

Path of Martial Arts Patreon by Thomas Bell

(12/November/2022 - 30/December/2023)

[Update 13 november 2022](#)

[Nov 12, 2022](#)

It's finally time! The update is here and it's the biggest one yet. The game went from 58k to 84.6k words in size.

Here's a quick rundown of its contents:

- Story continuation (we're finally in the sect!)
- Meet 3 of the 4 possible Masters that may take MC under their wing.
- Martial Skills. Various super-human abilities that you can use during your fights (albeit the low-grade ones...)
- A whole new battle that utilizes most of those skills.
- A Sect Library filled with books on topics you've been most curious about.
- Free Roam. From this point onward, the game will mostly be in a 'sandbox' mode, intermixed with big missions/events that could be considered 'story-arcs'.
- One (small) mission already available.
- Finally spend your Free Exp!

The link to the demo is inside the patron-only post.

As always, probably full of bugs, so do point things out - either here or in the discord :)

Known issues/shortcomings that I'll be fixing in the next few days:

- No opportunity to train attributes directly for the time being.
- Haven't gotten around to adding new characters to the glossary.
- I was planning to 'soft-locking' attributes at Peak-Houtian, but for now there's no increase in difficulty for getting a stat beyond your Martial-level limit.
- Injuries aren't taken into account at all for now.

[Focus of the next update](#)

[Nov 12, 2022](#)

New Missions

New ROs content

New Skills

New Items

35 votes total

[New Skill System](#)

[Nov 14, 2022](#)

So yesterday I got a suggestion of customizing skills in the game. At that moment something in me just *clicked* and the idea of allowing every player to have their own 'unique' combat style became so persistent that I just had to try and execute it.

So here's what I have for now:

Instead of having 'default' options like punch/kick during fights, I'm allowing *you* to define those options (tho of course, story-exclusive things for particular fights etc. would still be present).

Offensive options:

What kind of an attack do you want this skill to be?

- ☒ Fist (punch).
- ☐ Palm strike.
- ☐ Finger technique.
- ☐ Claw.
- ☐ Kick.
- ☐ Grapple.

Next

After you set your 'default' type of attack, you can then *enhance* those attacks with special effects. To 'unlock' special effects, you'll need to comprehend skills of other Martial Artists and absorb their properties.

Here's how that looks (Leopard's Claw doesn't actually have these effects, it's just for the proof of concept):

What skills do you want to integrate into **SUPER SKILL**?

- ☒ Leopard's Claw
- ☐ Go back.

Next

Leopard's Claw contains following effects:

- ☒ *Multiple Attacks* (Low Grade)
- ☐ *Crushing Effect* (High Grade)
- ☐ *Piercing Effect* (Top Grade)
- ☐ Go back.

Next

Effect: *Multiple Attacks (Low Grade).*

This enhancement creates multiple instances (**x4**) of your skill whenever you activate it. Enemies damaged by the copies suffer **10%** of the overall damage.

Activation Cost +5

EXP needed: 10

Chance of failure: 0%

☒ Add enhancement to **SUPER SKILL**.

☐ Go back.

Next

Effect: *Crushing (High Grade).*

This enhancement grants your skill increased blunt force and crushing power. Enemies damaged would either be knocked back or have their bones broken. *Incompatible with Piercing.*

Damage +80

Activation Cost +20

EXP needed: 40

Chance of failure: 0%

☒ Add enhancement to **SUPER SKILL**.

☐ Go back.

Next

SKILL: SUPER SKILL**Type:** Claw**Grade:** Low**Enhancements:** *x4 Multiple Attacks (Low Grade).***Damage:** 10**Accuracy:** 10**Activation Cost:** 5**Status:** deactivated.☒ Rename.☐ Change Type.☐ Integrate other skills.☐ Activate the skill.☐ Learn more about Skill Integration.☐ Reset the Skill.**Next**

So, theoretically, you'll be able to create your own fighting style (I'm planning to let you guys create up to 10 skills in each category, since it doesn't make any difference for me code-wise), with both strong/weak attacks (various Exhaustion costs), built for damage/speed and etc. Also, of course, a whole lot of distinct flavor as every effect will change how your Skill activates/is utilized (Piercing, for example, will allow you to 'cut' opponents instead of just hitting them).

Various supportive skills (like Spot Weakness) will remain as is.

Just to be clear, I'm not planning on making 'gamey' combat (although there are things like 'damage'), it'll look around the same as the current arena fight except with custom skills haha.

Tell me what you think (either here or on discord), so that I know your guys' opinions before I go any further with this (I'll need to rewrite the Yun Ge fight).

[New Skill System v2](#)

[Nov 16, 2022](#)

Finally, after two sleepless nights, I've completed the code in a way that allows to me to at least try and keep up with the new Skill System. Here's a semi-final look at the skill development (can't embed images in the post for some reason): [click](#)

As you can see, instead of just taking some properties from the skill, you'll be absorbing them whole, boosting grades and stats of your own skill in the process. Apart from just increasing the numbers, absorption of skills also allows to grant your technique a special effect (up to 5 per skill).

Here's how the same skill, a Claw-attack with Multiply, Rapidness and Sharpness looks in an actual fight: [click](#)

NOTE: all values such as damage/accuracy/costs are not balanced and will most likely be changed. For those of you who don't wish to bother with the stats/number, playing with the CM and high attributes would be enough, so no need to worry haha.

Do tell me **if you'd like for me to release a small update** containing the new skills, reworked arena fight and a couple other changes **or would rather wait** until I'm done with the new RO content.

[Item Suggestions.](#)

[Nov 19, 2022](#)

Heya. I'm finally getting close to finishing the new skill system/rewriting Yun Ge fight (it took me wayyyy to long, but tbf it's a completely different experience from before). I think I will release it when I'm also done with the RO content, otherwise the update will feel too small. Though I will conduct a 'beta' for the new fight, so that I don't upload it full of bugs as usual :p

One of the things, besides RO stories, that I'm planning to add is artifact selection after you win the tourney - which means at least three new items!

Now, while I do have something in mind, I'm curious if you guys have any particular items that you want to see: it can be anything from equipment (just no weapons aside from 'fist' based) to consumables, from passive (stat boosts) to active (eg: a ring that you can activate during a fight and it will block the next attack).

Put the stuff you want either into the comments or pm me on discord - I'll see if its viable and then will put the suggestions to a vote.

[Small Update 22 nov 2022](#)

[Nov 21, 2022](#)

Heya. Posting a small update before I move forwards with the story (requires a new save, so you can wait for about a week if you don't want to bother)

- Reworked Yun Ge fight (basically written it from scratch, so like 5k new words?). Keep in mind that I haven't balanced it yet (will do in the next update)
- Reworked Yang Bohai encounter
- New Skills. I haven't gone through with the new system due to the majority voting against it and instead decided to give you guys a few options (4 offensive, 2 defensive and 2 movement) that would be 'central' throughout the story. There is also going to be a couple of them acquired during the game as well as a bunch of 'supportive' skills, but I see no reason adding low-grade, middle-grade and other skills that I've thought of before.

Until the next update, all the skills will be unlocked so that you can see how they look in a fight. After that, I'll lock them behind 'training' and that training will be a bit different from the skill learning before.

