

## Walker 981

### [Chapter 981 - King Hongs Fortunate Encounter And A Fossil](#)

King Hong could understand Lin Mu's confusion, as many others were the same. Even he himself had not thought that he would reach the Dao Shell realm this quickly. He had barely been in the nascent soul realm for three years before reaching the Dao Shell realm..

This was a record that would easily stand for a long time in the empire. While it didn't come as close to Lin Mu's own record, it was still very impressive. Now, in addition to Little Shrubby and Jing Luo, there was another close ally of Lin Mu that was at the Dao Shell realm.

This increased their offensive power by quite a bit.

"Well, I had a little help and got to reap some fortune back in the Kong Plane as well. You should see the new records we've made. There is a lot more to the Kong Plane we've yet to see." King Hong spoke.

Hearing this, Lin Mu got an idea. Even back when Little Shrubby had gotten the Blood Spring carp, he knew that there were some really good locations in the Kong Plane where treasures were just waiting to be found.

And King Hong's words made sense considering the fact that with his bloodline and talent, it wouldn't be hard for him to speed ahead and reach the Dao Shell realm.

From the spirit Qi fluctuations, Lin Mu had sensed from King Hong. He could tell that he was at the Shell initiation stage of the Dao Shell realm. Though he didn't know how far he was from reaching the Shell genesis stage, as that would need input from King Hong himself.

Or at the very least, Lin Mu would have to take a look at the Dao Shell. If King Hong was going with the default Spherical Dao Shell, it wouldn't take that long to reach the Shell genesis stage.

Lin Mu went on to talk with King Hong more in detail about what he found and how he actually reached the Dao Shell realm.

The main reason behind his breakthrough was actually the remains of a dead beast. After continually cultivating, King Hong's senses were getting better and better and along with that his perception for the fire element also increased.

His talent already increased that, along with his Dauntless Ember Physique, but he was now getting control over it. And due to this, he felt something far away from him. His physique was resonating with it and made him desire to go find it out.

He didn't go there at first as he needed to deal with the matters of the Hong Lin Kingdom too. But later on, the urge only increased more and more, such that he reckoned he wouldn't be able to hold back.

Thus, he requested help of Jing Luo and made it so that he would have some time to explore. Jing Luo even gave him the improved spirit boat that helped King Hong travel way faster than he could with his own cultivation base.

He ended up traveling for about a week into the depths of the Kong Plane before finally finding what was calling out to him. The thing was buried deep within the ground and was encased in rocks.

When he finally unearthed it and broke apart the rocks, he discovered what it was, fossilized bones.

From what King Hong could tell, the bones contained something that his body desired. The fossil looked like they belonged to some kind of a lizard beast. It was once massive but due to being fossilized, its size had greatly decreased.

King Hong still memorized the shape of the fossil so that he could find out more about it later on.

Then when he finally touched the bones, his body automatically reacted!

Flames sprouted on his body and quickly flew to the fossilized bones, reducing them to fine ashes. King Hong didn't know how this happened, as it wasn't under his control at all. But when the flames had finished their work, they returned to King Hong.

As soon as they entered back into his body, he could feel a massive power surging into his body. He right away started cultivating to assimilate this power and a month later he directly reached the Dao Shell Realm!

"That... is certainly a fortunate encounter alright. If your physique responded like that, then it must have been some really powerful beast too when it was alive. Even after being for so long and being fossilized, it had power left behind in its bones." Lin Mu spoke, feeling impressed.

"I also have the records I researched. I wanted to see if I can find out more about the beast so that I might be able to use them more later. But I couldn't find out much. It's as if the beast never existed." King Hong spoke.

"Can I take a look?" Lin Mu asked.

"Of course! My last hope was that you might have some idea about what the beast might be." King Hong replied before passing a jade slip to Lin Mu.

Lin Mu quickly took a look through it and saw a lot of notes that King Hong had come up with. He had evidently read through a lot of beast records and checked for similarities in the bone structure of the beast.

But at most, he was able to come up with the conclusion that it was a lizard beast that had an affinity with the fire element.

'Let's take a look at the bones...' Lin Mu thought and saw the sketch that was drawn from King Hong's memories.

Lin Mu saw what looked like a lizard beast that was at least as big as Little Shrubby. It had four limbs, with different set of claws. The fore limbs had three claws on the frontal side and one on the back, while the hind limbs had two claws on the front and one on the back.

Its skull and tail were similar to most lizard beasts and made it hard for Lin Mu to differentiate.

[Chapter 982 - Drakes And Dragons](#)

Lin Mu looks through the many records of beasts he had and still couldn't come up with much. Other than the fact that the claws of the beast were in a different set than the other lizard beasts, Lin Mu couldn't find anything in the records he had.

'Seems like I'm lost here too. Can you see if you know anything about it Senior Xukong?' Lin Mu said his mind.

Xukong who had been cultivating, opened his eyes upon hearing Lin Mu's voice, looked through his memories and understood what he was asking about.

"Hmm... it's a bit vague to tell since it has been fossilized a lot, but seeing the claws of the beast, I'm guessing that it is some kind of a low ranked Drake." Xukong replied.

"A Drake? What are those senior?" Lin Mu questioned, finding the word a bit familiar.

"Drakes are basically beasts that contain a faint trace of a Dragon's Bloodline." Xukong answered.

"A DRAGON?!" Lin Mu exclaimed in his heart.

"Yes, a dragon." Xukong confirmed.

Even if Lin Mu didn't know about Drakes, he very well knew about dragons. In the memoirs of the Lost Immortal, there were several mentions about dragons. Not only that, but the Lost Immortal had even fought against several dragons before.

After all... the Nameless Technique of the Lost Immortal was formed after the Lost Immortal Studied many different creatures and some of these creatures were Dragons!

Lin Mu also knew that there were many different types of dragons having varying levels of strengths. The Lost Immortal had fought dragons that were as weak enough for him to kill them with a single slap and ones that were strong enough that he had fainted just from being in their presence.

