

Walker 931

[Chapter 931 - Little Shrubby's Assistance And The First Step Of The Technique](#)

About half an hour later, Lin Mu saw a red blur approaching from the distance.

"There he is," Lin Mu said after spotting Little Shrubby.

~WHOOSH~

Little Shrubby's claws dug into the ground as he braked to slow down, creating long claw marks on the rocky ground. Lin Mu had especially picked this area since it was mostly covered with rocks and at its side was a rocky mountain.

It was protected from the fire that would be involved and he wouldn't accidentally set off a wildfire. Additionally, he had some more concerns due to which this place was the better choice.

"What are we doing?" Little Shrubby asked, looking clearly confused.

His eyes wandered over the piles of gold and a cauldron kept near the side.

"I'm cultivating a technique and need your help to do some things." Lin Mu spoke.

"Okay~ What do I do?" Little Shrubby answered without any concerns.

"So, I'll be heating and melting a lot of gold. I'll need to refine it and that part is something only I can do, but after that is done, I'll need to use the gold. And to do that, I need the gold to stay in a liquid state, so I need you to keep on heating it." Lin Mu explained.

Little Shrubby thought it over and didn't find it to be anything difficult.

"So I just use fire on that cauldron?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yes. That's pretty much it." Lin Mu replied with a nod.

This was the only part that was bugging Lin Mu, since he would probably be in a state where he might not be able to continue heating the gold. If this resulted in getting solidified or cooled, he would not have enough time to continue the process and will have to be interrupted.

Lin Mu could see how this thing might have turned out to be a big problem for those that practiced this in the past. They would either need a formation array that was specifically used for forging to continually heat the gold, or have someone help them out.

Either of those options were risky. One of the reasons being the gold would be pretty valuable for many people and there was no guarantee if someone would be greedy and covet it for themselves.

If they really felt like that and did something to jeopardize the technique, the person practicing it would probably die. As for using a formation array that was for forging, it was also quite difficult.

On one hand, formation arrays like those were hard and complex to make, often needing vast amounts of resources and people to construct. And on the other hand, if someone did not have access to something like that, they would be at square one again.

By now, it was evident to Lin Mu that this technique was made with multiple difficult factors in mind. Not only did its practitioner need to be strong mentally and physically, but they also needed to have a good background and fortune.

One of the ways Lin Mu could think of to reduce the requirements for the True Gold Body Forging Arts was to reduce their own weight. But that was not something possible for many cultivators... at least not without weakening themselves at the same time.

Unless someone was acutely overweight or obese, there wasn't a good enough reason to reduce their weight just so that they would need lesser amount of gold.

Lin Mu explained a few more things to Little Shrubby before starting the refining process. Little Shrubby meanwhile, stayed at the side and observed everything. He could tell that what Lin Mu was doing could help him too.

While Little Shrubby had great control over his fire as it innately came to him, seeing the different methods of control also seemed novel to him. Another benefit there was to Little Shrubby was that, similar to Lin Mu, he too would not be affected by the heat.

Perhaps even if the molten gold spilled on him, his fur would be able to resist it. His fur truly was amazing and able to bear great heat. Perhaps even Jing Luo, who was used to working in hot forges, wouldn't be able to say the same.

~clang~clang~clang~

One by one, Lin Mu tossed the ingots of gold into the cauldron. For the first stage, he needed 251 kilograms of gold and it was still a fraction of what the Cauldron could hold. Lin Mu roughly estimated that the cauldron could easily hold at least two hundred liters of fluid in it.

'This should be enough for me to use until the second stage. But for the third stage... the amount of gold is simply massive, no way it'll fit in this.' Lin Mu thought.

While he had a few options for it ready in the ring, he also informed Jing Luo, just in case. Even if Jing Luo was busy, Lin Mu reckoned the sects would have something that could accommodate something like that.

Lin Mu had seen large pill cauldrons in the Tri Cauldron Peony sect that were used to mass refine pills. If anyone, the Light Harmony sect should probably have a few like those, and they'll be perfect for Lin Mu to use.

Regardless, it was going to take Lin Mu some time before he would reach that stage, thus they had a head start for that.

~HONG~

The cauldron lightly hummed as the gold in it started to heat. Since the quantity was much more than before, the gases released were also higher and the pressure greater. Lin Mu quickly skimmed off the impurities that floated on the top of the now liquid gold before shutting its lid.

~DENG~

The three clasps were tightly fitted and it was now ready for the final refinement, which was to infuse spirit Qi and reduce its volume.

~SHUA~

A massive amount of spirit Qi spiraled out from Lin Mu's body and entered the cauldron, steadily being absorbed by the gold inside.

[Chapter 932 - A Bowl Of Liquid Gold](#)

Hours upon hours passed by as Lin Mu continued his work. Due to the vastly more amount of gold than before, it took Lin Mu more time and effort. But after sixteen hours, it was finally done.

~HISS~

Hot gas escaped from the gaps of the lid as Lin Mu opened it up.

~clang~ clang~ clang~

Each of the metal clasp opened with a crisp sound, as a bright glow escaped from the cauldron. The glow was yellowish white and made it hard for most people to look at it. But for Lin Mu, who had already gotten used to it, it was nothing.

"You are going to use this?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yes. I need it to practice the new technique I got." Lin Mu replied.

Little Shrubby nodded his head and then watched Lin Mu proceed. Removing his robes, Lin Mu used a large metal bowl to scoop out some of the liquid gold. The over all quantity of the gold was not actually that much once it was melted down, being less than twenty five liters.

'It's now or never...' Lin Mu thought as a he took a deep breath and poured the liquid gold over his hand.

~Sizzle~

With the mortal strengthening scripture's armor deactivated, the hot gold touched his skin and quickly vaporised the moisture on it. It spread over his skin as Lin Mu moved the bowl around.