Link for the demo is the [same](#). Tell me if you find any bugs, there may be plenty of them as usual.

Plan for the future update:

- Skill Training
- Attribute Training
- New RO content (can't tell yet exactly who and how much, but Mei Mei will 100% have quite a few events)
- Pick an artifact from the sect (I'm still taking suggestions by the way).

[Skill Suggestions!](#)

[Nov 22, 2022](#)

Heya! So now that I have an idea of how the skills look and work, I wanted to see if there were any specific skills you'd like to see represented in the game!

Sadly, I won't be able to incorporate many offensive/defensive/movement skills. I might add some more as the game develops, but for now the ones in the game are final.

However, for, 'supportive' skills I can add as many as I want. So what are 'supportive' skills? It's abilities that grant the MC various 'utility'. If you remember from the previous patreon demo, there were spot weakness / cleansing fury (all will be present next update). Skills like those ones, that give you stat boosts (eg: Jade Skin, impervious to cuts/bleedings + Constitution buff after you activate it) or grant various special effects.

Tell me if you have any thoughts!

[Progress Report 23 nov 2022](#)

[Nov 23, 2022](#)

Heya! This is the first (hopefully of many) progress reports ;)

I'll try to get them out daily, but can't promise you guys adamant consistency for now ;(

What I did today:

- Changed the **way stats are displayed**: it's now a single bar that fills as you grow in strength (except for Mortal Level).
- Added **Skill Training**. No more having all the top-grade skills from the beginning lmao. First level of 'comprehension' for the skill remains the same (training ground + intelligence check + a mini-poem) as before, but learning a skill past Initial Success would require you to complete a 'mini quest' for that corresponding skill. I've described at what types of quests this would include, but it's a mechanic for later on, since the MC is not supposed to have skills beyond the Initial Success for now.
- Added **description of each Skill** to the stats / training grounds.
- Changed "Extreme Blade Finger" into "**Extreme Devil Finger**". Yes, this would be our first 'evil' technique :)

- Finally **began writing the RO's events!**

Game size increased from **81.5k** (I've removed a lot of descriptions of previous skills etc.) to **84k**. So like **2.5k** words increase, tho admittedly some of that is repeated text used for new skills.

Current goals before the update:

- Make injuries actually count.
- Add/Recode Supportive Skills.
- Balance Yun Ge fight.
- Make a soft-cap for the EXP you spend on attributes.
- Add artifacts for the win in the tourney.
- Add both Yang Bohai / Ma Rin in character glossary.
- Most likely rework how precognition works (make it more for the story choices).
- New RO content.

And here's your [sneak-peak of the day](#):

[poisoned.png](#)

Yet, you feel terrible. If at first, it was a mere sense of weakness, as minutes pass you start to lose the feeling in your limbs. This is when you realize: what's happening to you is more than a sudden caprice of your body. You were poisoned, by whom and with what you do not know, but you're certain there are harmful toxins contained in your blood.

You hurriedly call for a servant boy — when he comes, you barely remain conscious.

"Inf... Infirmary..." — you mutter, your last words before the world around you darkens...

Wake Up...

[Progress Report 24 nov 2022](#)

[Nov 24, 2022](#)

Demo Size: from **84k** to **86.3k** (2300 words increase)

Completed one path of the Mei Mei event. Should be done with it by tomorrow.

Besides Mei Mei, I'm planning on adding a Tang Ruo encounter, He Jun / Hao Fan talk and maybe Jing Guo / Tigress if I get around to them before the update.

Your sneak peek of the day: [click](#)

"What should I do?"

"Well..."

Her feet shuffling, her ears turned ruby, she coughs to clear her throat.

"You'll have to strip."

"Strip?"

"Uh-huh..."

<input checked="" type="radio"/> "Isn't it a bit inappropriate?"
<input type="radio"/> "I was afraid you'd never ask."
<input type="radio"/> "Okay."

Next

[Progress Update 25th nov 2022](#)

[Nov 25, 2022](#)

Demo Size: **86.3k** -> **88.7k (+2300 words)**.

- Mei Mei event is done :happy:.
- Added one trait that can be gained depending on your choices during that event ;)
- Began writing Tang Ruo encounter.

Here's your sneak-peek of the day: [click](#)

Tang Ruo chuckles, your words amusing him instead of causing offense.

"You get full of yourself quite quickly." — he says as he tilts his head, running a hand through his blue hair —
"Say, how about a small competition?"

"A competition?" — you ask — "Why don't we just fight it out?"

"Don't worry." — replies Tang Ruo as he straightens and picks up his sword — "The time for our next battle will come soon enough. Let's entertain ourselves with this contest for now, shall we?"

"Isn't your Wu Clan famous for its techniques?" — Tang Ruo questions — "Why don't we compete in Martial Skills?"

- ☒ "Sure."
- ☐ "I haven't learned enough Skills yet."
- ☐ "And show you all my trump cards? Don't be ridiculous."

Next

[Progress Report 26 nov 2022](#)

[Nov 26, 2022](#)

Demo Size: 88.7 -> 91.2k (+2500 words)

- Completed encounter with Tang Ruo.
- Fixed a bug where the quest time-limit didn't reset for the flower mission.

Here's your sneak peak for the day: [click](#) (I wonder, how did a friendly competition turn into this? Hmmm.....)

How dares he to trick you like this?! Who does he think he is?!

You load your fist with Inner Energy and strike at the Prince.

Agility ...  (Req: 250)

Your attack catches him off-guard, but Tang Ruo is still Tang Ruo: just as it is about to hit, his whole figure *shimmers* and your punch goes right through him.

"You haven't wasted your time, I see." — Tang Ruo praises as he steps to the side — "But trust when I say, you don't want me to retaliate."

You notice his playfulness fade away, replaced by the cold, scornful expression he usually wears.

☒ "I want you to try."

☐ Attack him again.

☐ Just snort and let it go.

Next

[Smaller/Bigger updates?](#)

[Nov 26, 2022](#)

Just a question, how big do you want the next update to be? It's time for me to release the current patreon version to the public (been over 2 weeks already), and while I could release the version with Tang Ruo/Mei Mei events by tomorrow, I feel like it's kinda too small (like +10k from the current one)? I was aiming for about 100k (total) words/next weekend and wondering how you guys felt about that.

Do keep in mind if I update now and then add the other stuff, the saves might break/you'll have to restart again.

Small update now

Big update later

33 votes total

[Progress Report 28 nov 2022](#)

[Nov 28, 2022](#)

Demo Size: **91.3 -> 94.3k (+3000 increase)**.

- Completed encounter with Hao Fan.

Sneak Peak of the day: [*click*](#)

"Of course!" — the woman chirps, not capable of disguising the excitement in her voice — "Just give me a second to notify Brother Fan beforehand."

She goes into the room meant for stuff servicing the Mission Hall and closes the door. You wait, yet your patience soon starts to run thin as the woman takes way more than a second to return: half an hour at least, from what your sense of time can tell you.

When she returns, her appearance drastically differs from how she looked before: her lips seems to be redder, her skin fairer, her lashes longer and her eyes — bigger and more distinct. Even her previously flat chest has become larger and more noticeable.