The Lost Immortal had several run-ins with Dragons too. In fact, a couple of times when he was pushed to the brink of starvation was due to the dragons!

Once it was because he had been chased for long enough that he got trapped in a minor dimension he couldn't come out of for many years. Then the second time was when he had been intentionally caught by another dragon.

Lin Mu couldn't read much after that, as the information seemed to be hidden from him for some reason.

He had been coming upon with such restricted information a lot these days and understood that this must be due to him having an insufficient cultivation base. Like senior Xukong, the wooden slip that contained the memoirs of the Lost Immortal seemed to be able to restrict its contents depending on Lin Mu's cultivation base.

The stronger he got, the more information he would get to learn. Not just that, but he could revisit the old records that he had already read and find more information that he had not understood before.

Lin Mu had never stopped reading the Memoirs of the Lost Immortal and did so whenever he had free time. Whether he be flying somewhere or sleeping. He would often read on Little Shrubby's back whenever they were traveling somewhere.

It allowed him to grow stronger in knowledge without wasting any moment of time.

Lin Mu knew that he was at a disadvantage when compared to those that were blessed by the heavens and lived in the higher worlds. Thus, if he ever wanted to compete against them, he needed to work several times harder than them.

He had never stopped persevering because of that.

"What kind of a drake do you think this could be, senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"That is hard to tell. Just as there are many variations of dragons, there are even more variations of lower ranked dragons and the other species that contain their bloodlines. Dragons as such are... rather passionate and leave behind a lot of offspring.

Their bloodline is also rather dominant and can take over others, making it easy for them to breed with many different beasts. It is said that Dragons were among the first beasts to ever be born and thus could be considered one of the first ancestor of the beasts.

This allows them a superiority that not many beasts have. And it also makes it complicated to find out what their bloodlines are since they can get mixed with others very easily and hide.

In fact, the bloodline of the dragons isn't as rare as one would think; they are quite common. What's truly rare is a bloodline that is actually active and useful. Even the common fishes, snakes and many other reptiles have dormant traces of the Dragon bloodlines." Xukong explained, surprising Lin Mu.

Dragons were something even people of the Xiaofan world knew and were seen as legends. Some were directly revered as deities, and their depictions were seen in many places and kingdoms.

Even though a real dragon had never been seen in the Xiaofan world.

"The common feature of the Drakes is the pattern of their claws. This tells us that it is a drake, though I'm thinking that if that beast was still alive from its appearance, it would look rather similar to a lizard beast.

Only from its aura and bloodline would one be able to identify if it really is a drake." Xukong added.

"I see... then if King Hong has assimilated this power, won't we know if he can display is aura fully?" Lin Mu suggested.

"That might be possible. If we are lucky, the aura of the Drake's bloodline might still be present in him. Though it might have disappeared by this time, too." Xukong replied.

"We may as well try it." Lin Mu said before looking at King Hong.

Ten minutes had passed since Lin Mu had been looking through the records and King Hong didn't know he was talking with Xukong.

"King Hong, can you fully unleash your cultivation base and aura? I might be able to learn what beast it really was." Lin Mu asked.

"Sure... but it might be better if we move somewhere more open. I don't want to damage the palace again.." King Hong spoke remembering the many accidents he's had over the past couple of years.

### [Chapter 983 - Invoking The Hidden Trace Of The Bloodline](#)

Lin Mu and King Hong moved to the back of the place, where there was no danger of damaging property.

"This should be better." King Hong said as he took a deep breath.

*~huu~*

Lin Mu watched as the aura of King Hong rose like the tide on a full moon.

*~shua~*

Then like a dam had been broken, Lin Mu could feel the spirit Qi gushing out non-stop from King Hong's body. The quantity was certainly high and it was rather dense as well, showing that King Hong's cultivation base was rather stable.

Lin Mu could tell that King Hong was many times better than the average cultivator, having a higher spirit Qi capacity as well. And along with the cultivation base being displayed, Lin Mu also saw the illusory figure of a sphere rising from the body of King Hong.

It was currently in the shape of a slightly dented sphere but Lin Mu could tell that this was due to King Hong molding and designing the shape of his Dao Shell. The color of his Dao Shell was different too, being an amber red in color.

"There's no doubt, that's a Low Ranked Drake." Xukong spoke.

"Mm... I'll try to see if I can resonate with the bloodline and sense it now." Lin Mu said.

Lin Mu closed his eyes and invoked the Great Slumber Bear's bloodline within him. This was the method that Xukong had told him about. While sensing the bloodlines in others didn't really need for one to have a bloodline, sensing a bloodline that only had a trace of it left in one's aura was very difficult.

The only way one could do this without a specialized spirit tool or treasure was to use the beast's bloodline resonance. Lin Mu had already experienced it several times before with Little Shrubby, and other beasts.

It was the effect a bloodline had on another bloodline, depending on the ranking and strength. In most cases, a strong bloodline would suppress a weak bloodline, and equally strong bloodline would compete against each other.

And when there were bloodlines that were unknown and interacted with each other for the first time, they would even cause a bloodline battle. It was a special event that one might never see in their lifetime.

Lin Mu had only read about it in the records of the Lost immortal before but never seen it in person.

~HONG~

Within Lin Mu's Dantian, the figure of the Great Slumber bear silently appeared. It looked to be asleep, but Lin Mu's beckoning was waking it up.

~tremble~

Lin Mu's entire body trembled as veins popped up on his skin all of a sudden. As if his blood pressure had shot up in an instant, Lin Mu's face turned red and his eyes bloodshot.

~Roar~

A suppressed roar could be heard coming from Lin Mu's body, and everyone in the area could hear it. Even those that were in the palace heard the roar of a beast in their ears. The roar was low, and yet it sent shivers through their body.

The ones that were weaker felt their blood flowing faster and their legs weakening. And the ones that were stronger felt a hint of danger coming from all around them, despite the fact that there was no one there.

King Hong was the same and felt his instincts warning him about something. They told him whatever was in front of him, it wasn't something he could challenge.

