed to do now, Lin Mu started to control the runes to hammer onto the red mass. With each rune, he increased his speed and continued to do so until finally all of the runes had disappeared and the red mass had shrunk to the size of a small pill.

"MOOOOO"

An unyielding cry came from the pill, and it almost escaped Lin Mu's control. The pill was trying to run away!

"NO, YOU WON'T!" Lin Mu uttered with determination.

In that moment, the aura of the sword path unconsciously leaked out of his body and touched upon the small red pill. As soon as it did, a suppressed grunt came out of the pill as if it were submitting to Lin Mu.

Finally, the small red pill glowed brightly, and when the light faded away Lin Mu saw it. There was now a translucent red bead floating in his hand. The bead had the figure of the trunk faced cow in it, but unlike before, it was fixed and did not move.

~Phew~

Lin Mu let out a breath of relief and held onto the small bead.

"Now that is a proper bloodline crystal. Excellent job!" Xukong praised.

"Thank you senior," Lin Mu said before he collapsed onto the ground in exhaustion and then falling into a deep slumber.

Xukong chuckled upon seeing this but knew that it was a well deserved rest.

'He actually refined the entire thing in his first try, that is simply stunning.' Xukong praised in his heart.

"If he can do it with this method, then the one that he will use for the great slumber bear will be even easier. Seems like my decision of getting him to practice with the more complex method was correct, after all I also got to test out his natural skill in formations and refinement too." Xukong muttered to himself.

An unknown amount of time passed before Lin Mu woke up. After waking up, he looked around and saw that he was in his room with all the barrels lying around him. Thankfully, all of the blood had been used up to refine the bloodline crystal, so there was no mess in the room.

He would not even have to wash the barrels as every single drop of blood was utilized. Lin Mu laid as he was on the ground and lifted his hand to look at the bloodline crystal in his hand. He looked at it closely and saw it faintly glimmer before the ray of sunlight that leaked in from the corner of a window.

Lin Mu curiously probed it with his spirit sense and saw that he couldn't do it. The bloodline crystal was even more dense than the beast core and he could faintly sense the massive amount of raw spirit qi contained within it.

But while doing this, Lin Mu also felt something strange with his spirit sense.

"Huh, it increased in size?" Lin Mu muttered with surprise.

He extended it as much as he could and realized that it had now reached a maximum length of a hundred meters.

"But how?" Lin Mu wondered.

"You extensively used your spirit sense to the limit. This stimulated it and caused it to grow while you were sleeping. This has happened before, remember?" Xukong suddenly spoke.

Lin Mu then remembered when he had killed the Alpha steel back wolf, how the short sword had heeded his command and acted according to his will. He had exhausted himself quite a lot back then too and had stressed his spirit sense, which led to it greatly growing.

The same thing occurred now too, except it was not as much as before. This time it only grew in maximum length by about twenty meters, which was still quite a lot. According to what Lin Mu knew, the range of spirit sense was usually only achievable when a cultivator reached the core condensation realm.

Yet, Lin Mu had done it while he was half way through the peak stage of the qi refining realm. Lin Mu checked his dantian and saw that it was a little more than eighteen hundred drops of spirit qi, while the rest of the space was filled with spirit qi wisps.

"Now I've only got to ensure that I've reached a sufficient level of proficiency with the nameless technique of the lost immortal." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Chapter 317 - Another Goal Accomplished!

~Meow~

Lin Mu was woken from his cultivation session by a voice which was none other than Little Shrubby. It had been bumping against his back trying to wake him up but because of Lin Mu being deep in focus, he didn't react at all.

"What do you need?" Lin Mu asked as he woke up.

He then saw it pointing towards a place in the room. Lin Mu saw that this was the place where he had kept all the beast cores for Little Shrubby to eat.

"Huh, you finished all of them?" Lin Mu asked, feeling a bit surprised.

~Nyaa~

Little Shrubby coyly acted, asking for more of the beast cores. Lin Mu did not mind it and went and put more beast cores for Little Shrubby to eat.

'When did I put the beat cores last?... He ate ten beast cores in four days?' Lin Mu remembered.

He then used his spirit sense to look at Little Shrubby and realized that the spirit qi fluctuations coming off of it had increased by quite a lot over the past few days. He checked little Shrubby's own beast core and estimated that it was actually half way through the late stage of the qi refining realm.