- ☒ "You shouldn't have gone to so much trouble for me."
- ☐ "Seriously? Do you think I have nothing better to do than waste my time while you doll-up?"
- ☐ "Someone likes Hao Fan a bit too much, doesn't she?"
- ☐ Keep silent.

Next

[Progress Report 2 december 2022](#)

[Dec 2, 2022](#)

Demo size: **98.5k

***New things since the last update:

*Attribute Training (Training Grounds)

Event with Mei Mei (one week after acceptment ceremony, if you made certain choices)

Event with Tang Ruo (Training Grounds, available one week after acceptment ceremony)

Event with Tigress (kind of) (Arena, one week after acceptment ceremony)

Event with Hao Fan (Mission Hall)

Injuries now count. You can't go out of the sect/take missions/issue challenge in the arena if you are injured.

Injuries now can be healed (event without regeneration) -> Go to Infirmary for that.

Added 'allowance' for Inner Disciples (20 points / month, subject for rebalance)

Changed up ascension to Houtian a little bit (added an important story-detail) Added stamina/health regeneration every week.

Should be an update tomorrow, I'll be fixing bugs with the help of tier-2/tier-3s today ;)

[Update 3 december 2022](#)

[Dec 2, 2022](#)

Demo Size: **100k**

- Added Mei Mei event
- Added Tang Ruo event
- Added Hao Fan event
- Added Tigress event
- Added two random events (will trigger with a 33% chance during new weeks)
- Added attribute training
- Fixed/worked on injuries.

Link is the same.

[Progress Report 07 dec 2022](#)

[Dec 6, 2022](#)

Demo Size: 100k -> 102k.

- Fixed all the bugs that's been pointed out.

- Started writing a new mission (with the bandits).

Sorry boys and girls, this will be quite a slow week as I have some things to settle in the uni. I'll try and write as much as I can, especially on the weekends, but can't promise the previous 2.5k words/day for now.

Sneak-Peek: [click](#)

You spot the wooden huts, buildings that look small, uncomfortable and highly flammable. It's not the first time you've seen such a sight — one of poverty and hopeless decadence — yet, you can't quite get used to the idea of people calling these carbuncles homes. You never will, perhaps, having grown up in a literal *palace* where each floor could dwarf this entire settlement.

When you arrive at the village's edges, you dismount from your horse, your shoes almost sinking in the layers of wet soil. The dirt splashes from your descend, staining your freshly cleaned robe with darkishly-brown mud.

You hear a snicker at your side, followed by a swish. When you turn around, Tang Ruo stands on his flying sword, hovering a couple inches above the ground. He swipes off the dust from his clothes, with an almost provocative to you gesture, before clasping his hands behind his back.

The Prince keeps quiet, but his derisive gaze observes your struggle against the natural filth with a mocking delight.

- ☒ "Not everyone owns a flying sword."
- ☐ "If you say a word, I'll knock you off your sword to enjoy the taste of dirt."
- ☐ "Say, can your sword fit two?"
- ☐ "Hey, that's unfair. Come down and walk with me."
- ☐ Remain silent.

Next

As you travel forward, the village retains its eerie silence. There are no sentries to meet you, no farmers carrying their harvests and no kids running around, playing children's games. It doesn't take you long to realize why: instead of people, the village is riddled with corpses. Both male and female, young and old, the lifeless bodies are present in dozens. Most of them are gathered on a pile, in the village's center, stacked on top of each other in a chaotic, careless fashion. These corpses all look the same: their skin is wrinkled, their hands and feet are sloughed with a disgusting layer of flesh; abrasions cover most of the bodies, with dried blood both their own and the corpses nearby; they are covered in mud, their expression sunken, some of their body parts are missing.

The dead not in the pile are in a better condition: mostly just marred with wounds from swords and axes.

There is a revolting smell, the smell of *death* tainting the air.

You glance towards Tang Ruo, yet he appears unbothered by the corpses, save for a slight aversion in his countenance.

- ☒ Whoever did this needs to be brought to justice.
- ☐ These poor commoners...
- ☐ This is the inevitability of being weak in the Martial World.
- ☐ This is a good way to induce fear.
- ☐ Your hands *itch*, wishing to indulge in the same massacre.

Next

[Sneak-Peek into the gang mission ;\).](#)

[Dec 11, 2022](#)

You do not wait long, as soon more than a dozen people appear in your view. They do not look like much: dressed in varying pieces of leather, unshaven and unkempt, they are armed with axes and spears, with only a few spotting swords. Only the man in the back, a hulking brute with a bird tattooed on the right side of his face looks a bit impressive. The leader observes you and, with a unexpected from his appearance politeness, begins to speak.

"I wonder what is it fellow Martial Artists seek in this remote place?"

As a general rule, no mortal would dare to use such a form of address: impersonating a Martial Artist disrespects the whole community and would, without a doubt, serve as a ticket to an early grave.

The report you were given said nothing about a Houtian-level expert in this gang: this changes things up significantly.

- ☒ Clasp your hands and greet him with a proper etiquette.
- ☐ "Bandit scum, was it you who massacred that village?"
- ☐ "By the order of Heavenly Ascension Sect, it is my duty to enact justice for your crimes."
- ☐ "Surrender or die."
- ☐ Don't talk — attack him.

Next

[Gang Mission Sneak-Peek #2](#)

[Dec 13, 2022](#)

Progress continues slowly :sweat:

At 107k words right now, hoping to be done with the college stuff soon...

[Beast Companion Suggestions](#)

[Dec 15, 2022](#)

Hey! Running a bit behind on the update, but hopefully I'll manage to write enough over the weekend to release it around Monday ;)

Current word count is 108k.

While you wait, I want to gather your thoughts about a beast companion you want for the MC. It seems to be a very popular topic, so I decided to give it a proper thought. For now, I'm just deciding on what kind of creature it'd be, not sure when exactly it'll appear in the game.

You can suggest it here/in the discord (same as the items, which I hope I'll finally do in the next update), and then I'll put it to a vote. Depending on the creature, it'll either help MC in battle, be a mount or help in other ways.

Do keep in mind, It'll only be a singular beast - as I wish for it to have a proper polish - so no hard-feelings if your choice doesn't get picked. I also won't do a dragon/tiger as these animals have other representations in the game

I've seen a few interesting options on the CoG forum and I have some thoughts of my own, but I think I should you give the option to decide.

Your Exhaustion: 2%

You activate *Aura Perception*, guiding Inner Energy into your eyes — which allows you see the emissions leaking out of Yun Ge's body.

Yun Ge doesn't have any aura-obscuring defenses in place, so you don't face any trouble observing the amount of Inner Energy flowing through his veins.

To your best estimate, Yun Ge possesses the following amount of power:

Realm: Early Houtian.

Power Level: 700 ~ 760

Strength: 180 ~ 220

Agility: 140 ~ 170

Constitution: 170 ~ 200

Endurance: 160 ~ 190

Return To Fight

[Progress Update 17 dec 2022](#)

[Dec 17, 2022](#)

Demo Size: **111.3k**

- added items for winning in the tourney.
- added 3 (kinda, only 2 are available at this point in the game) supportive skills.
- continued writing the gang mission.