If anyone were to see this, they would quite likely want to avert their eyes, but to Lin Mu, it seemed more like he was taking a warm bath. The visual appeal was far too impactful than the actual effects.

Soon he was done pouring the gold in the bowl and scooped up another bowl from the cauldron.

~HUU~

Little Shrubby on the other side controlled his fire to continue heating the cauldron. That way it would not cool and solidify. It took Lin Mu around three bowls to coat his hands entirely.

It was not a quick process since he actually needed it to harden on his hand, before he could turn it over and pour the gold on the other side.

"Hmm... I guess this is it?" Lin Mu muttered as he looked at his now rigid golden hand. It was stuck in a 'L' shape from his elbow and didn't really bend freely like it normally would.

Lin Mu recalled the details of the True Gold Body forging arts and revised its mnemonics.

'Now to use the cultivation method on my arm.' Lin Mu thought as he followed the method prescribed in the technique.

He closed his eyes and put all his focus on the arm while circulating spirit Qi in a very specific manner. At first it was normal and Lin Mu felt nothing, but about an hour later, he could feel as if there was something rough being pressed upon his arm; something like sandpaper.

But it was just pressure and not like it was being grated on his skin. It was a strange feeling to describe and unless one felt it, they would find it hard to understand. Minute by minute passed and Lin Mu could feel some changes taking place in his arm.

He tried to move it and found it to be still difficult. While Lin Mu did have the raw strength to bend it forcefully, that was not the goal of the technique. What was actually meant by bending the gold was to let the technique itself make it freely movable.

If one were to compare it to something, it was like encasing something in wax and waiting till the wax softened enough to move automatically.

It took Lin Mu nearly three hours before his arm moved automatically. It was still in the 'L' Shape, but instead of being perpendicular to his body, it was now parallel.

"It worked!" Lin Mu said.

He continued to practice the technique and felt his hand get lighter and lighter. After about ten more hours, the gold on his skin had pretty much disappeared. It was like it had evaporated into thin air, but Lin Mu knew that was just an illusion.

"Truly strange..." Lin Mu muttered as he looked at his hand, that looked no different from before.

He even used his spirit sense to check the changes, but couldn't tell the difference.

"These techniques need a lot of time to show effect. You are just starting out. Additionally, your starting base is not the same as others. You not only have a Xiantian Physique but also have two treasured organs refined already." Xukong spoke.

"I know, senior." Lin Mu nodded his head.

But this also reminded him of something else.

"Oh wait! Has my body cultivation progressed at all?" Lin Mu wondered.

His spirit sense quickly entered his body and reached his lungs. In the Five Treasures realm, the lungs were the organ that represented Metal among the five elements and needed to be fully refined so that one could reach the next stage.

Lin Mu checked his lungs as much as he could, but didn't see any change. He couldn't feel anything after using the Severing heart sutra and Calming heart sutra either.

"Does it not work?" Lin Mu felt confused.

"It was not originally a technique meant to be practiced for the Five Treasures realm. In reality, it isn't even meant for someone that already has a Xiantian physique. I think most that practiced this technique never did any body cultivation." Xukong replied.

"Hmmm... then it would make sense that they would use a bone enameling pill. I doubt either body would accept the gold easily without it." Lin Mu said.

"Exactly. The Xiantian Physique is a neutral physique overall and can accept a variety of resources with little to no problem. It also increases the absorption for them too and thus you were able to progress faster with the True Gold Body Forging Arts." Xukong agreed.

"So I'm thinking I'll need to continue this and hope that it shows the effect later.." Lin Mu said in an understanding tone.

[Chapter 933 - First Stage Of The True Gold Body Forging Arts Complete!](#)

Having done the refinement for the left hand, Lin Mu decided to go for the right hand now.

"We'll know if there are any changes after the first stage is fully completed." Lin Mu said as he scooped up another bowlful of liquid gold and poured it on his right hand.

~hiss~

A similar hissing sound could be heard as the moisture in his right hand's skin evaporated. Still, Lin Mu didn't feel any pain and the gold quickly spread over his hand with a little hesitance.

Once it was fully covered and hardened, Lin Mu cultivated using the mnemonic of the True Gold Body Forging Arts and refined the liquid gold. Hour upon hour passed and just like the left hand, his right hand too fully absorbed the gold within it.

'Hmm... still no difference.' Lin Mu checked.

He began the refinement of the other parts of his body, picking his left leg this time. During all this, Little Shrubby continued to heat the cauldron so that the gold stayed hot and liquid.

It was a difficult thing for most people, as the time needed for Lin Mu to refine the gold was nearly sixteen hours. For anyone else not in the Nascent soul realm, such consumption of spirit Qi would be problematic.

Thankfully Little shrubby was not only at the Peak of the Adult Soul stage of the nascent soul realm, his two bloodlines that had proficiency with fire element also made it significantly easier to do the same.

In fact, the amount of spirit Qi he was exhausting and passively absorbing from the air was almost the same, thus making the net use neutral. This allowed Lin Mu to properly practice the True Gold Body Forging Arts as days went by.

It was now the sixth day since Lin Mu had started and he had refined all of his body's skin other than the head. This was also the part he was more anxious about.

~huu~

"Hopefully there is no problem... it's gonna make it hard for me to breathe too..." Lin Mu understood.

Due to how the gold will be covering his head, Lin Mu would have to hold his breath for a few hours. At his cultivation base, both due to the spirit Qi cultivation and the body cultivation, even holding his breath for a day was not a problem.

But it was not something Lin Mu had attempted before, and things that were new to someone always made one nervous.

"Don't worry. If anything really happens, you can always break your way out of it. You have more gold, so refining it once more to repeat the process will not be a problem." Senior Xukong advised.

"I understand, senior." Lin Mu said, feeling a bit better.