'What even is this?' King Hong felt both a bit confused and afraid at the same time.

King Hong had the Dauntless Ember physique. This not only affected his body but also his mentality, making him Dauntless and brave. And yet, he could feel the fear which was very unusual for him.

The fear traveled through his body in waves and reached deep inside.

~RAAAA~

When the fear had fully entered the depths of his blood, King Hong felt something stirring there. It was weak and looked like it would be snuffed out with a little blow. But then its power increased and he felt a drain on his vitality.

King Hong's eyes went wide, and he panicked slightly. Letting one's vitality be randomly be drained was not a good thing and could lead to a lot of problems. For any normal cultivator, this was an issue of great importance, yet King Hong soon realized that his body didn't seem to be against it.

Normally his body should have warned him about this too, and should have resisted the drain, but right now, it was not. Instead, it let the vitality be taken up by the unknown presence that had appeared in the depths of his blood.

~GUAAAAAA!~

King Hong then heard another cry coming from his blood. It was coming from the same presence that had drained some of his vitality and it was growing in its size. A few seconds later, King Hong felt his vision change, and he saw something forming in front of him.

The presence in his blood rose and took the shape of a drop. It then continued to absorb the vitality and turned into mist. The blood colored mist expanded more and more before morphing into a different shape.

It elongated, and five protrusions appeared from it. One protrusion elongated even more, turning into a tail while the other four elongated an almost equal length and became limbs. Then the head was formed as the mist split apart to form the wide jaws.

Horned scales sprouted on the top of the head before scaly spines spread along the back of the illusory figure. Four claws grew on the beast's fore limbs and three on the hind limbs. Its scales then started to get more detailed before taking on color.

The original blood colored mist switched to a more detailed figure of a beast. The beast had scales of varying brown shades, along with orange scales around its head and claws.. Its eyes were white with vertical black pupils in them.

#### [Chapter 984 - Rising And Falling Excitement](#)

While King Hong was observing the figure that had appeared to him as an illusion, Lin Mu was having a similar experience.

But in his case, instead of seeing it in front of him, he saw it in his mind. There, two figures were currently present. The first was none other than the Great Slumber Bear that seemed to be irritated upon being woken up and the second one was the illusory figure of the beast King Hong was seeing.

The two figures gazed at each other with wary eyes and their auras clashed.

"So this is a drake..." Lin Mu muttered as he observed the two beasts' bloodlines.

*~flicker~*

But just as Lin Mu was observing the drake's figure, it started to get blurry. Then in the next second, it faded away and its aura disappeared as well. Like a lamp that had run out of oil, its flame died out and the figure disappeared like it never existed.

The Great Slumber Bear closed its eyes and disappeared soon after that too, prompting Lin Mu to open his eyes in the real world.

*~huu~*

Lin Mu took a deep breath, remembering the scene from just before.

"So what do you think, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"There's no doubt that is a Flame Pool Drake." Xukong answered.

"A Flame Pool Drake, huh..." Lin Mu repeated, and tried to see if he could find any records about it.

"You probably won't find it that way. The Flame Pool Drake's are relatively rare among the Lesser drakes. But what you might be able to find information on is a flame Salamander." Xukong interrupted.

"Oh yeah, I think I know about them." Lin Mu said, recalling some information about Flame Salamanders.

They were beasts that were found even in the Xiaofan world. They chiefly lived in hot areas such as deserts, volcanoes, mines and even hot springs. They were beasts that had a varying cultivation base, ranging all the way from Qi refining realm, to the Dao Treading realm.

Though of course, there had been no recent records about a Dao Treading realm Flame Salamander existing in the current times. Though Lin Mu did end up finding information about the Lava fields of the Western Continent.

They were basically a group of volcanoes that had been destroyed a long time ago and had turned into a somewhat flat ground. Instead of a normal cone shaped volcano, they were more like flat lands filled with lava lakes all around.

This was an area that was fatal to most commoners and even cultivators. Only those which high cultivation bases or other specialized methods could go there. The region was a treasure trove of many cultivation resources, along with the different beasts that resided in that area.

Of course, this was all a long time ago before the collapse of the Western continent.

The Flame salamanders were common beasts that made the lava fields their habitat. Their population used to be rather high and they were considered to be a common beast. But after the collapsed of the Western continent, a majority of their population was wiped out and now only a few were left on the Great Zhou Empire.

The ones that were left were now mostly found in the deserts and small volcanoes of the Former Southern continent's region.

People often ignored the existence of the deserts and volcanoes that were present in the Great Southern forest due to the just how expansive the forest was. It made it hard to tell that deserts and volcanoes could also be present there.

"But what do flame salamanders have to do with Flame Pool Drakes, Senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Well, the Flame Pool Drakes are quite likely to evolve from the Flame Salamanders. The Flame Salamanders have the traces of Dragonic Bloodlines and can be considered to have slightly higher concentrations than other lizard and reptilian beasts.

Their unique environment sometimes allows them to awaken this trace. If they do manage to do that, they will turn into a Flame Pool Drake. This is of course, a rare occurrence and very few Flame Salamanders will actually be able to survive this process.

But those that do will become the kings of all the other beasts that are living there unless there is another superior beast present." Xukong answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu finally understood better and could even guess as to why King Hong managed to find a fossil of such a beast in the Kong Plane.

The man in question looked at Lin Mu, wondering about what he had discovered. From the changes on Lin Mu's expression, King Hong could tell that he had learned something.



"Did you find anything?" King Hong questioned.

This snapped Lin Mu out of his thoughts and made him focus on the man in front of him.

"Oh yes, it did. The fossilized bones you found belong to a beast called as the Flame Pool Drake." Lin Mu answered.

"A Flame Pool Drake?" King Hong said, feeling a bit confused.

Seeing this, Lin Mu went on to explain a bit more about the beast and how it came to be. Having heard all that, King Hong felt a lot more excited.

"Then you mean to say... I have a Dragon's Bloodline inside me?" King Hong questioned excitedly.