"Merely weeks and he's already starting to catch up..." Lin Mu muttered with a wry smile.

"Of course it would catch up. What else did you expect? Perhaps even the disciples of a sect would not have the same level of resources that it gets. Endless spirit beast meat, beast cores, all on top of the effect of a few dual circle ascension fruits. Even a common pig would become an expert at this rate." Xukong joked.

Lin Mu chuckled and got up, taking out the beast meat for his practice. Lately, he was feeling a change in the technique and could sense that his stomach was reaching a limit.

~Gulp~

Lin Mu finished the last bite of a fully roasted beast corpse when he felt it.

"Is it finally time?" Lin Mu wondered and closed his eyes.

The grey net made out of the obscure patterns had appeared once again, but this time another layer was being added to it. Previously it had two layers, of which the first layer was the most dense and looked like a coat of grey skin. The second layer was much less dense and had wide gaps in between it.

That second layer had also become similar to the first layer and formed a close-knit skin onto the surface of the stomach. Finally, a third layer was rapidly forming and the obscure patterns kept on linking up, forming into threads that then wove to form the net.

An hour quickly passed and the process finally completed.

~Shua~

A wave of energy was released from Lin Mu's body as his hair moved with it. His hair had grown quite a bit over the months and was now up to his shoulders. He didn't really mind it and decided to keep it, not wanting to cut it.

The wave of energy passed through his body, bathing his cells and filling them with vigor. Lin Mu felt extremely comfortable and sensed that the conversion of his body's cells into the Xiantian physique cells was sped up.

Previously it was at ten percent but now it was rapidly approaching twenty five percent. Lin Mu reckoned that if this pace was kept up, he could even reach one hundred percent conversion soon.

Another hour passed and the wave of energy finally subsided. Then Lin Mu felt something he had not felt for a while- it was the absence of hunger.

Ever since Lin Mu had started practicing the nameless technique of the lost immortal, he had been feeling hungry all the time. Even if his appetite had been satisfied for a bit, it didn't mean that it was his limit. He could still keep on eating if he so wanted.

But today for the first time he did not feel like it.

"Is this it?" Lin Mu wondered.

He scanned his body from the top to the bottom and witnessed the change in the physiology of his stomach. His stomach which should have originally been reddish-pink normally had changed to become a strange grey with countless obscure patterns crawling over it.

"This is weird..." Lin Mu muttered, finding the appearance of his stomach to be a bit gross.

'Let's test it out, have I really achieved it?' Lin Mu thought.

He took out more beast meat and tried to eat. He finished one of the cooked beasts and realized that there was no change in his appetite. He ate another and there was no difference again.

Three beasts...

Four beasts...

Five beasts...

After an entire five beasts had been finished off, Lin Mu confirmed that he had truly reached a proper level of proficiency with the nameless technique of the lost immortal.

"AHAHA!" Lin Mu laughed in joy, "finally it is done."

The fear that he would be unable to accomplish his goal was looming over Lin Mu's head for quite a while. And now that he had finally done it, an almost incomprehensible level of relief washed over it.

But that was not the end.

~Shua~

It was as if a dam had broken in Lin Mu's body or perhaps it was a restriction which had been placed subsections by him, an even stronger wave of energy was released from his body. This wave of energy imbued hi cells and increased the pace of their conversion by even more.

25%

30%

40%

50%

75%

90%

95%

Finally, it seemed like the accumulated energy had reached an impasse and the covering of the cells into Xiantian physique cells had reached near completion. It would only take him another small push, and Lin Mu's body would have fully been converted into a Xiantian body.

~Phew~

Lin Mu let out a breath and took a look inside. The power contained in his body, it was as if each and every single inch of his body's tissues were packed with hidden strength.

Chapter 318 - Heading To Wu Lim City

Lin Mu clenched his fist, gauging the power in his fist. The level of vital energy within his body had reached an extremely high level, and Lin Mu didn't know if it could go beyond this point. Perhaps when his body was fully converted into Xiantian Physique then he'll be able to tell.

"I am now fully prepared for assimilating the bloodline of the great slumber bear. All that's left for me is to fulfill the promise that I made with the Hei corps." Lin Mu spoke to himself.

He thought to himself for a bit and wondered why he was waiting here, when he could just go to the Wu Lim city. If he was lucky, he could even be able to find that junior elder Fa Shiu and kill him before the events preceding the wedding.