"You can stop heating it now." Lin Mu spoke to little Shrubby.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said and laid on the ground, continuing to watch Lin Mu.

He too had been nervous and worried for Lin Mu at first, but now that he had done it a few times, he was feeling comfortable. Plus, little Shrubby was ready to act if anything happened either way.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu directly lifted the entire cauldron and poured the gold onto his head.

~FIZZ~

Some of his hair directly burned due to the heat of the gold, but half of it managed to stay intact. Lin Mu too, noticed this and couldn't tell why it was like this, making him check his hair with his spirit sense.

It was then that he discovered the part of the hair that had burned was different from the one that had not burned. It had a different composition and seemed to be weaker.

'It is the hair that I grew after breaking through to the Dao Shell realm. It is stronger than the one I had before... no wonder.' Lin Mu realized.

It was a new discovery for him and while it seemed to be small; it was an important one. Lin Mu could understand its implications in certain situations.

After the entirety of the liquid gold was poured over his head, Lin Mu sensed something.

'I can feel it...' Lin Mu thought, since his lips could no longer move.

From a distance, it looked like Lin Mu was wearing a gold colored helmet. Calming himself down in a few minutes and suppressing the nervousness, Lin Mu practiced the mnemonic of the True Gold Body Forging Arts and refined the gold over his head.

Little by little, it started to disappear into his skin and shrunk. For his head, the process was a bit slow, and it took him an entire twenty hours before the gold had disappeared.

~Phew~

Lin Mu let out a breath and opened his eyes, feeling the difference within his body.

"It did show an effect... it's minor, but it's something." Lin Mu said as he peered with in his body with his spirit sense.

His lungs were showing signs of refinement and the cell activity had changed. Lin Mu could feel both vitality and spirit Qi stirring within his lungs as if being attracted to it.

"If I were to estimate the refinement rate, it is not even at one percent. But this is still good enough for a start. Progress is not easy and hard work is what will get me to the end." Lin Mu motivated himself.

His determination was rock solid and he would not back down from a lack of results so easily.

Xukong was watching it all and felt content with Lin Mu's mindset at this moment. He knew just how cultivating in reality was and the things that most cultivators failed to have was patience and perseverance.

"What's next?" Little Shrubby asked, seeing that Lin Mu was up again.

"Now we refine more gold!" Lin Mu said as he threw the second pile of the gold into the cauldrons.

"I'll help!" Little Shrubby said, and started to heat the cauldron.

Lin Mu nodded his head and appreciated it.

[Chapter 934 - The Painful Second Stage](#)

The second stage of the True Gold Body Forging Arts was a cruel one.

One needed to cut open their flesh to reveal their bones and then pour the liquid gold inside to refine them. Both the act of cutting the flesh and pouring burning hot gold was inhuman to most people, and they wouldn't even imagine doing it.

Refining the gold for this stage was also a long process, since Lin Mu needed to reduce it to a quarter of its original volume. The amount of gold that he was refining for the second stage was 1506 kilograms, which was a significant amount.

Putting all that gold into the cauldron put it at about half of its capacity in the solid form and when it melted completely, it was about one third its capacity.

'Now come's the hard part...' Lin Mu thought and looked at little Shrubby. "You can stop heating it now. I need to do the rest of the parts myself. I'll tell you when I need you to heat it again." He spoke.

"Alright, I'll wait." Little Shrubby replied.

Nodding his head, Lin Mu began the refinement process that was even longer than before. With the quantity of gold, it took Lin Mu about four days before he reduced the volume of the gold by half.

But this was not enough and he needed to reduce it even more to a quarter.

'The more I refine it, the harder it gets...' Lin Mu understood.

The spirit Qi consumption was also far higher than before, such that Lin Mu actually needed to use more of his stored spirit Qi. Before this, his passive spirit Qi absorption was enough to compensate for the continuous use.

Day turned to night and time passed. Another five days passed before Lin Mu was finally done with the refinement of gold. He had successfully reduced it to a quarter of what the volume used to be.

Though the weight of the gold was still the same.

"Now that I think of it, the increase in my weight is almost unnoticeable." Lin Mu just realized.

He couldn't even tell that his weight had increased by almost three times what it was originally.

"And after this stage, it will be even more... I can't even imagine the effect by the final stage." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Compared to Little Shrubby, Lin Mu was still rather light and thus there being no external signs was normal. Lin Mu could imagine leaving behind deep foot prints by just casually walking.

While he didn't know how much Little Shrubby's weight was exactly, it was certainly more than a ton considering how large he was.

'Will he even be able to carry me and run at that point?' Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

"If he breaks through again and reaches the Dao Shell realm, I doubt it will be a problem for him. Even now, lifting a weight like that isn't a problem for him or you, though running might not be possible for long distances." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Hmm... I see senior." Lin Mu replied and looked at little shrubby, sensing his cultivation base.

Thinking for a bit, Lin Mu tried to estimate if Little Shrubby could breakthrough during this time as well or not.

'I don't know how long the third stage will take. I will give little Shrubby as much as beast Qi during that time and hopefully both of us can breakthrough in that period.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Little Shrubby was a true companion of Lin Mu and a part of his own strength, as well. His speed was one of the things that allowed him to do the many things that he had done. Without him, Lin Mu might not have even been alive by now.

He was truly grateful to him for that and will forever be.

~huh~

Taking in a deep breath, Lin Mu steeled his heart and took out the short sword.

"This is gonna hurt." Lin Mu muttered and placed it against his skin.

~CREAK~

The sound of metal grinding could be heard as the short sword grazed against his skin. The toughness made it so that no damage was inflicted other than a faint white mark on his skin.

"This is a problem..." Lin Mu muttered.

Even though he had deactivated the Armor of the Mortal Strengthening Scripture, it was still rather difficult for Lin Mu to break his skin's natural defenses.