"Well... Yes, but no. You did have it till now... but it was pretty much a fragment of a trace. But now that we had forcefully invoked it, it has faded away." Lin Mu answered.

"Oh..." King Hong's excitement plummeted almost instantly.

"But it's a good thing. If it really was a proper bloodline, you might have died and exploded." Lin Mu consoled.

"W-wait! What do you mean explode?" King Hong was taken aback.

"Well, from what I know, almost all Dragonic bloodlines are volatile and domineering. More often than not, the person or beast that tried to assimilate it injures themselves or just dies.

Even the Flame Salamanders that have the highest chance of awakening the Flame Pool Bloodline die ninety percent of the times.." Lin Mu clarified, making King Hong feel relieved.

#### [Chapter 985 - At The Fenlong Kingdom And Miss Fens Strange Actions](#)

Having learned from Lin Mu about the Flame Pool Drakes, King Hong felt his curiosity being satisfied. Though at the same time, he felt a little disappointed that he didn't have a dragon bloodline.

Lin Mu and King Hong returned to the court, where they talked for a couple more hours before he decided to leave.

"I'll head off now. You should keep an eye out for any suspicious things." Lin Mu spoke.

"I will. I'll also get our allies at the Long Cloud sect informed of that humanoid mutant you found." King Hong replied.

Lin Mu had told him about what he had found at the Iron Bull city and the possible implications of it. He had a hunch that there might be way more of such Humanoid mutants in the empire.

But the places they were hidden away would be a very difficult thing to find out. Lin Mu would certainly not be able to do it on his own alone and would need the assistance of the alliance.

Though right now they too were in a difficult situation with the ongoing conflict with the Zither Wind alliance. All three of the sects had been stopped in the borders of their sects and were being prevented from leaving by the three sects of the Zither wind alliance.

'I need to get that solved too... it might have to be a radical choice too...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Lin Mu intended to cover all the losses that had happened in the time he was in seclusion and wanted to fix things back to normal. With his new found strength, he had a lot more confidence.

~shua~

The teleportation gate activated in front of Lin Mu and he entered it, leaving behind King Hong.

~phew~

"Now that he's finally back, we can begin our counterattack..." King Hong muttered as a determined expression appeared on his face.

"MINISTERS!" King Hong called out.

"Yes, King Hong!" they all replied.

"It's finally time for payback. Get ready," King Hong said with a smile.

"YES!"

...

Lin Mu entered the teleportation gate that took him to the Fenlong kingdom from the nexus and arrived in a place he had not been to before.

"Huh? This is the... Fenlong palace?" Lin Mu guessed.

From what he remembered, there was originally going to be one teleportation gate in the Jiao Long port and one in the capital of the Kingdom. But according to what he had heard from King Hong, Jing Luo was somewhere in the capital, helping them reinforce the formation arrays of the kingdom or something like that.

"Welcome! Alliance Leader Lin Mu." There were already people waiting for Lin Mu at the teleportation gate.

This time King Hong had informed them of Lin Mu's arrival and thus they weren't as shocked as the others. It also saved Lin Mu time on the pleasantries and formalities as they knew the goals that he was here for.

"Greetings." Lin Mu spoke and took a look at the welcome party.

There were two old men that looked to be somewhat high ranking from their robes. Their cultivation bases were also at the Nascent soul realm.

"You're finally here." A woman's voice pulled Lin Mu's attention to the side where he found someone walking in.

"Miss Fen." Lin Mu cupped his hands in greeting.

"Pardon me for the hurried welcome. I hope alliance leader Lin Mu does not find it inadequate." Miss Fen said in a formal tone, making Lin Mu feel strange.

"These things do not concern me, Miss Fen. And neither do I care about such formalities. Besides, time is of the essence for us and it is best if I get to work." Lin Mu stated.

"Of course." Miss Fen said, her expression the same. Though a faint twitch in her hands could be seen.

She then took out a jade slip from her spatial storage treasure and handed it to Lin Mu.

"This should contain all the information that you wanted." Miss Fen spoke.

Lin Mu took a quick look through the records in the jade slip and nodded his head. This was mostly the recent developments in the Fenlong kingdom and how things had been faring here.

"Now then, can you tell me where is Jing Luo?" Lin Mu asked.

"You'll find Elder Jing Luo beyond the border of the Fenlong kingdom. He has been helping the other elders of my clan in setting up the second ring of defense against the Kingdom of Shu." Miss Fen replied.

Lin Mu's brows furrowed, but he nodded his head. He had heard of the conflict before and had some idea about it. That was also why he had gotten the jade slip, as it would help him figure out the situation.

"I shall leave then." Lin Mu said flatly.

"Oh, before you go, alliance leader." Miss Fen interrupted. "Once you go past fifty kilometers from the border, the communication jade slips will stop working. Thus, if you want to send any messages, you will have to get a messenger to do it for you."

"I'll keep that in mind." Lin Mu replied and disappeared.

*~Sigh~*

Miss Fen sighed to herself and shook her head.

"Perhaps that is really a tall goal. We'll have to postpone it till after everything is resolved. He's too busy with all that is happening now." Miss Fen muttered to herself before leaving to do her own work.

While it looked like Lin Mu had left, he had actually not. Instead, he had just blinked and hid within the ground. He had sensed the strangeness of Miss Fen's actions and felt suspicious about it.

And now that he heard her words, he knew something was up.

'What is going on?' Lin Mu felt confused.

He spread his spirit sense around and checked everyone around him for any traces of human controlling blood curse and the signs of Invader.

"Hmm... nothing here. Thankfully." Lin Mu muttered with relief.

"But then, what is up with them?" Lin Mu couldn't help but question.

### [Chapter 986 - Reunion With Jing Luo](#)

Lin Mu was now on his way to the northern border of the Fenlong kingdom.

"Now that I remember, I've never been through here, have I?" Lin Mu muttered to himself.

The last time he had come to the Fenlong kingdom, he had taken the long route to avoid the Kingdom of Shu and had come through the coastal part. Which was also why he had directly ended up near the Jiao Long port.