"That does seem like a good idea. There is no reason for you to stay here and you can preemptively strike on that man." Xukong agreed.

Lin Mu nodded in response and stood up, having made up his mind. He had a quick talk with little shrubby and instructed it to not start any fires for the coming few days, or at least till he came back. Little shrubby agreed with him, albeit a little hesitatingly.

Lin Mu petted his head and then prepared to leave for the journey. There really wasn't much that he needed to do, as most of his items were kept in his ring, anyway.

Seeing that everything was now prepared, Lin Mu took out the formation plate that controlled the illusory formation that was placed on the courtyard and activated it. An invisible wave of spirit qi was spread in the air, and the courtyard disappeared from the neighborhood.

Lin Mu stepped out of his courtyard and turned to take a look.

"It's hidden alright," Lin Mu spoke before doing a quick sweep of the area to find Hei Ping.

He informed the man that he was going to the Wu Lim city and to not worry about the house. Hei Ping was left dumbfounded when he tried to look for the house and could not find it, no matter how much he tried.

"I swear it was here... Or is this what senior Lin Mu meant by not to worry about the house?" Hei Ping muttered to himself with a wry smile.

He then let out a sigh and returned to his work, not bothering with the house anymore. Meanwhile, Lin Mu had just reached the town center and entered the office at the top.

"What brings you here?" Hei Wen greeted Lin Mu upon seeing him enter.

"I've decided that I'm going to head to Wu Lim city." Lin Mu stated.

Hei Wen was a bit confused, but nodded her head nevertheless.

"Why the change in decision, didn't you have some tasks to do? The ceremonies have not started either." Hei Wen asked.

"The work that I had here has been completed ahead of time," Lin Mu said as he clenched his fist, still trying to get used to the increase in the vital energy.

In that moment, Hei Wen could feel as if a hidden volcano was standing in front of her. A volcano that was at its limit and would explode any moment.

~Gulp~

But then the illusion faded away, and she gulped in shock.

'What horrifying vital energy! And his cultivation base... I can't even sense it.' Hei Wen thought.

Knowing that it was none of her business and it would be inappropriate asking Lin Mu about it, she decided to just go with the flow.

"Alright, I'll get you a carriage to take you to the city and I'll also send a message ahead." Hei Wen spoke.

"There's no need for a carriage, it'll be faster if I head there on my own. Besides, I want to see if I can catch that junior elder Fa Shiu first." Lin Mu replied.

"About that... you may want to be careful while in the city. The disciples of the Tri cauldron peony sect have a stronghold in the city and it would not do you good if you openly targeted them. I've already informed the lord of this so he knows and will assist you.

Also, it would be better if you take care of it before the ceremonies and do not act during them. There will be a few core condensation realm experts keeping watch there and it could turn dangerous." Hei Wen advised.

"I understand," Lin Mu nodded and turned around to leave.

After Lin Mu was gone, Hei Wen took out a sheet of paper and quickly wrote down something on it before calling for the guards.

"Send this message to the lord, with our fastest messenger. It is of the utmost importance." Hei Wen ordered.

"It shall be done." The guard spoke before leaving to do his task.

A few minutes later, a hawk took flight from one of the windows of the town center and in its claws, it clutched the letter that Hei Wen had written. It took to the skies and disappeared into the clouds at an impressive speed.

Meanwhile, Lin Mu had just exited the town and was thinking of the things that he needed to do. Once he was at a sufficient distance from the town, he controlled his short sword to fly in front of him and jumped on it.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu said as he tried to balance himself.

This was the first time he had tried flying on his short sword and he had been looking forward to it.

~Swoosh~

Lin Mu started off slow, but soon sped up and shot forward like an arrow.

"WOOHOO!" Lin Mu cried out in joy as he enjoyed the feeling of flying.

"Careful, you should watch your consumption of spirit qi, you are still not in the core condensation realm. While you can fly, the consumption will still be high." Xukong warned.

Lin Mu nodded and took a look into his dantian.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu exclaimed as he saw that about two drops of liquid spirit qi had been consumed in the five minutes that he had flown.

Lin Mu jumped down to the ground and his short sword returned to its sheath.

"Yup, I'll just run."

Chapter 319 - Caves And Thirst?

Lin Mu started running and burst into a sprint. The Wu Lim city was about ten hours' distance from the Northern town by a carriage, but Lin Mu was sure that by just going on his foot he should reach much earlier. If he were to fly using his short sword Lin Mu was sure that he would be there in less than two hours, but seeing the consumption of the spirit qi made him desist from doing that.