He gripped the handle hard and poured more spirit Qi into it, amplifying the strength of the short sword. While he was doing this, Little Shrubby was watching with rapt attention, feeling both anxious and a bit afraid.

'Master be fine...' he hoped.

~SLICK~

Finally, after pouring enough spirit Qi into the short sword, it managed to cut through the skin. But it was still not enough, as the cut was not deep.

"Dammit! Need to push more. It has to be touching the bone." Lin Mu gritted his teeth and exerted even more force while blood spilled out from the cut.

~drip~drip~drip~

A small pool of blood was quickly formed under him as the cut was finally completed. Currently, the entirety of Lin Mu's left forearm, elbow and shoulder bones were exposed, looking rather ghastly.

To most people, such a wound would be devastating and they might just faint from the pain itself. Lin Mu had been through worse pain and held on with all his might.

~clang~

The Short sword fell to the ground as Lin Mu's hands trembled. He carefully scooped out the liquid gold that was at least a hundred kilograms heavy and poured it into his hand.

"AH!" Lin Mu grunted in pain.

Unlike before, when he didn't feel any pain on his skin, the pain was certainly there when the liquid gold touched his exposed flesh and bone.

"DAMMIT! Can't break me this easily!" Lin Mu said with determination and started cultivating according to the second mnemonic of the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

[Chapter 935 - Exhaustion And Blood Spring Carp](#)

Even though the pain made Lin Mu shiver, his will was unshakable.

The process of the gold being assimilated into his bones was a strange and painful sensation. At first it was simply like a heavy bag being tied to his bones that pulled it down. But then it felt like something was biting into his bones.

The biting sensation later turned into a drilling pain that was significantly worse than before. His hand and even the entire body trembled as the gold continued affecting him. Lin Mu's other hand was clenched tight, so much so that if he had not completed the first stage of the True Gold Body Forging Arts, his nails would have dug into his palm's flesh and drawn blood.

He bore through the pain and continued to cultivate using the mnemonic of the True Gold Body Forging Arts. Hours passed by as the pain slowly lessened. He didn't know if it was just him getting used to the pain, or if his body was actually adapting to it.

The blood loss had already stopped when he had poured the liquid gold into his hand, and now it was solidified. Lin Mu was sitting on the ground cross legged, with his left hand on his lap.

It felt rather heavy to him and since it was also a bit fatigued from the process, it was harder for him to keep it up the entire time. This time it took Lin Mu a day to finish refining the gold.

And by the time he was done, he seemed to be rather tired looking.

~huu~huu~huu~

Lin Mu let out some deep breaths as he opened his eyes and looked at the status of his hand. The long and deep wound on his hand had completely closed, leaving behind a golden scar instead.

The scar went from the base of his wrist all the way to the top of his shoulder. It looked like someone had painted a line of gold there.

Lin Mu tried standing up and almost stumbled to the left.

"Damn... the balance is really off." Lin Mu said as he felt the weight difference.

His left hand drooped and made him lean to the left slightly. It looked like Lin Mu had some back injury and couldn't stand well. He checked the bones using his spirit sense and found them to be coated with the layer of gold.

Even his fingers and palm bones, which weren't in direct contact with the gold, were coated with them.

"So the gold spread there as well..." Lin Mu muttered.

"Are you okay?" Little Shrubby too woke up after hearing Lin Mu's voice.

A gentle smile appeared on Lin Mu's face as he replied, "I'm okay. A little tired, but okay."

Lin Mu looked towards the flames that were automatically coming out of Little Shrubby's body and heating the cauldron.

"Your control over the fire improved?" Lin Mu said with a raised brow.

"Yes. It's just like cooking!" Little Shrubby spoke.

"Huh... nice." Lin Mu replied as he went towards the cauldron.

The gold inside was still in a liquid state and at the right temperature. Finding that everything was okay, Lin Mu decided to continue.

~Huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu cut open his right hand as well. This time, he was able to bear through the pain better and completed the cut in one swift manner.

'At least knowing how much strength is needed to break my skin can help me in fights... though this will change once I finish practicing the True Gold Body Forging Arts.' Lin Mu thought.

~glub~

Lin Mu scooped out the liquid gold from the cauldron and poured it into his right hand as the blood and water sizzled. Gritting his teeth, he finished pouring it and sat down to repeat the process.

Another day quickly went by and Lin Mu had finished the process.

~thud~

Lin Mu looked even more tired than before and his hand slammed into the stony ground, cracking it a little.

~Crack~

He stood up and felt the balance in his body restored again.

"This is certainly heavy... and it is just the start." Lin Mu muttered.

He checked his body's condition and realized that he was actually exhausted.

"Restore your condition and rest for a bit. If you make a mistake later, it won't be worth it." Xukong spoke up.

"I shall, senior." Lin Mu said as he took out some of the alchemical pills that would help him return to the peak quickly.

"I made something, too!" Little Shrubby said as he put a large platter in front of Lin Mu.

~DENG~

Then on the large platter, dropped a pink fish that was at least a meter big and thirty centimeters wide.

"What's this?" Lin Mu asked.

"I caught it when I was exploring the plane before you called me." Little Shrubby replied.

Lin Mu looked at the fish and found it to be a bit familiar.

"I felt that it had a lot of vitality in it and it also smelled good!" Little Shrubby added.

"Oh wait... isn't this the Blood Spring Carp?" Lin Mu remembered.

The Blood Spring Carp was a spirit beast that had a lot of vitality contained within it. It didn't have as much spirit Qi within its body though, but it still had a great value since it could be used to make some high grade healing pills.

The Blood Spring carp lived a long time and accumulated the vitality in its body until it was the time for its breakthrough to the Nascent soul realm. It would then use this vitality to survive the heavenly tribulation and heal from its injuries sustained during that.