[Beast Companion Vote](#)

[Dec 18, 2022](#)

Heya! So here's most of the beasts that you guys have suggested as companions for the MC. Vote for those animals you find interesting (you can vote **multiple times**). After that, I'll pick the three most popular creatures and make a final round between them, if there would be a need for it ;)

Phoenix

21

Wolf

11

Panda

13

Crane

3

Qilin

15

Cat

1

Peacock

1

Kitsune

26

Lion

4

Big dog

2

Poll ended Dec 21, 2022 · 97 votes total

[Update 20 dec 2022](#)

[Dec 20, 2022](#)

Size: from **100k** to **120k

****Content:**

- pick an artifact for winning the tourney (yep, those things you guys suggested a while back)
- a new mission.

Might still be some bugs here and there, do tell me about them!

Link is the same as before.

[Beast Companion Vote - Final](#)

[Dec 21, 2022](#)

Alright! So we have these options as our finalists for becoming MC's companion beasts ;)

A couple of thoughts regarding what role each animal will play, if they are selected:

Phoenix - mount (flying), most likely some healing ability to help MC.

Panda - alchemy (for those of you who, for some reason, do not trust Mei Mei...), funny eating of bamboo.

Kitsune - something related to illusions, not sure yet.

Qilin - mount (riding), help in battle.

Do take note - now you can only vote for a **single** option. Tier 2/Tier 3 also have a higher voting power

that is not reflected on this poll, unfortunately, but which I will take into account when counting the results.

Phoenix

43%

Panda

45%

Kitsune

2%

Qilin

10%

Poll ended Dec 22, 2022 · 42 votes total

[Beast Companion Poll Results](#)

[Dec 22, 2022](#)

With a very narrow lead, **Panda** has, surprisingly, defeated the Phoenix (and absolutely trashed the kitstune, where are all the folks who voted for the fox first time around has gone to?) in the battle to become MC's companion beast!

When you guys get a burping, lazy panda following you around - remember, it was you who've chosen it, not me lmao.

[Next update focus](#)

[Dec 24, 2022](#)

Did a little bit of QoL fixes today (missions, like flower gathering, would automatically complete now, re-balanced skill comprehension/rate of flower findings a bit, amongst other things).

So it's time to pick out what you guys would like for me to focus on in the next update ;)

More content with the characters (Jing Guo, Ai, possibly He Jun)

80%

Murder investigation mission

10%

Expansion of the forest location (hunting activity etc.)

10%

Poll ended Dec 25, 2022 · 30 votes total

"It sure was. That Jing Guo's restaurant is something else. I just hope I will be able enjoy it again in a week."

"Why wouldn't you?"

New location discovered: Jing Guo's Restaurant.

"Have you heard of the Propriety Guardians?"

You shake your head in response.

"Ah, Sister must be new in the sect, correct?"

"I am."

"Well, they are a bunch of assholes who refuse to have fun and don't let others enjoy themselves as well." — explains the drunk — "They aim to make other martial artists into 'decent' people, by beating up everyone who has sex, drinks alcohol or does any activity at all that isn't training."

☒ "Sounds... extreme."

☐ "Anyone that tries to touch my bottle, I'll beat up myself."

☐ "They are doing the right thing."

☐ "And instead of retaliating, you mope and whine? Pathetic."

☐ "Well, I don't really care about them."

Next

[New Event Sneek-Peek](#)

[Dec 25, 2022](#)

It's finally time for our boy Jing Guo to get some screen time!

[Sneak-peeEEEEEEEEEEK](#)

[Restaurant Management](#)

[Dec 28, 2022](#)

Once again, something that I originally planned as a small gimmick has turned into a full-on system lmao.

I present to you, Restaurant Management:

- Each week, Jing Guo's restaurant will bring a certain amount of money, based on the prices set and its popularity. A certain percentage of that amount will go towards 'your cut', depending on how much of the restaurant MC owns.
- Each week, the restaurant will spend a certain amount from its budget (depending on the quality of food/wine). If the budget goes below zero, the restaurant will halt its activity until you replenish its funds.
- Each week, the popularity of the restaurant will increase/decrease depending on the prices you set, quality of wares, renovations you have and certain story decisions. The higher the popularity, the more the restaurant earns.
- If you don't have a 'protector' for the restaurant, the Propriety Legion will make all sorts of trouble for you. Acquiring a protector, however, comes with a cost...

Here's [how it looks](#) (very bare-bones)

He smiles. The first time, you think, you see his rough, stern face smile in a sincere way.

"You will not regret it." — he says and takes your Sect Badge — "Consider this an allowance for our future cooperation."

+5000 Contribution Points.

His spatial ring then flashes and He Jun takes out a a strange wooden mask.

"This is a top-grade Artifact, 'Mask of Facelessness'. If you put it on, your face will change, becoming that of a most ordinary, most plain woman. Unless previously known, no one will able to see through the disguise — yet, no one will give you strange looks for a wearing a head cover either."

"If you ever plan on doing... *heinous* things and want to preserve your reputation — or simply don't want to be recognized, this mask is a must."

[He Jun Offer \(Sneak-Peak\)](#)

[Dec 30, 2022](#)

Is this a new artifact for accepting He Jun's offer, amongst other benefits? Hm....

Also: update is around 2/3 done (at 10k+ from the previous one rn). Should be coming soon. Apart from that, I think I'm going to lock Ai into a female-only. Idk it just feels weird: I always refer to her as a female in my head and always imagine her that way, which makes it difficult for me to write the male-perspective. Not to mention, it fucks up the storyline with Long Chen as well...

Tell me how crucial of a thing this if for you guys. If I'm going to go through with it, I may give you another male RO to compensate hehe

"Tell me, brothers and sisters, do you think it's fair? Do you think it's justified for them to act this way? Do you think we should beg them for our survival?"

"NO!!!" — the crowd roars.

"How are they better than us? Because their blood is purer? But since we're here, doesn't it mean that our purity is good enough? So, what makes them better!"

Ai turns to you and gives you a provocative look.

"Why don't you answer me, Young Mistress Chao?"

- ☒ "Being noble is about integrity, honor and dignity."
- ☐ "Go back to plowing fields, peasants."
- ☐ "Maybe there is a difference — maybe not. Who cares?"
- ☐ "You're right — nobles are no better than commoners."
- ☐ Beat them up.

Next

Training Grounds allow you to adjust your training regime. You can divide your training focus between attributes as well as enable or disable the use of various elixirs and pills.

Current Training Regime:

Strength (100% Efficiency) Focus: 20%

Agility Focus (100% Efficiency) Focus: 20%

Constitution (100% Efficiency) Focus: 20%

Endurance (100% Efficiency) Focus: 20%

Vitality (100% Efficiency) Focus: 20%

Training Zone: Level-1. Free Training Focus: 0%.

- ☐ Increase Training Focus.
- ☒ Decrease Training Focus.
- ☐ Enable/Disable Alchemy Supplements.
- ☐ Change Training Zone.
- ☐ Spend the day training.
- ☐ Go back.