But now he was going through the main road that was used by most people entering Fenlong kingdom. Of course, he wasn't actually on the road and was merely following it from the sky.

The capital of the Fenlong kingdom was about two hundred kilometers from the border and Lin Mu had already covered over half of it in less than thirty minutes.

"I should reach the border in half an hour more and then the second ring of defense shouldn't be that far." Lin Mu estimated. "May as well read the records till then," he decided.

Lin Mu took out the jade slip that Miss Fen had given him and quickly read through all the reports and documents recorded in it.

'They've certainly grown in strength alright...' Lin Mu muttered.

The Fenlong Kingdom now had over fifty Nascent soul realm cultivators, the majority of them being from the merchant council and the royal family. After The fen clan helped the royal family with their bloodline issue, they too progressed very quickly.

The relationship between the Fen clan and the Fenlong royal family was also resolved due to this, and now they were almost considered the same. For their service, the Fen clan was recalled back into the royal family and was the same.

'No wonder I saw her there at the palace. She is technically a princess now.' Lin Mu muttered.

Then there were the other nascent soul realm cultivators that had come due to the efforts of Jingming Shang. These cultivators were actually rich merchants who were convinced by Jingming Shang and threw in their lot with the Fenlong kingdom.

And since they got what they were promised in terms of profits, they were fiercely loyal too.

The Mu clan was also progressing promisingly and had grown a lot stronger than before. They too had 5 Nascent soul realm cultivators now, and they had greatly benefited due to their clans's legacy.

"I'll get to see their puppets in action soon enough. They are with Jing Luo at the border anyway." Lin Mu muttered.

He was certainly curious about their puppets, as it was said that the stronger puppets they controlled could even match the strength of the Nascent soul realm cultivators. And these puppets could be controlled by those in the core condensation realm.

This was a great advantage that could not be ignored at all.

Lin Mu then learned the situation with the Kingdom of Shu. There had been several skirmishes that had occurred between the Fenlong kingdom and the Kingdom of Shu's army.

While most of these ended in draw at first, in the latter times, the Fenlong Kingdom actually had to retreat. This was due to the fact that the power of the soldiers had suddenly increased.

'There's no doubt there is involvement of Gu Legion in this.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Time quickly passed as Lin Mu continued to fly through the skies. The Fenlong kingdom didn't have as many settlements as other kingdoms and thus Lin Mu didn't really encounter any towns or cities while passing by.

"That must be the border." Lin Mu muttered as his spirit sense felt the formation arrays in the distance.

There was no formation array like this when Lin Mu had originally come to the Fenlong Kingdom and it had been added two years ago when the alliance was fully formed. It had helped prevent and detect any intrusions in the Fenlong Kingdom and was rather useful.

*~shua~*

Lin Mu easily passed through the formation array and sensed the presence of a large number of people in the distance.

"That should be them." Lin Mu guessed and flew ahead.

*~WHOOSH~*

A single step was enough to propel him over two kilometers in a few seconds and he continued doing that till he was at the temporary outpost that had been made.

*~Shua~*

The people below had sensed Lin Mu's appearance as well. After all, he had created plenty of noise in coming here. His steps weren't exactly... 'stealthy'.

Lin Mu's eyes went to a certain man with a large build looking up at the sky. His long hair swayed in the wind as the beads that kept them tied into multiple bunches rattled. The slightly wild looking man's eyes gazed at Lin Mu and a wide smile appeared on his face.

"AHAHAHA! AHAHAHA!" Jing Luo started laughing, startling all others.

They didn't know that Lin Mu was arriving since there was no way to communicate other than messengers and Lin Mu was way faster than a messenger, anyway. Thus, it was a surprise to them.

"Is that..." A young man gasped.

"Yes... there's no doubt." Another one muttered.

"Senior Lin Mu!" A man familiar to Lin Mu spoke up.

Lin Mu looked at the person who called out and recognized him to be none other than Mu Tao, the heir of the Mu clan.

Lin Mu descended on to the ground and was shortly tackled by Jing Luo.

"HAHAHA!" Jing Luo held Lin Mu in a tight hug. "I knew you would be back soon, brother!"

"Sorry I got late." Lin Mu apologized.

"Forget that! All that matters is that you are here now. We've held the fort and are ready to pass the reins back to you." Jing Luo said with a wide smile on his face.

"Thank you... I don't know what I would have done without you." Lin Mu said, a smile finally appearing on his face after a long time.

"Thank you to all of you that have helped us all this time!" Lin Mu said to rest with his hands cupped.

### [Chapter 987 - Hundred Sense Slaughter Array](#)

With the quick reunion done, Lin Mu and Jing Luo quickly got to the actual work.

"So what is it that you are actually doing here?" Lin Mu questioned after the two of them went to some place a bit more private.

Lin Mu knew that while Jing Luo might have said that he was just installing some more formation arrays around the Fenlong Kingdom, that wasn't exactly the reason. There might have been more to it that Jing Luo could have done.

"I'm installing an Auto-detecting Slaughter formation. I call it the Hundred Sense Slaughter Array." Jing Luo answered.

"What?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"I finally finished its ending bits a couple months ago. And considering the offense the Gu Legion has put up, I reckoned it was time to start using it. The Fenlong Kingdom was the perfect choice for it since it is the smallest and won't take me that long to set it up." Jing Luo explained.

"Won't that be a bit too dangerous for our side too?" Lin Mu asked. "Can it target only those from the Gu Legion or Northern Tribes automatically, or does it need someone to manage that part?"

"Of course, I won't let it attack innocents. I have two modes for that in the formation array. There are two targeting formations in the array, one of them being controlled manually by the formation master and another one that can act interdependently depending on certain factors.

For example, we can add the information about someone's spirit Qi signature or even their face and let the formation array automatically attack." Jing Luo explained in detail.

"That... that's amazing!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

He could clearly see the benefit of something like this. The current formation arrays that were set up were mostly detecting and defensive formation arrays that surrounded the lands of their allies.