Lin Mu did not want to be low in spirit qi in case anything bad happened, hence he did not fly to the city. But just as he was thinking of flying, he wondered why that junior elder Fa Shiu of the Tri cauldron pennon sect hadn't flown when he was in the mid stage of the core condensation realm.

"Senior, why did that junior elder not fly away when he was escaping from me?" Lin Mu questioned.

"It is likely that he only had a low grade spirit weapon and could not use it to fly. Not all low grade spirit weapons are able to be used to fly even if they can be used with spirit sense. Though all mid grade weapons can be used to fly." Xukong answered.

Lin Mu then remembered the sword that the junior elder had used and realized that the fluctuations coming off it were indeed quite less, which meant that the sword was indeed a low grade spirit weapon. He was also reminded that he now had three extra spirit swords in his ring that he got from the disciples that he killed, but did not brand them with his spirit sense as he did not want to expend his spirit sense in that.

He had already learned that there were a limited amount of spirit tools and weapons he could brand with his spirit sense, depending on the strength of his spirit sense and his cultivation. Though it also depended on the grade of the spirit tool or weapon.

Currently, Lin Mu had branded two spirit weapons, his short sword and the iron thorn spear, along with one spirit tool which was none other than the communication jade slip which also had all the records contained within it.

While Lin Mu's spirit sense had been strengthened today, he still did not want to waste it on low grade spirit swords like these. He could still use them directly without his spirit sense, anyway. The weapons he used for the thousand armament blade Scripture were all normal weapons. Even if they were of a great quality, they were no spirit weapons, thus Lin Mu realized that he could replace three of the swords in that set with the low grade spirit swords that he got.

Two hours had passed, and Lin Mu had covered around half of the distance to the city. But even now he was not feeling tired and was still running at the same pace he had started at.

'Seems like the Nameless technique of the lost immortal had more effects than I thought, but it should also be due to the conversion of my body's cells into the Xiantian physique cells.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

While running, Lin Mu was multitasking and was also practicing with his spirit sense. Now that it had grown stronger, he needed to practice with it again to get a better control over it. For that very reason, he was probing the ground, changing the shape of the spirit sense tendril into complex shapes and forms along with changing its thickness.

Though the most difficult part was splitting it into multiple parts. Whenever Lin Mu wanted to scan an area, he would create a single tendril and wave it over that area, gathering the information. But what Lin Mu wanted to do was create a constant area of perception around him by splitting his spirit sense into multiple strands.

While this would reduce the maximum range of his spirit sense, it would also make it so he knew each and everything that was happening in an area of twenty square meters around him. The range of his spirit sense fell by about five times if he split it into multiple strands.

And just as he was doing this, he also realized that there were actually quite a few hollow spaces inside the ground. In the entire distance that Lin Mu had covered till now, he realized that he had sensed no less than fifteen caves till now.

"There were caves under the Northern town as well, right? The safe House of the Hei Corps is built in a cave system. I wondered why there are so many caves here. It doesn't seem like many people know about it either." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Finally, while running he heard the sound of running water and realized that he was near a river. Lin Mu came to a halt and decided to have a little drink.

"Wait, shouldn't the nameless technique of the lost immortal take care of thirst too?" Lin Mu questioned with shock.

"Now that I think of it, it should." Xukong spoke.

"Then why do I still feel thirsty?" Lin Mu asked and then realized it on his own.

"Dammit, I never drank water like I ate the meat, did it?!" Lin Mu cursed his stupidity.

"Well, better late than never. But I'm surprised that there was no requirement for water for practicing the technique... though technically you should have also been getting quite a bit of water that is naturally present in the meat." Xukong added.

Lin Mu nodded his head and knelt beside the river. The river was none other than the northern river, one of the three rivers that were the lifeline of the Wu Lim City along with the Western and Eastern river. These Rivers met in the Wu Lim city and disappeared into the ground from there only to reappear near the Southern town.

Lin Mu like a beast, dipped his head into the flowing river and started swallowing ungodly amounts of water. He would drink for a few minutes at large and then take his head out to breathe for a few seconds.

If someone were to see this scene, they would laugh, at first but then after a while, it would get horrifying seeing the amount of water that Lin Mu was drinking.