Next

[Progress Update](#)

[Jan 3, 2023](#)

- Simplified (I think) Free Roam. All Story/RO events will happen by themselves. No more morning/afternoon/evenings. Every time-costing action will progress you 1 day forward (3 days in a week). Took out random events, put them in a new option - 'explore the sect'.
- Changed Training. Now, instead of you having to click a billion times for every attribute, you will be able to design a 'training plan' (check screenshot). You'll be able to focus your efforts on a certain attribute/be a jack of all trades, later on also enable/disable the use of various pills and elixirs. Training happens automatically every month, or you can spend your free time for additional gains.
- Completed Ai event (132k words rn). Next I'll add a couple books and and will probably release the update.

Stone Gambling is an ancient tradition, existing even from before the coming of the First Emperor. Only now, with the addition of resources from the Danger Zones, the scale of this activity has grown even bigger.

The whole concept of stone gambling is simple: since many jadeite stones are so weathered and it's impossible to judge what mineral lies underneath, the stone sellers have come up with a genius idea to avoid losses — trade everything. The buyer purchases raw stones and then cuts them open, hoping for precious gems to be inside. If they are, the buyer makes a profit, oftentimes an enormous one — and if they aren't, then the buyer has acquired a useless rock for a very costly price.

You are browsing **average** Stones:

- ☒ Enormous Yellow Igneous Jade
- ☐ Big Green Ancient Rock
- ☐ Large Purple Mineral-Rich Rock
- ☐ Large Yellow Stratified Rock
- ☐ Big Red Ancient Jade
- ☐ Go back.

Next

Stone Name: *Enormous Yellow Igneous Jade.*

Stone Price: *Average.*

Stone Weight: *884 lbs.*

Stone Cost: *1768 Gold.*

Would you like to buy this stone?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

☐ Use Precognition.

Next

You bring the stone to a cutting machine and, with slow and measured cuts, begin to carve out the gem inside...

The jade you've purchased turns out to be **very precious**.

You successfully sell it for **2652** Gold.

Yay!

[Stone Gambling](#)

[Jan 3, 2023](#)

A new activity coming up in the next update - a good way to either earn or lose a bunch of gold ;)

For those of you familiar with Xianxia-stories stone gambling shouldn't be a novel concept and for those of you who aren't, it's a fairly easy concept: you buy 'raw' stones and hope that inside lies a precious gem.

In game, you'll have to travel to the Second Sect Level and into Stone&Treasures Den, where you'll be able to purchase stones of three various categories (cheap, average and expensive). The costlier the stone, the higher the chance for it to be of high value - however, a big price-tag is far from a guarantee for profit.

Every new day, 15 new stones are randomly generated for you to gamble with, with different names (those names might mean something...), weights, rarities and costs.

[Update January 4th 2023](#)

[Jan 3, 2023](#)

Size: 120k -> 134k

- Added event with Jing Guo (happens automatically later on / can be triggered early through 'explore the sect')
- Added Restaurant Management.
- Made the apple from Drowning Gang mission a usable item.
- Created a meeting with Gray Raven where you can collect money from him once a month.
- Added event with He Jun (offer to work for the He Clan)
- Added event with Ai (Ai is now female-only).
- Added Stone Gambling.
- Simplified free-roam (which probably broke the whole game lol)
- New Training mechanics

Same link (pinned patreon post)!

Probably VERY bugged. I'm here for a couple hours, so don't hesitate to @me in discord / here. Also, do tell me how much you guys manage to earn from the restaurant/Gray Raven/Stone gambling, so that I can adjust the values accordingly.

[Suggestion Spreadsheet](#)

[Jan 7, 2023](#)

As some people in discord have asked, here's a spreadsheet for the suggestion you guys gave me!

[Link](#)

Tell me if I missed something, I'll add them.

Also, bad news: update will be slower this time around (finals :sob:), but afterwards I'll be very free for a few weeks - so the one after should come quicker instead ;)

[Progress Update 11 jan 2023](#)

[Jan 11, 2023](#)

Heya! Finally done with the hardest exam, and although there are still a couple left, I can finally get back to writing :sob:

- fixed a bunch of bugs that have been pointed out
- added a reaction towards Tigress getting hurt in the her arena event
- added an opportunity to send Long Wyoung (the guy who beat her) a personal challenge
- started writing the investigation mission

"Any victims that stand out from the rest?"

"Three of them." — replies Qiang — "Two were a pair: a noble scion here for the Sect tourney with his bodyguard, an Early-Houtian practitioner. The other one was a mortal run-away from the He Clan."

"Run-away from the He Clan?"

"Yes." — Qiang nods — "Some girl who refused the betrothal her elders had put together and decided to flee from the clan to escape her fate."

"We've already checked with one of the city's Martial Protectors, who is also a He Clan member. He said that the family couldn't care less about the girl and that they won't help with the investigation."

Next

"Any suspects in mind?"

"We have one." — Qiang responds — "There have been several reports mentioning a traveling Martial Artist causing ruckus in the city. His behavior was described as aggressive, unstable, prone to unprovoked violence. He was also rumored to talk to himself out loud and one time even knocked himself out by punching his own face."

"We believe he was very close to a Breakout at that time and it triggered when he was in the Inn."

Next

[Sneak-Peek Inn Investigation](#)

[Jan 15, 2023](#)

A couple of sneak-peeks into the new mission ;)

He Tuchan chuckles.

"Because a Breakout is worse than death. Imagine, being conscious, aware, yet without any control over your own body. Lost, held hostage inside your skin. Forced to watch, as the devil inside you destroys everything you hold dear. That's what a Breakout is."

[Sneak Peak 22jan 2023](#)

[Jan 22, 2023](#)

Current demo: 142k

A bit of info about the Devil Breakout mentioned in the previous mission ;)

A dangerous glint flickers across your eyes as you, in one swift motion, jump up from the chair and strike at the Martial Protector's throat.

Caught off-guard by your lack of common sense, the Martial Protector is unable to dodge — only raise his arms for a block. But that proves to be more than enough, as your punch doesn't even force him to take a step back.

"Fucking brat." — the Martial Protector spits — "Let me teach you a lesson."

The old man *flips* over the table, his body moving with a grace contradictory to his apparent age, spins and elbows you right in the face.

[Sneak Peek 26th jan 2023](#)

[Jan 25, 2023](#)

Current Demo: 146k

edit: uploaded a previous sneak-peek by mistake, oopsie

[Questions](#)

[Jan 27, 2023](#)

As a part of the new update, you'll get an opportunity to visit an organization that gathers intelligence all around the game world and you'll be able to ask them a few questions as well, for a price.

Are there any questions about the setting, politics etc., which you guys want answered? It can be anything from the 'who's the strongest martial artist' and 'what is the strongest martial skill' to some specific questions about ROs ;)

Post your suggestions here/in discord.

Your resilience proves to be inadequate as the sharp edges plunge deep into your skin. But the blades do much more than simply cut: you can feel lightning erupt from the steel, wrecking your body from the inside; you can *smell* burnt meat, as the daggers electrocute you alive.

Your Health: 43%



"AARGH!" — you scream as you pull out the knives and headbutt ??? with all your might.