Setting up an entire barrier around a kingdom wasn't always a viable option simply due to the sheer amount of resources needed to set it up. That's why a detecting formation array was placed instead which could send a signal to warn the owners about intruders.

But smaller areas like the sects could be entirely protected using the defensive formation arrays since they were way smaller than kingdoms in size and also had a lot of resources.

If one were to compare the sects and kingdom, the sects normally had more resources than the entire kingdom, but less area under them. On the other hand, the kingdom had less resources but a large territory and population.

"Of course, I'm the one who made it, after all!" Jing Luo said proudly.

Thinking of this suddenly gave Lin Mu an idea.

"Wait! Do you have a method to recognize the signature of the Gu Legion?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I don't right now. But I can put in the signature for the Invader. We've already made a formation that can detect them... well, somewhat." Jing Luo answered.

"I think I can help. I have just the right thing for you to perfect it. And I might even be able to add the ability to recognize the people under Human controlling blood curses control." Lin Mu replied.

"You can?! How?" Jing Luo was surprised.

Lin Mu then narrated to him about all that had happened in the past two days, he had come out of seclusion. It was a lot of things in the short span of two days and were certainly shocking for Jing Luo.

"That Gu Yao... will he never stop?" Jing Luo muttered in anger.

"He won't. That's why we will have to." Lin Mu replied with determination.

"Yes. Then it's best we get to it." Jing Luo stated.

"Yeah, point me to the node and I'll add it." Lin Mu spoke.

Jing Luo nodded his head and took Lin Mu to the access node and let Lin Mu do his thing. Lin Mu first used his spirit sense to access the formation array and added the ability for it to recognize the people being controlled by the Human Controlling Blood curse.

Since Lin Mu was the only one who could sense that, he was also the only one who could transmit the specific sensation of that to the formation array. For another human it might be difficult to sense the signature, but for a neutral thing like a formation array, all it needed was the specific programming and it would be able to sense it too.

Lin Mu simply had to set it according to how he felt when encountering those with the Human Controlling blood curse.

This formation that Jing Luo had made was something that he had told Lin Mu about a long time ago. In fact, the original developmental research about this was done hundreds of years ago by the Jing clan.

The true version of this formation array was even used in the Myriad Armament Canopy abode. What Jing Luo had done here was to simplify it and make it so that it could work with fewer resources and a wider area as well.

He had even worked on it during the fifty years or so he was trapped in the minor plane that was torn off from the Ripple Mist Sect's sacred ground.

After about an hour, Lin Mu was done with the addition of the Human Controlling Blood curse's sensing capability, he added the next one for the Gu Legion. Since they all used the cultivation boosting pills made from Rebirth blood and the failed reborn, they too had a unique signature.

The muddy looking spirit Qi was very easy to recognize as long as one looked into their Dantian. Adding this didn't take Lin Mu long since he had plenty of samples to add to it seeing the numbers that he had killed.

Then came the final addition. It was the detecting capability for the invaders. While Jing Luo had already added one, Lin Mu reckoned he would be way more accurate.. Plus, he had another sample he could add. It was from the humanoid Mutant!

### [Chapter 988 - Ruthless To Himself](#)

While Jing Luo had heard about the Humanoid Mutant from Lin Mu before, actually seeing that sample has still stunned him. The black tar like substance was strange and emanated a repulsive feeling that made him want to subconsciously go away.

'Truly disgusting.' Jing Luo thought to himself.

This time it took Lin Mu about two hours to add the new sample. But once he was done, the entire formation array flickered.

"There, done." Lin Mu said as he took one last look at the formation array.

"Looks good. The others will finish the rest of it and add the anchor points around the kingdom. Half of them have already been installed and the rest should be done in a couple of days." Jing Luo said. "And after that, we'll see the true capability of the Hundred Sense Slaughter Array."

"I'd like to see it too. Though what is the power it can exert?" Lin Mu asked.

It was an important question, as the power of the array would determine its use. It would be rather useless if the only cultivators it could go against would be the weak ones at the Qi refining realm and the core condensation realm.

"Oh, you don't have to worry about that. Unless a Dao Treading realm cultivator appears it will hold up on its own. No Dao Shell realm cultivator will be able to resist it and will probably die under it." Jing Luo replied. "With the exception of you, of course... what did you even do to your body? Why do I feel such strong metal attribute from you?" he questioned.

"You can feel that?" Lin Mu asked, feeling surprised.

He didn't even know that he was releasing such a feeling from him.

"Yeah. It is like you are a walking beacon. Anyone that has proficiency with the metal element would know. You feel like... a literal mountain of metal walking around." Jing Luo explained.

"Well... it's a bit hard to explain." Lin Mu replied.

"Try me." Jing Luo said.

"Maybe showing you would be easier." Lin Mu replied before controlling his body.



He stopped controlling the weight of his body and also let his skin show its full appearance.

~DENG~

~THUD~

Lin Mu directly sunk into the ground all the way up to his waist and a golden sheen could be seen coming off his body. The sunlight that reflected off his skin made him look like a golden statue.

With the exception of his black hair, white teeth and eyes, the rest of his body let off a golden luster.

~shua~

But Jing Luo felt something else along with it. It wasn't just a change in appearance, Lin Mu was now letting off an entirely different aura.

"Heavens!" Jing Luo exclaimed.

Even though Lin Mu wasn't releasing his spirit Qi and was had restrained it, it was still a overwhelming scene. Even the others that were quite some distance from them felt a change in the air that suddenly felt heavier to them for some inexplicable reason.

"Such strong metal elemental aura and that golden color? Did you fill your entire body with gold or what?" Jing Luo questioned, feeling shocked.

"Well... yeah." Lin Mu answered.

Jing Luo was taken aback by the answer and could only say, "What?!"

"Well... You should take a look at this." Lin Mu said and handed Jing Luo the True Gold Body Forging arts.

Jing Luo's eyes narrowed, and he took the metal plate from Lin Mu's hand. He could tell that it was carved from a single metal sheet, but when he tried to read it, he couldn't recognize many of the words.