It was also the reason why there were no Blood Spring Carps above the Core Condensation realm as the ones at the Nascent soul realm and above were instead called the Essence Spring Carps.

They too were very rather valuable and were used to make peak grade alchemical pills that were even used by Dao Treading realm experts!

[Chapter 936 - Cutting Open His Spine And Intense Pain](#)

Having learned about the Blood Spring carps, Lin Mu was a bit surprised as he had not expected them to be in the plane as well.

They were something the sects would very carefully raise, and it took a long time to grow. Even a single Blood Spring carp, when fed properly, would take at least a hundred years to reach maturity enough for them to be considered for harvesting.

"Did you get more of them?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I have three more." Little Shrubby answered.

"The place where you got them, were there more of them?" Lin Mu asked.

"YES! There are more. But when I went there, they got scared and entered an underwater cave. I didn't want to go into the water, so I just got these four." Little Shrubby replied.

"I see... this may come in handy later..." Lin Mu took note and got to eating the cooked Blood Spring Carp.

The rich vitality within the carp was good for Lin Mu and quickly restored his condition to the peak along with the alchemical pills he had eaten. Not only that, but the blood loss he had experienced was also taken care of and restored.

Lin Mu's entire body felt warm for quite a while after eating the entire Blood Spring carp.

"This is actually better than the pills..." Lin Mu realized.

"Do you want me to make more?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"Yes, that'll help. Keep them ready for when I need them next." Lin Mu answered.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby replied as he took out the grill he had in his storage and got to cooking.

Lin Mu meanwhile, got to practicing the True Gold Body Forging Arts and cut open his left leg. The cut went from his foot, over the shin, knee and all the way to his hip. This time the bleeding was far worse, but Lin Mu quickly poured the Liquid gold into his leg, which soon stopped the bleeding.

"Ugh!" Lin Mu grunted slightly as he tried to focus on cultivating.

His legs took longer than his hands and almost thirty six hours went by before they had fully assimilated the gold.

This time Lin Mu couldn't even stand due to how heavy the leg felt. It wasn't that he didn't have strength but more his body feeling imbalanced from the core.

"It's not my muscles... it's the spine that can't handle it properly..." Lin Mu understood.

Realizing that he would need to finish it all to be able to walk properly again, Lin Mu sped up. He didn't feel the need to eat the Blood Spring Carp that Little Shrubby had pre-prepared for him and went to refine his other leg.

Another thirty six hours later, he had finished with it as well.

"Damn... I can't even move." Lin Mu said, feeling as if his legs were frozen.

He could fully feel them, but controlling them seemed to be hard to do. Nothing seemed to be wrong with his body or the nerves, but Lin Mu didn't know why this was happening.

~Sigh~

"All will come to fruition when I'm done..." Lin Mu muttered to himself and got ready for the next step, which was a severe one.

Though first he finished the second Blood Spring carp that Little Shrubby had made, and restored his condition.

Now Lin Mu needed to cut open his back and reveal his spine, after which he needed to slice his chest and expose the sternum. One's spine was a very important part and even the slightest injury could kill oneself. While for a cultivator, this might be a bit different, it would still result in a crippling condition.

'I can cut my sect with ease but the spine will be a bit difficult...' Lin Mu thought to

Lin Mu first cut open his chest and poured the gold onto his sternum and let it cool. If he poured it onto his spine first, he would not be able to move at all, thus the sternum was the better choice.

Then, Lin Mu poured a lot of spirit Qi into the short sword, enough to amplify its strength by many times, even when being controlled using his spirit sense. The short sword floated over to his back as Lin Mu sat straight and dug into the back of his neck, right below the nape.

"ARGH!" Lin Mu cried in pain, making Little Shrubby anxious.

Gesturing him with his eyes, Lin Mu got the beast to calm down as he continued slicing the flesh on his back. Bit by bit, the short sword slid down, revealing each of his vertebrae one by one, until finally it reached the very bottom where his coccyx was.

By now, a lot of blood had pooled below his body since the speed at which Lin Mu did this was slow. He had to be a lot more careful with his spine, so going slow was the only option for him.

"Pour the gold little shrubby!" Lin Mu shouted, knowing that he won't be able to move now.

~shua~

The prosthetic hands flew to hold the bowl before scooping out the gold from the cauldron before pouring it down the top of Lin Mu's neck. Lin Mu leaned forward so that the gold could properly flow down his back and now spill out.

~hiss~

The sickening sound of his spine being scorched by the gold could be heard as a soul chilling pain rocked Lin Mu's senses. Only by chanting the Severing heart sutra could he hold on and had almost fainted.

It took thirty minutes before the gold had cooled down enough that Lin Mu managed to start cultivating. His gaze was getting blurry, but the voice of Xukong kept him awake.

"Do not falter!" Xukong spoke up.

Lin Mu's bloodshot eyes opened wide as he practice the mnemonic of the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

Time passed by as Lin Mu stayed in the same position for four days.. He was in intense pain the entire time but soldiered on regardless.

[Chapter 937 - Second Stage Complete!](#)

After four days had passed, the gold that Lin Mu had poured into this chest had spread from his sternum all the way to the ribs and fully covered them. In case of his spine, it was also mostly covered, but the gold had not been fully absorbed yet.

'At least I can move a bit...' Lin Mu thought and tried to relax his back a little bit. While his vertebrae couldn't all move properly, there was still some scope of movement for his neck where the gold had been fully absorbed.

"Just a little while more..." Lin Mu muttered to himself and continued to practice the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

Finally, after two more days, his spine had fully assimilated all the gold and Lin Mu could stand up again.

"Huh... I have my balance back... so the spine really was the issue." Lin Mu realized.

Still, Lin Mu was not done with the second stage and still had one part of his body left, the most essential part... his head.