[New Death Opportunity?](#)

[Jan 30, 2023](#)

Demo Size - 150k. Getting closer and closer to the update :sob:

One, two, three, a dozen... Mo Long moves in a fluid, clearly trained way that allows him to evade most of the attacks — until a mighty uppercut lifts him off his feet and you follow it up with another punch at his chest. Mo Long is thrown backwards, but flips in the air to regain his balance. After he lands, he immediately hurls his daggers in your direction.

"Thunder Viper Art — Strike of the Snake!"

The daggers transform into two snakes made of thunder, leaping at you with their maws wide open.

☒ Destroy the snakes with punches.

☐ Choke the snakes out.

☐ Dodge the snakes.

☐ Disregard them.

Next

[Another sneak-peak into the new fight ;\)](#)

[Feb 1, 2023](#)

[Update 6th feb](#)

[Feb 5, 2023](#)

FINALLY. I did, goddamn it.

Update size: **155k**.

Changes:

- Free Roam has been entirely removed. It complicated the game too much and since the feature wasn't that popular to begin with, I've decided to make the game a more traditional CoG experience. There are still some free roam elements (like library, arena challenges, stores etc), but all events will happen regardless.

- New Mission (more than 21k words) - investigate a massacre in the Three Chicken Inn, find the

culprit(s) and bring them to justice. Well, there's not much investigation going on - but there's the longest/most epic fight to date...

- Challenge to Long Chen's brother has been temporarily removed as I accidentally deleted the file, oops.

KNOWN BUGS:

- Free Roam has been removed, but some elements have not been adjusted yet: one of them is imprisonment for breaking sect rules / infirmary. It will say 'weeks lost' but time won't actually pass. This is normal, I'll think of a way to fix it later on.
- Still need to add reputation changes to the new fight, as well as adjust the difficulties. Which brings me to the next point: I **highly recommend** playing on at least x2 (or the full on cheat-mode) for now, as I need to rebalance everything with the free roam being gone.
- Need to add use of Artifacts in the new mission + Aura Perception.

Probably a lot more stuff is broken, don't hesitate to @me, I'll fix it up!

Link is the same ;)

Name: *Basic Conditioning Drug.*

Quality: Low-Grade (Houtian).

Description: The most basic and simple version of a pill that boosts your metabolism and enhances results of physical training. Crudely concocted, most likely by a unqualified Alchemical Disciple.

Effect: Increases training efficiency by 50%. Raises level of alchemical impurities by 20%.

Cost: 50 Points per pill.

☒ Buy

☐ Go back.

Next

There are four Training Zones available, each of them inducing better results for your exercise at the price of higher amount of Contribution Points.

Select a zone:

- ☒ Training Zone #1 (10 Points)
- ☐ Training Zone #2 (25 Points, x1.2 EXP)
- ☐ Training Zone #3 (100 Points, x1.4 EXP)
- ☐ Training Zone #4 (500 Points, x1.7 EXP)
- ☐ Training Zone #5 (1000 Points, x2 EXP)
- ☐ Leave.

Select a drug:

- ☒ Basic Conditioning Drug (x10).
- ☐ Don't use alchemy.

Next

[Sneak Peek 11 feb 2023](#)

[Feb 10, 2023](#)

Is this... alchemy?!!! Mei Mei would probably snort in disgust at such a pathetic pill, but beggars can't be choosers...

- Introducing Alchemy: from now on, you'll encounter many various pills/elixirs that would either give you exp directly or be available for use in the Training Grounds.

However, alchemy is not a quick-way-to-become-OP. Every time you consume an alchemical product, your Alchemical Impurities will rise (depending on the quality of the stuff you absorbed). Impurities make it harder to increase your stats: for example, 10% of Impurities would mean 10% less stats from the same amount of EXP. Impurities below 80% can be 'cleansed', for a price, and after that... Well, let's just say you should be very, very careful to never, ever reach a 100%.

- A new trait: 'Pristine Body', the most expensive trait so far that completely nihilates all the impurities.

- Injuries now will heal automatically for a certain Points price (you **can** go into debt). So no more bleeding for months :grin:
- A new way to use supportive skills / artifacts / talismans (yes, those too will appear in the game very soon). You'll be able to access them multiple times during fights to use to your advantage (those of you with the 'regeneration' trait rejoice - you can now actively heal yourself during battles at the cost of Exhaustion). Sneak-Peek tomorrow ;)
- Recoded how difficulties for stat-checks are made. Now the stats you see with 'Aura Perception' will be 100% reflected in the stat-checks and can be considered a reliable way to plan your battle.
- Change to Skill-Storing ring: it can now store up to 4 **different** Skills (or multiple charges of the same one)
- Change to Bracelet of Triplication: now it gives you 66% chance of passing an Agility check (by confusing an enemy) when active.

Even in this place, disciples are divided by their perceived status. Normal ones just wander aimlessly, while those who are more important are accompanied by guides that explain the alchemical uses of eye-catching products. And those who carry some actual weight in the sect are directly escorted into private rooms.

A young man in sect robes and with a special pin in the shape of a cauldron comes to you soon enough as well.

"Is this Senior Sister Chao?" — the man asks, but you can tell it's a formality, nothing more. He could recognize you at a glance, probably having studied your portrait for a good hour — "This one's named Shu-Shu. Before I guide you to your room, I have a message left behind by Senior Sister Mei."

☒ "Oh? What is it?"

☐ "Not interested."

☐ "I have a message for her as well: fuck off."

Next

[Progress Update](#)

[Feb 16, 2023](#)

Demo Size: 160k

- finished a new event (with a new character whom you probably hate hehe)
- started a new event with Mei Mei.

This is probs going to be the last update before the expedition - expect some RO content in this one. Mei Mei, Tigress and not sure about the others yes.

"Help me bring justice upon her. No, help me make He Mei suffer." — he says and, for a moment, there is no nervous, stuttering disciple he was just a minute ago: only cold determination and almost *burning* thirst for vengeance — "If you promise to do this, I'll give you something that could ruin her."

☒ "Alright. I promise."

☐ "I'm not interested in your little revenge quest. Do it yourself."

Next

[Sneak Peek](#)

[Feb 18, 2023](#)

Oh-oh, someone's in trouble...

Waterfall Edge.

It's surrounded by trees, by endless greenery that decorate its banks. And through the thick bushes, through the thick trunks, you see a familiar figure, swaying on the edge of the waterfall. Her bare feet enveloped by the water, her robes rolled up up to her knees, Mei Mei stands in the river, rocking back and forth. From time to time she would tilt herself forward and look below, into the deep plunge.

As if sensing you behind her, Mei Mei turns her head around and winks.

"Catch me, *please*?" — she teasingly says — "Or your Senior Sister will get hurt..."

She then closes her eyes, spreads out her arms and *dives*, falling from the lofty crest without a care in the world.

- ☒ Run after her.
- ☐ Roll your eyes and walk slowly.

Next

[Another Mei Mei-event Sneak Peek ;\)](#)

[Feb 19, 2023](#)

Current demo ~164k

"Exc-excuse me..." — she sobs and runs out from the crowd.

When she's gone, the disciples turn to you. Their expressions judging.

"Do you have any proof of her involvement, Martial Sister?"

Proof? Of course you don't have proof. You can't even be sure yourself in your claim — it's just a hunch, an hint of intuition you feel strongly about.