Lin Mu saw the confusion on his face and spoke, "oh wait, I have a translated version."

He then gave Jing Luo a jade slip with the technique in it. As part of learning and studying Dao Script with senior Xukong, Lin Mu would often translate things to and from Dao Script. This was to increase his own knowledge and proficiency with Dao Script.

Cultivation techniques were one of the best things to learn to use since they were complex even in the normal common tongue. Lin Mu would have to understand the technique himself first before he would even be able to find the character needed to translate it into Dao Script.

Thus it was an all encompassing way of making Lin Mu learn.

But when Jing Luo read through what was written in the technique, his face turned from shock to terror.

"THIS IS MADNESS!" Jing Luo said out loud.

"Yeah," Lin Mu couldn't exactly deny that.

Anyone that would try it would either be very confident in themselves, or be insane enough to try a self mutilating technique like this.

"You did all this to yourself?" Jing Luo asked, feeling both pity and afraid of Lin Mu.

To him, anyone who could do this to themselves was ruthless and if they could be this ruthless to themselves, then to their enemies, they would be hellish to say the least.

'But can he really be like that?' Jing Luo thought.

He knew Lin Mu's character well and understood him enough over the years.

*~Sigh~*

Finally in the end, Jing Luo could only sigh to himself and let it go.

"I don't know what to say... grandfather would say that you were foolish. But you actually succeeded." Jing Luo muttered.

"I know... but that is the price for power I needed to pay... had to pay." Lin Mu replied.

Jing Luo nodded his head, finding himself to be lacking.

'So his two years of seclusion were far more painful than the suffering we had gone through.' Jing Luo thought. 'The others don't even know the effort and sacrifices he has been doing for us.'

"Enough about this." Lin Mu said, wanting to change the topic.

"Tell me this. King Hong told me that you sent Little Shrubby out to the frontier. Why is that?" Lin Mu asked, desiring to know.

"That... well. It was a task only Little Shrubby could do.." Jing Luo replied.

#### [Chapter 989 - Little Shrubby's Important Task. Wu Hei And Wu Teng's Situations](#)

Hearing that the task was important and only Little Shrubby could do it, Lin Mu was intrigued.

'Well, Little Shrubby does have a lot of advantages that others don't.' Lin Mu thought to himself before Jing Luo started to speak.

"Little Shrubby is at the frontier, spying for us. He's a beast, so no one will suspect him even if he gets spotted, and he can just mix in with the other beasts that live there anyway. At most, the people of the Northern Tribes will think that he is a Dao Shell realm beast that has made that area his territory." Jing Luo spoke.

Lin Mu could only nod hearing this, as it was a very appropriate option.

"And in addition to that, he will also be picking off any Northern Tribesmen he spots or any Gu Legion people. With his speed and abilities, it is something that is best suited to him. At the very least, he has no problems in killing Nascent soul realm cultivators in less than a second and the Dao Shell realms can be battled by him." Jing Luo added.

"What about the rescues that Little Shrubby had been doing? I heard from Elder Zhan of the black Dune sect." Lin Mu asked.

"While that was indeed good. Having him block off the enemies at the very entry is an even better option. We don't even know how many threats he has also stopped from entering from the frontier." Jing Luo replied. "The only foe that is left in the empire is Gu Yao."

Lin Mu thought over it and realized that unless it was a Dao Treading realm cultivator that actually appeared, there was little to no chance Little Shrubby would be in trouble. He could always run away with his speed.

From Lin Mu's estimation of Little Shrubby's speed growth, at his current cultivation base outrunning a Dao Treading realm cultivator would be easy.

'And this is still when he hasn't used the Seven Beasts Burst skill. If he does that, his strength will increase even more and so will his speed. He might be able to fight off a Dao Treading realm cultivator long enough to injure or run away.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

While it wasn't so that Little Shrubby couldn't be trapped at all, to do that, the Northern Tribes will need information about Little Shrubby. At the very least, they would need to know he even existed.

"Seems like Little Shrubby has been doing a lot of work then." Lin Mu muttered.

"He has indeed. With you gone, he was great help." Jing Luo agreed.

*~Sigh~*

Lin Mu sighed to himself, finding himself missing the beast.

"Well, not anymore. I'll do what I've been skipping out on." Lin Mu stated.

"Good!" Jing Luo clapped his hands. "So what is it that you want to do first?" he questioned.

"Well, we've had a few things we've been delaying for a while. We should get them done. And some of those things can be done in one direction." Lin Mu answered.

"I'm guessing meeting up with Wu Hei?" Jing Luo asked.

"Yes. And also your grandfather, of course." Lin Mu replied.

"Of course! I've been ready for years now." Jing Luo said, feeling excited.

"Before we go though, has there been any news about Wu Hei? I find it strange that he never tried to make contact." Lin Mu replied.

"No, there has been none. Even our spies in the Shuang Qian Kingdom are unable to come up with much. As far as we know, Wu Hei mostly stays hidden in his residence and does whatever he wants through his subordinates.

My guess was that it isn't him doing this voluntarily, but rather Gu Yao or someone else authoritative putting him under house arrest." Jing Luo answered.

"Huh? Wasn't Wu Hei the second highest one in the Gu Legion? Just below Gu Yao." Lin Mu asked, finding it strange.

"That is still true, but Gu Yao has probably developed suspicions over the previous ones that he already had. Wu Hei killing his father is the most obvious thing that could have been assumed.

And there is also a chance Gu Yao has a hunch that Wu Hei is not under his control and has been testing him. After all, Wu Hei isn't that strong compared to many other Gu Legion members and the Northern Tribesmen entering the Great Zhou Empire." Jing Luo explained.

"I see... and do we have any idea what Wu Hei's cultivation base is?" Lin Mu questioned.

"He is definitely in the Nascent soul realm, but the exact stage is unknown. But the most likely thing is that he shouldn't be that strong being at either the Infant Soul stage or the Child Soul stage." Jing Luo answered. "Either of those two stages could have been enough for him to have great authority in the past, but with Gu Yao's changes, there are a lot more like him."