Chapter 320 - Entering The Lord's Manor

An entire hour had passed and Lin Mu was still drinking water. Perhaps it was due to staying in seclusion for extended periods of time or spending nearly every moment of his time with a beast who was none other than senior Xukong, Lin Mu's common sense had been twisted quite a bit.

He couldn't grasp the extreme strangeness of the act that he was doing right now. The amount of water that he had drunk in the past hour was perhaps enough for a single man to drink for a year already and he was still not stopping.

At this point, Lin Mu simply testing out the mortal limits of his body. Another thirty minutes passed and Lin Mu finally decided to stop. Not because he was full, but because he realized that in the time he had spent here, he could have perhaps covered most of the distance to Wu Lim city.

"Well, seems like the Nameless technique of the lost immortal is definitely working. I feel no different and can probably keep on drinking for a couple of hours more." Lin Mu said as he wiped the water off his face.

"You sure you don't have the bloodline of a river swallowing toad?" Xukong joked.

Lin Mu chuckled and then continued on his journey.

While running he realized that the conversion of his body's cells into Xiantian Physique had started again, but the pace was quite slow. But any progress was good for him, as it had halted at 95% previously.

The time passed swiftly, and soon Lin Mu could see tall buildings in the distance. Little by little the buildings grew larger and more of them were visible. The most eye catching of all the building was the one that was located at the very back.

This building had multiple roofs and had statues of auspicious placed on them. Its roof was made from red tiles while its walls were made from green bricks. This was none other than the grand manor of the Mayor, the seat of power of the entire county.

Another building that was also quite big was the ancestral temple which was located at the very center of the city. Lin Mu could faintly see the myriad of characters that were carved into the temple walls and even the guardian gods that had been painted onto them.

At the eastern part, Lin Mu could see the shimmering water near which a few buildings were located.

"Hmm, so that is where the lord of the Hei Corps lives... but also where the stronghold of the disciples of the Tri cauldron peony sect is located." Lin Mu muttered.

Lin Mu had already been informed of the location of the lord's mansion as he was to go to him after reaching Wu Lim city. Though Lin Mu had a few things on his list that he wanted to do for a long time. The last time he came to Wu Lim city was about a year before the plague and was also the time when the martial competition was held. At that time he had gone there along with his father and had a lot of fun.

A sense of nostalgia filled Lin Mu as the memories of past reused back and just like this he reached the entrance of the city.

"Halt! Declare your identity and pay the tax." The guard at the entrance stated.

"I am Mu Lin, and I'm just a traveler." Lin Mu said a fake name before giving the guard two silver coins as tax.

The guard looked at Lin Mu's and then at the short sword at his waist.

"Alright, you can head in." The guard said opening the gate for Lin Mu.

It was actually not even necessary for Lin Mu to pay tax to the guard as he was a cultivator and all cultivators had free entry to the city. But Lin Mu had been advised to not do that as the identity of each cultivator is recorded and they are kept under closer observation. That was also why he had given a fake name, though perhaps even that was a bit too much as his name was rather common either way.

Lin Mu walked through and went towards the eastern district, right where the Lord's mansion was. He had never gone to this area before, thus he had to ask a few people questions before finding the right route. This was because Lin Mu was not told to go through the main path, which was easy to find.

Rather, he was told to go through a smaller path which he eventually found. Lin Mu saw that there were a couple of guards standing on this path as well.

'The security in the city is indeed much higher than the twin.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Stop! This area is restricted, turn around!" The guards warned.

Lin Mu knew this was going to happen and thus took out a badge from his ring and showed the guards. This was none other than the identity badge of the Hei Corps.

As soon as the guard saw the badge and then Lin Mu's face, he immediately cupped his hands in a salute.

"Senior Lin Mu, we were instructed that you would be coming." The guard spoke.

"Please, proceed. The mansion that is right next to the lake is the Lord's." The other guard informed.

Lin Mu nodded and walked in. The eastern district was the area where the more affluent and influential people in the Wu Lim city lived, that was why there was additional security here and the entry was restricted.

A few minutes later Lin Mu was standing at two large gates that blocked the entry to a large compound. This was none other than the location where the Lord lived in. Though to Lin Mu's surprise, there were already a couple of people that were standing at the gates, seemingly waiting for him.

Lin Mu recognized them to be part of the Hei corps and had seen them back at the safe house.

"Welcome, senior Lin Mu. The Lord has been waiting for you."