Before you can formulate your answer, the disciple who asked the question snorts.

"So, you just brought the most kind and gentle Martial Sister of our Alchemy Pavilion to tears because of a baseless lie? You made her cry due to an unfounded suspicion?"

People view you as more *shameless*.

Disgusting!

Let's beat her up!

Right! This piece of shit needs to be crippled for her words!"

Soon, the whole crowd calls for your bashing — the atmosphere becomes tense, missing only a spark before exploding in a, no doubt, a rain of pain and hurt. You may be strong for your rank, but your power is nothing against a dozen of disciples of the same realm or even higher. None of them are afraid of your background either, the anonymity of a mob easing their worries of any possible revenge.

[How did this happen? :thinking:](#)

[Feb 20, 2023](#)

Demo Size - 166k

Surprised by your outburst, the old man is stunned, not knowing how to react: but it doesn't take him long to gather his bearings. He jumps down from the tree, growling like an infuriated monkey.

"So you want to fight with this old man, huh? You want to fight? I'll beat you up so bad, even a pig won't marry you!"

He assumes a fighting stance and starts punching the air — to your utter surprise, each punch is akin to loud bomb, emitting loud noises of explosion. It's also followed by loud panting from the grandpa, as if each strike shaves off a year of his already running out of time lifespan.

☒ "Come and try me, old fart."

☐ "There's no need for violence. But you need to be educated on what's appropriate and what's not."

☐ "I was a bit hasty. Excuse me, senior."

Next

[Sneak Peak from another event;](#)

[Feb 21, 2023](#)

[new update info](#)

[Feb 24, 2023](#)

should get the update out in a couple days - aiming for monday, but we'll see how it goes. Est. size ~172k words

- new mei mei event
- new tigress event
- new event with a new character
- maybe some sect gossip (not sure if I'll do it in time yet)

[Update 28th Feb 2023](#)

[Feb 27, 2023](#)

- New Stat System. Stats are now capped at 10k max and also have limits inside stages (Houtian - 500). Except Perception, INT and Char - they work as they did before.
- Endurance has been removed. Instead, you'll have 'Inner Energy Pool' that grows with every advancement (based on STR/AGI/CON/VIT before the breakthrough).
- Each breakthrough now will also grow by 50% (instead of a set increase).
- New trait added 'Battle Sense' - allows you to dodge whenever you fail a stat check / dodge the undodgeable at the cost of Inner Energy.
- Constitution reworked. Instead of giving a %damage reduction it negates all damage below a certain amount all together.
- 3 new events (+20k words).

Total size **155k -> 174k.

**

New Saves are required.

New [link](#)

[Dev Notes](#)

[Mar 5, 2023](#)

Took a bit of a break after the update, but now I'm back ;)

Demo Size: 174k -> 177k.

Added a bunch of 'random' events. Next will be some juicy 'gossip' - about the happenings both in the sect and in the outside work.

Plan for this update: random events, tigress training, 'gossip, overall polish and maybe something else if I manage to squeeze it in. This should be the last one before the expedition. I think...

Also am working on a map of the world and a bunch of lore stuff, for those who are interested in such things ;)

"Ah, why are you wasting your time on this pig-born?" — the other guard interrupts, as he addresses Ai — "Pay the toll or leave. Stop making a scene."

Ai clenches her fists, sneering as she turns around and addresses the crowd.

"All of you think the same way, don't you? A bunch of trashes calling themselves noble, yet lacking the most basic of morales. Have you heard of compassion, of empathy, you assholes?"

"Or were those words not included in your fancy education? — she mocks.

If before, the crowd has been either neutral, with some voicing support and other disapproval, then this declaration completely changes the mood.

Shut up, pig-born!

Dumb fucking peasant, go back to your shit-stained farm!

Facing the ridicule of the crowd, Ai stands firm, uncaring of their derogatory remarks. Her small group, however, lacks her resolve. One by one, the disciples quietly step away and disappear into the crowd.

Seeing their actions, Ai shakes her head.

"Cowards." — she spits, and turns back to the guards, ready for a new round of shouting and arguments, when her gaze falls onto you — "Young Mistress Chao? You... You actually came?"

[New Ai Event ;\).](#)

[Mar 6, 2023](#)

The guards look at each other before shaking their heads.

"Rules are rules, Sister Chao." — they say, refusing to step away.

Ai clicks her tongue.

"Each minute that you continue being bastards, an innocent mortal is at risk of dying!" — she yells.

"SHUT THE FUCK UP!" — one of the guards, finally getting tired of Ai's drivel, shouts. He then takes a step forward and slaps her across the face, knocking her down.

Shocked, Ai puts a hand on her cheek — where a large palm print reddens into existence — and grits her teeth to hold back the tears.

The slap hurt her. *A lot.*

[Another SP into the Ai Event =>](#)

[Mar 8, 2023](#)

You are too late. By just a few minutes, yet your slowness has ensured the village's demise. Because those howls you heard, those savage cries were not roars of attacks — no, they were sounds of victory instead...

Wolves. Large as ordinary bears, dark as the night itself wolves chomp on the human flesh, ravishing the villagers recently deceased. Their long canines sink into the meat, cut through the bones and tear away large chunks that they devour in a single gulp. You don't know how many of the wolves there are — but at least seven are at the village entrance.

☒ Discuss a plan with Ai.

☐ Rush forward.

☐ Items/Skills.

[New Sneak-Peak](#)

[Mar 9, 2023](#)

New Sneak-Peak =>

Current demo-size: 180k



[Political Map](#)

[Mar 9, 2023](#)

Political (clans) map of the world. Will do one with the sects in a few days as well.

P.S.: The three rogue clans have been moved to the east.

P.S.2: Q/A will be held on Sunday. So ask your questions, if you have any =)

<https://www.patreon.com/posts/questions-for-q-79319405>

"And what about revenge?" — you question — "What about setting the souls of these poor villagers at peace?"

"Vengeance is what makes this world such a cruel place." — she fires back — "These [redacted] are beasts. Animals. They do not know any better."

"So what? Blood needs to be spilled, deaths must be avenged in order to let these mortals find bliss in the Heavens above."

"Killing th—"

Footsteps. Hurried, desperate footsteps.

Next

[Ai Sneak Peak 3](#)

[Mar 10, 2023](#)

[Q/A - Answers!](#)

[Mar 12, 2023](#)

Mei Mei:

Are you a good person?

I know I'm not perfect, but to doubt my character to this extent... Junior Brother, have I done something to upset you?

I was wondering if you had an extra heart... because mine was just stolen?

For a moment, a puzzled look flashes across Mei Mei's face. Her brows furrow, as she thinks.

"I have a few bestial hearts stored away, but I don't think th- Oh..."

A pink blush paints her cheeks as she lowers her head.

"Stop joking like that, Junior Brother." - she murmurs - "For a second, I was worried you were ill."

Yang Bohai:

Where do you keep your elixirs?

Yang Bohai looks down, his massive bearded head staring you down.

"What kind of question is that, punk?" - he spits on the ground, his face turning into a scowl - before he suddenly grins and flexes his enormous biceps - "In here, all of them!"

Is there any beast/martial artist out there that can still give you a hard time?