Thankfully, this was not as dangerous as spine even if it was his head. Unlike his spine, in which the gold would cause intense pain and move to the gaps between, for his skull, the gold would only enter from the top and then spread automatically under the guidance of the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

But before he started with that, Lin Mu ate another Blood Spring Carp so that his condition was back to the peak. Only after he felt that everything was better did he start with his head.

Lin Mu took the short sword and made a '+' shaped cut on the top of his scalp before pulling it apart and revealing the skull. It was a gruesome sight for many and the weak hearted would simply fall unconscious from the visual shock.

Then, taking the remaining amount of the gold that was left in the cauldron Lin Mu poured it on his head.

~hiss~

The blood and moisture vaporized as the hot liquid gold spread over the top of his skull. Lin Mu sat down cross legged again and began to practice according to the mnemonic of the True Gold Body Forging Arts with all his heart.

Three days passed by as the gold spread from the top of his skull to the sides, then to the base of his neck, joining up with the rest of the spine. From his forehead, it came down and coated his eye sockets, making them burn as if lime had been sprinkled on his eyeballs.

Once the eye sockets were coated, the gold spread further to his cheekbones and the jaw, finally ending in his mandible. But once it was all done, Lin Mu felt a strange sense of harmony in his body.

~huu~

Opening his eyes, Lin Mu finished the final part of the second stage of the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

"The difference is massive..." Lin Mu said as he clenched his fist.

While his strength had not really increased, Lin Mu could feel a firm toughness that had taken root. Even now, Lin Mu could tell that his defense was at least three times better than before.

"Just at the second stage it is significantly better... wonder what changes the third stage will bring." Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Observe your body and stabilize yourself before you start the third stage." Xukong advised.

"Of course, senior." Lin Mu said, as he took the final blood spring carp that Little Shrubby had ready for him.

Once he was done eating, he checked every inch of his body with his spirit sense, getting an idea of the difference. Lin Mu could see the gold covering every inch of his bones and even entering a few milliliters into the bones.

'Perhaps the third stage is to make it deeper?' Lin Mu wondered.

Lin Mu observed his lungs and found that they had actually progressed in their refinement. He hadn't even realized and his lungs were already at the 15% mark for refinement.

Metal attribute spirit Qi could be felt stirring within some of the cells and making them more active than before.

'The first stage barely did 1% and now the second took me to 15%... will the third even be enough?' Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

But while he was checking his body, Lin Mu discovered something. It could be termed as a flaw or not in the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

The flaw being... his teeth were actually not coated with the gold like his bones. The gold had only spread over the jawbone and into the teeth sockets, but not over the teeth themselves.

"Though golden teeth might have been a bit too gaudy, now that I think about it." Lin Mu said to himself.

While this lessened his defense on his teeth, it was not like he couldn't regrow them if they broke. With his Xiantian physique, regrowing teeth wasn't a problem like mortals or even other cultivators.

Most cultivators would need special alchemical pills that could allow them to regrow teeth, but to Lin Mu all it took was some time and they would return. Thus, it wasn't much of a concern for him.

Besides, during the many times he had fought, he had only lost three teeth and all of them had returned a long time ago.

The flaw about his teeth was an unmentioned flaw of the True Gold Body Forging Arts. But in addition to this flaw, there was another flaw that was clearly mentioned in it. The flaw being none other than the eyes.

While the eyelids were strengthened like the rest of the skin, some of the attacks might still be able to breakthrough the defense of it. If that did happen, the cultivator would lose the eye.

But in exchange for that, whatever kind of a weapon that was used to poke the eye would be stopped by the strengthened bone of the eye socket and thus be prevented from reaching the brain.

[Chapter 938 - A Peak Grade Spirit Tool?!](#)

Saving one's life in exchange for an eye was something most people would be more than willing to give. Thus, the True Gold Body Forging Arts was still able to compensate on some end for this flaw.

Though in the case of Lin Mu, he had additional protection in the form of the Mortal Strengthening scripture's armor. It could defend against a certain level of attack and will break to dissipate the force, giving Lin Mu enough time to dodge it.

The defense of the mortal strengthening scripture was something that was now at a level that Dao Shell realm attacks and above could break it. Though it could also increase its toughness along with the cultivation base of the user.

Lin Mu didn't know how long the Mortal Strengthening scripture will be able to serve him and when it will become obsolete. Though he hoped that there would be some other way he could keep improving on it.

Lin Mu spent three days to rest and recovered to his peak condition. During this time, he got used to his body as well and acclimatized to the increased weight. He was now more than ten times his original weight.

Thankfully, it was a weight that was nothing for his strength and didn't really put much of a burden on him once he got used to it. Though it still made him wonder how he will be able to get used to the weight after the third stage.

At that time, he would be gaining more than sixty tons of weight. This was a weight that he could lift, but not do much with it.

'The True Gold Body Forging Arts mentions that it would be a qualitative change at that point and one would know the difference only after the breakthrough. I can only hope that all goes well...' Lin Mu thought.

He had the assurance that the technique had indeed been practiced by people before. If it were not for that, he would have not attempted it. Plus, Lin Mu was already many times stronger than the people who originally practiced the True Gold Body Forging Arts.

Thus, if weak people like those could handle a weight like this, Lin Mu was confident that he would be able to do the same as well.

~phew~?

Letting out a breath after finishing a short cultivation session to restore his spirit Qi, Lin Mu got ready to refine the gold for the third and final stage.

"This will take a long time." Lin Mu said, seeing the large pile of the gold in front of him.

He compared it with the cauldron he had and knew that there was no way he would be able to fit all this in it.

"Have they not gotten the cauldron I asked for yet?" Lin Mu wondered.

He took out the jade slip and contacted the people who were supposed to bring the cauldron. It was then that he realized that there was already a message on the jade slip that he had missed.

"Oh? They already had it prepared?" Lin Mu was surprised.