"So in simple words... he's not special anymore." Lin Mu stated.

"Exactly. Perhaps the only reason he is even alive and has his rank is simply due to the fact that he is Gu Yao's family." Jing Luo replied.

"I see... but he isn't the only nephew, either. What happened to his mother and Wu Teng?" Lin Mu questioned.

"We have no news about the mother of Wu Hei and as for Wu Teng... he's back in the Vermillion Legion." Jing Luo answered.

'The Vermillion legion?' Lin Mu thought to himself as an idea struck him.

"They're using him as the mole in the Vermillion legion... there is no doubt." Lin Mu said, feeling confident.

"Are you sure?" Jing Luo asked.

"Yes. Wu Teng was part of the Vermillion Legion in the past, too. It would be less suspicious for him to be there and Gu Yao will be able to extract any information from the Vermillion Legion." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmm..." Jing Luo's expression darkened as he saw the possibility in Lin Mu's words.

#### [Chapter 990 - Another Alliance Meeting And Deciding The Course Of Action](#)

Lin Mu and Jing Luo discussed a few more plans about how to proceed.

The main goal was to get rid of Gu Yao, but they were unable to find his location. Until he was not gone, there would always be threats from the Northern Tribes.

"Are we still not anywhere close to finding Gu Yao's location?" Lin Mu asked.

"Unfortunately no. There was a time when we came really close and unearthed a large hideout of the Gu Legion and even attacked it with the alliance, but by the time we were done, and the Gu Legion members were dead, we didn't find anyone else there.

We think that we might have been close to Gu Yao, but he escaped while the others delayed. We did bring a lot of people, enough to overwhelm Gu Yao thus, I reckon that's why he chose to escape rather than fight." Jing Luo answered.

"Hmm... you won't find him outside. He is most definitely in a minor plane." Lin Mu stated.

"Yeah. We just hoped that we would have found an entrance or a clue to the minor plane there." Jing Luo replied.

*~Sigh~*

"We'll just have to kill every Gu Legion member until he is forced to come out, it seems." Lin Mu said as a hint of killing intent glowed in his eyes.

"Yes!" Jing Luo agreed. "Though there is another person who might be able to help us track him." He added.

"Oh?" Lin Mu wondered who.

"My grandfather, of course! He should be able to make something that can track Gu Yao, especially with the help of my cousin Duan Ke. She is an expert in investigative skills. Combining both of them, we should definitely be able to find him!" Jing Luo said with confidence.

Lin Mu's eyes lit up and he could see the merit in this idea. It was something they were doing anyway, and it would work out for them.

"Though before we do that... we might have to take some precautions." Lin Mu spoke.

"Yes, we can't let Gu Yao get a clue about this." Jing Luo replied.

"We'll have to get the alliance to maintain the current stalemate. This should keep Gu Yao occupied. Then we'll go and get Wu Hei and your grandfather in that time. I'll be able to call Little Shrubby once I'm close enough to the Shuang Qian Kingdom, as well." Lin Mu suggested.

"That will be the best. As much as we want to push those bastards back, the current situation will give us the chance to secretly get them." Jing Luo agreed.

"Mmmhmm... guess we need to talk with the patriarchs." Lin Mu said.

"We'll do it in a bit. We'll be done with the formation array and then we can head off." Jing Luo asked to wait.

Lin Mu agreed and helped out Jing Luo with the final finishing touches of the fomentation arrays and once they were done, both of them entered the Kong plane and headed to the Long Cloud sect.

Lin Mu was of course, met with great fanfare there too and the people there were greatly excited to meet him. But the patriarch quickly calmed them down so that they could discuss the plans.

At first, the patriarch of the Black Dune sect was in disagreement with Lin Mu's plan of delaying the fight, but then was convinced after hearing why Lin Mu and Jing Luo needed to do that.

The four patriarchs of the alliance, Patriarch You Yi, Patriarch Shandian, Patriarch Mingliang and Patriarch Hua, all conversed with Lin Mu for the entire day so that they could come up with the concrete plan of action.

Only when that was done could Lin Mu take a rest.

"You should rest and prepare for tomorrow. You will have a long journey ahead." Patriarch Hua said.

"Yes... I'll retire for the night then." Lin Mu replied.

"You should leave too, Jing Luo. We'll continue your work and make sure all goes well." Patriarch You Yi said as well.

"Very well." Jing Luo accepted.

The two men left and went to rest in each of their courtyards.

The night was filled with twinkling stars and Lin Mu laid on the roof of the courtyard staring at the sky. He felt reluctant so sleep now and had a fear that if he slept, the next time he woke up would be years later.

*~Sigh~*

"The Well of Slumber is indeed a double edged sword. I thought I had it in control, but that seems unlikely." Lin Mu muttered.

"There is also a chance that it was actually done by your own body, too. It might have understood that it would be far more beneficial to use the Well of slumber and let your body accommodate both things at once." Xukong suddenly spoke up.

"Huh? How can my body do that when I'm in control of it?" Lin Mu asked feeling confused.

"People do think they are in control of their bodies, but that is not always true. There is more to your body than just your consciousness. In addition to you, your body also has the bloodline in it. Every being in the universe has a bloodline and it will have thousands upon thousand of years of memories contained within them.

These are the experiences your predecessor would have gone through and they would be hidden within your bloodline. It is these very experiences that forge the natural instincts of your body.

Sometimes these can also make you do things without your control." Xukong explained.

Lin Mu fell in deep thought upon hearing it. He raised his right and gazed at the mysterious ring.

No one knows what he thought, but he closed his eyes and just rested like that for the rest of the night.

Hours passed, and soon it was daybreak. Lin Mu's eyes snapped open at the first light of the sun and he disappeared from the roof of the courtyard.

*~huh~*

He took a deep breath as he looked in the distance towards North.

"I'm coming... Wu Hei, old man Jing... Duan Ke."