It seemed like Lin Mu had not answered and the people thought he was deep in cultivation, which was true in a way and thus they didn't disturb him anymore. Instead, they left the cauldron Lin Mu had requested for, in one of the storage cave.

"Little Shrubby, can you go and get the cauldron from the cave?" Lin Mu requested.

~yawn~?

Little Shrubby who had been taking a little nap, woke up and looked a bit confused, but then nodded his head.

"Okay. I'll get it, you just rest." Little Shrubby said before standing up.

~WHOOSH~

In just a few seconds, he burst into a sprint and disappeared into a red blur.

"I'll go over the technique in the meantime... won't harm to revise." Lin Mu muttered and closed his eyes.

About half an hour later, Lin Mu could feel Little Shrubby's presence and opened his eyes, noticing the red blur that approached from the distance.

~THUD~

Little Shrubby's claws dug into the rocky ground, creating long marks as he slowed down before finally coming to a stop.

~DENG~

He withdrew the cauldron from the spatial storage belt on his neck and it slammed on the ground with a loud noise.

"Whoa..." Lin Mu said in a surprised tone.

The cauldron in front of him was the largest one he had ever seen, being over three times as big as the one he had seen in the Tri Cauldron Peony sect. But that was not all, as Lin Mu found a small note stuck to the cauldron.

'Brand your spirit sense to it before using it.' The letter read.

Seeing this, Lin Mu was a bit surprised. He had not needed to brand his spirit sense on the cauldron he had used till now even if it was a spirit tool, because there was no requirement for it.

If he was refining alchemical pills, he might have done it, but in this case it seemed to be an absolute requirement.

"Could it be?" An idea came to Lin Mu's mind, and he quickly used his spirit sense to probe the large cauldron.

When he did that, a string of words and some information appeared in his mind.

"Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron." Lin Mu muttered as he heard the name in his head.

It was not just any cauldron, but rather a special cauldron that was a Peak Grade Spirit tool!

"They really gave me a Peak Grade Spirit tool?!" Lin Mu couldn't help but exclaim.

Other than the ring that Jing Luo had repaired, Lin Mu didn't have any actual peak grade spirit tools or weapons with him. Now this Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron was his very first one.

'Why would they give this to me though, when it would be best used in refinement at the Light Harmony sect?' Lin Mu wondered until he learned the rest of the information.

A wry smile appeared on his face as he finally understood.

"No wonder... this thing is no less than scrap iron to them..." Lin Mu muttered.

[Chapter 939 - Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron](#)

The giant cauldron that had been given to Lin Mu had some very special requirements that made it unusable to most people, despite it being a peak grade spirit tool.

"Whoever made this really made a mistake, huh..." Lin Mu muttered.

The thing was that the Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron was a defective product. Its creator originally wanted to make a pseudo immortal tool and thus added a lot of precious materials and component to the cauldron along with complex formations.

But what happened in the end was that his skill was simply not enough and the cauldron never became a Pseudo immortal tool. Usually, if this happened to any spirit tool, they would simply become a grade lower than that, being a peak grade spirit tool.

This was still really good and would be valuable.

But the Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron was different in this matter. Due to the high energy threshold circuits that were added by its creator to make it reach the pseudo immortal tool level, it made it so that no normal cultivator would be able to use it properly.

And since it was a peak grade spirit tool, only those at the Dao Shell realm and Dao Treading realm could use it, anyway. But even for them, the spirit Qi requirements were so high that it made it impossible for them to make proper use of it.

Usually high spirit Qi consumption could be offset by the use of auxiliary spirit Qi channeling formations that could supply the spirit Qi to the cauldron instead of the cultivators themselves, but the way the formations were added to the cauldrons meant that this method was not compatible at all.

And neither could it be offset by making multiple people use it at the same time as the cauldron only worked for the person that imprinted their spirit sense on it. With such restrictions, the Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron was left lying in the storage pavilion of the Light Harmony sect for hundreds of years.

It wasn't that the people of the sect hadn't tried using it, but it was simply not worth using it when there were other cauldrons that could do the same with less effort.

'Hmm... if its creator was someone who could even attempt to make a pseudo immortal tool, they should be pretty well known. It's obviously not Jing Wei that made this and neither is it someone from the Jing clan, then who is it?' Lin Mu wondered.

And when he thought this, the cauldron responded as if showing its origin to Lin Mu. He could feel some information appear in his mind.

This was nothing but the signature the creator of the Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron had left on it. This was something a lot of weapon forgers and spirit tool refiners did and were commonplace.

"Daoist Jiadi?" Lin Mu muttered, not recognizing the name.

He was certain that it was not someone from the Light Harmony sect, as it was already present in the information that this cauldron was not made by the sect but obtained from somewhere else a long time ago.

Lin Mu checked the records he had just in case and soon found some information about Daoist Jiadi.

"Oh? He was from the western continent?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"This means this cauldron is from the time when the five continents still existed... this is old... very old." Lin Mu muttered.

Despite being old, the cauldron looked rather well maintained, and there were no points of damage on it. The cauldron itself was black in color, with gold carvings imprinted on its surface.

It had a lid with a triangular top and six ring handles around its body. The cauldron also had four legs that were shaped like a bull's hoof. The cauldron was over three meters tall and two meters wide.

"This is probably the work of Jing Luo." Lin Mu guessed.

Lin Mu had told him what kind of a purpose he wanted the cauldrons for and Jing Luo might have picked this one out of the list that the Light Harmony sect gave him. Since it was technically the best one in quality out of those that fit the purpose.

The reason that made the Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron useless for most was that they couldn't supply the spirit Qi needed to control it, but for Lin Mu, that was not a concern.

After all, he was not going to refine pills in it and was not going to supply spirit Qi to the formations. Rather, he would just be heating and refining gold in it. This was something he could have done with any other large cauldron, thus it wasn't an issue.

"Well... since I got it, I may as well keep it." Lin Mu said.

The Light harmony sect had quite literally gifted this to Lin Mu since they had no use for it. Instead gifting it to Lin Mu would bring them more benefits instead of just letting it rot in the storage.

Giving a peak grade spirit tool as a gift was not something that even top sects would do easily. They too only had a limited number of such spirit tools with them and each one had a great value.

"Let's get started on this, then." Lin Mu said as he threw in the gold ingots into the Thousand Ding Glitter Cauldron.

~DENG~DENG~DENG~

The sound of metal banging against metal could be heard as the gold ingots struck the inside of the cauldron. Once all of the gold ingots were thrown into the cauldron, they were filling it to nearly two thirds of its total capacity.

"It should reduce by quite a bit once I melt it down..." Lin Mu said as he started to heat it up.

~shua~?

Flames wrapped the cauldron completely and activated some of the formations of the cauldron.

"Oh? The passive heat spreading formations work without direct spirit Qi?" Lin Mu was surprised.

He thought that all features of the cauldron needed active spirit Qi infusion.

[Chapter 940 - One Month Of Gold Refinement](#)

Learning that the cauldron still had some surprises, Lin Mu was pleased and continued to heat it as the gold ingots inside started to soften.

Hours passed as the gold finally turned to liquid and filled half the volume of the cauldron. The cauldron was a little over six thousand liters in capacity and looked more like a large water tank instead, but was perfect for a large refinement like this.

Once all the gold was melted, Lin Mu got to removing the impurities from it and then finally starting the refinement process that would reduce its volume.

'This one will be the hardest and the longest process. I need to reduce it to ten percent of the original volume... seeing as it is half filled, the volume of gold in this should be around three thousand liters.' Lin Mu calculated.

"Then reducing it to the tenth would mean... I'll be left with three hundred liters of refined gold. Should be just enough to fully soak me inside it." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

While doing this calculation in his mind, Lin Mu continued to stir the gold with his spirit Qi in a spiral while infusing it into it as well.

Hours turned into days and days turned into weeks.

It was the third week since Lin Mu had begun the entire process and he had been working nonstop to make sure that no error was made.

"Just a little bit more..." Lin Mu said in an exhausted tone.

Even with his large spirit Qi capacity, Lin Mu had to infuse a massive amount of spirit Qi into the Liquid gold. In the last two stages, the quantity was still enough that Lin Mu wasn't strained enough.

But now the quantity of gold was many times that and the refinement needed to be at a higher level as well.

The more the volume that was to be shrunk, the greater the amount of spirit Qi required. If one were to calculate the amount of spirit Qi that Lin Mu had used in this, it would quite possibly reach the entirety of a small sect's spirit stone reserves!

But on the twenty-second day, Lin Mu had finally finished with his work.

~huu~

"That was way more tough than I had expected..." Lin Mu muttered in an exhausted tone.

His eyes were slightly baggy and his complexion paler than normal.

"You did good. For most others, this would have been very difficult or impossible to do. Even Jing Luo would have failed as he would have simply not had the spirit Qi needed to do it despite having greater skills." Senior Xukong praised.

He knew all this was well deserved, and the feat was worthy of being praised.

"Thank you, senior... though it left me dead tired." Lin Mu said.

"Well, that was expected. Though now that you are done, you can rest for a bit before starting with the final step." Xukong replied with a chuckle.

"Yes," Lin Mu said and looked around for little Shrubby.

The beast had left a couple of times during the refinement process because the people at the sect had called for him. Once he was called by the Noon Grass sect to intimidate a herd of beasts that had started harassing the disciples while the second time was by none other than Jingming Shang.

The sly businessman needed someone to deliver some sensitive documents at the earliest possible time, and Little Shrubby was the best fit for it, since the location they were being taken to did not have a teleportation gate.

After that time, Little Shrubby had returned but had gone out to hunt nearby.

~WHOOSH~

Sensing that Lin Mu was calling for him, the beast returned in a blur, but not without bringing a tree with him.

"Are you done?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yes, I am... but what's up with the tree?" Lin Mu questioned.

He looked at the tree and could tell that it was just a common pine tree. Other than being rather large, there wasn't anything special about it.

"I wanted to make new skewer sticks." Little Shrubby said, and threw the tree to the side.

~THUD~

The tree created some cracks on the rocky ground but stayed fine itself.

"Huh... okay... you can do that later." Lin Mu stated.

"Do you want me to take over the heating now?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yes. I want to rest and the gold needs to be kept liquid." Lin Mu spoke.

"Alright. Don't worry and just rest." Little Shrubby said to which Lin Mu nodded.

With the amount of spirit Qi Lin Mu had exhausted, it would take him a while to recover it, even with the help of some resources.

Lin Mu took out large blocks of spirit stones and directly sat upon them as he started to cultivate. He also popped a few alchemical pills that would help in recovering spirit Qi faster from time to time as well.

About a week later, Lin Mu had finally recovered to the peak and was in the same state when he had started a month ago.

~PheW~

"Didn't think that just refining the gold would end up taking this long for the third step... I'm already extending past the time line I had set originally." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

He checked the communication jade slip to see if there were any messages and found a few. Lin Mu and Jing Luo wanted to head to the north so that they could find Jing Wei, but that plan was getting delayed more and more.

~Sigh~

'Not like we can do anything... we simply have too many things to do.' Lin Mu thought.

Thankfully Jing Luo didn't mind the wait, as he too knew that Lin Mu cultivating was very important. The man was now cultivating as well and had left a message that he too was preparing for his breakthrough to the Dao Shell realm now.

He had already finished teaching the elders the method to assemble the teleportation gates and had made enough gates that they were all sent to the locations intended for them.