Yang Bohai laughs out loud in contempt.

"Trouble? Me? I can roam this world as I please! If a mountain stops me, I will crush it! If a Martial Artist bugs me, I will squash them! And if a clan bothers me, I will spill their blood until it forms a river!"

"Were you always bald or did the roids do ya in?"

Yang Bohai angrily snorts, his nostrils almost emitting smoke from his fury.

"You little shit, come here!" - he shouts - "I'll show you why baldness is a sign of power and strength!"

Wu Chao:

Were you with my mother when I was born?

"Eh?" - Wu Chao replies, confused - "Why are you asking about your mother all of a sudden?"

He then shakes his head in denial.

"I was away during your birth. But you have to worry not about your legitimacy, I've performed sufficient Blood Tests to prove your heritage."

Tang Ruo:

Would you be down to go on a two man w/ me?

"If you drop on your knees and beg me for assistance, I may consider helping you in whatever mission it is you found trouble in."

Who's your favorite concubine and why?

"None of them are important enough to have a special place in my life."

Tigress:

If I wanted to rule the cold lands to the West, who would I have to go through?

"Through everyone." - the Tigress replies - "The West is wild. Uncivilized. We do not have emperors, nor do we have empires. If you want to rule a tribe, you kill its tribesmen until they submit. And you do so with every one of them."

Omniscient Shadows:

Do you perhaps have any information regarding the traitorous clans: their motives; recent activity or future plans?

"Apologies, but we do not disclose information outside of paid requests. If you wish to make any, please visit the nearest to your branch."

"Do you have anyone to stay with?"

"No." — the boy resolutely shakes his head — "Which is why I have a request for Seniors."

"What request?" — you ask.

The boy answers with a determined, far unfit for a child his age, look.

"Take me with you. Teach me how to fight."

- ☒ "Why? Our lives are full of death and danger."
- ☐ "Our sect has extremely harsh requirements. A peasant like you won't be able to fulfill them."
- ☐ "I'll take you back to the sect, but don't get your hopes up."
- ☐ "Alright. Even if you won't pass the requirements to become a disciple, I'll still train you to become the strongest mortal."

Next

[Sneak Peak](#)

[Mar 13, 2023](#)

Is this... is this a potential Junior Brother?!?!?!?

He has such a high chance to die though....

Despite your lungs being rid of the so vital air, you're still confident that he won't have the guts to make the final push. After all, killing you will invoke revenge — revenge that ██████ has no means of escaping.

"You..." — you struggle to speak, yet still manage to smirk — "You won't..."

"FUCK YOU!" — he screams. But his wrathful yell is not the last thing you hear: the despairing 'NO' coming from Ai is the last sound in your ears.

████████ grips your shoulder and rips out your throat with one casual move, before throwing you to the side like a broken toy.

Gargling on your own blood, your vision soon goes dark...

Death...

[Another possible death....](#)

[Mar 17, 2023](#)

When you enter the room, Tigress immediately catches your attention. It would be strange if she didn't, dressed that way.

Though you struggle to call the state of her clothes actually 'dressed'. She, it appears to be, have gone on a protest against the modest and strict style of fashion adopted in the Celestial Empire, where women of high-status always wear long, figure-concealing robes. Boasting nothing more than a strip of linen — that is certainly meant only to support her considerable bust, instead of covering it — and short shorts that reveal her shapely legs, the Tigress is in the middle of a warm-up. She stretches her stout, athletic body: with hands above her head and standing on one leg, she bends to the side, her sinewy frame surprisingly flexible.

Busy, she doesn't appear to be aware of your presence.

☒ Watch her for a bit.

☐ Cough to attract attention.

Next

[Tigress's Training Sneak Peak...](#)

[Mar 19, 2023](#)

Update should come either tomorrow or the day after, estimated at around 190k. Will feature a lengthy Ai event, a short fight, multiple possible deaths, an opportunity to gain a Junior Brother, some sect gossip, a bunch of new skills and, of course, some juicy training with the Tigress...

[Update 0.4 \(21st March 2023\)](#)

[Mar 20, 2023](#)

[New link](#)

Size: 175 -> 192k

New:

- Ai Event (a major part of the update, if you have bad relationship with her you'll miss out on the 2/3 of its content).
- Tigress Event (spicy)
- New Energy Infusion Skill.
- A couple of small rewrites in the descriptions.
- New talismans.

[New questions for the Q/A](#)

[Mar 22, 2023](#)

Gathering questions for the upcoming Q/A in a few weeks =)

A few rules:

1. Ask the questions to the characters (not me). They will answer in character as well, so they could lie or tell half-truths.
2. You can ask the questions to **any** character.
3. Post them directly in this post, so that it'd be easier for me to find =)

Houtians (tier-1) are limited to 1 question, Xiantian (tier-2) to 2 and Shangtian (tier-3) 3.

"Insanity! Madness!" — a loud voice attracts you as you walk through the sect. When you turn your head, you see a young blond man in Outer Disciples robes that has formed a small crowd around himself with his enthusiastic cries.

Curious, you come closer and listen in as well.

"After months of beings quiet, after some fools have already started doubting his strength, the Son of Heaven has proven them all wrong!" — the disciple continues — "True Chosen of Destiny, the Golden Child of Fate once again demonstrates his unrivaled talent!"

"Come on, out with it!" — someone impatiently urges.

The blond, however, takes no offense: he smiles instead, proud at being to able to generate such an interested.

"Yesterday the Celestial Heir fought three opponents in the arena." — he says, expectantly smirking at the deflating expressions around him — "What, you don't find it impressive? Hehe."

He crosses his arms and tilts his head.

"Tang Ruo battled against disciples ranked in the 7500s, 5000s and 2500s, effectively going through the entire Middle-Houtian tier. And he did so without taking even five minutes of rest between the fights, despite being an Early Houtian himself!"

What?!

That's impossible!

Stop lying!

"But that's not all!" — the blond interrupts the disbelieving murmurs — "After those matches he became so disappointed, he directly challenged Jing Qianfan for the top-1000 spot! An Early Houtian versus a Late-stage one, an unprecedented match will take place today!"

[New TR Sneak Peak =\)](#)

[Mar 26, 2023](#)

[Your favorite violet-eyed swordsman is back at it again!](#)

[Mar 28, 2023](#)

You lay in the dirt, coughing out blood as your limbs are too painful to move. Something suddenly kicks you in the stomach, sending you flying like a weightless toy.

"An idiot like you is a rare find." — a giant, mountain of a man looms over you — "It seems you are in need of a lesson about self-preservation. And I always considered humiliation to be the best teacher."

The man picks you up by your pants and hold you in the air as if you were a child.

"Attention, punks." — the man shouts — "I'm Yang Bohai, the Elder responsible for your pathetic puny lives during this expedition. And since this little one has already felt the urge to throw his away, he will be punished."

"From now, and until this mission ends, all of you are to call her a monkey. Those who do otherwise will have their legs broken, their arms torn off and their tongues fed to the pigs. Is that understood?"

[:eyes:](#)

[Apr 2, 2023](#)

"First of, this Danger Zone is quite... strange. There was never an age limit quite this low. Twenty years cut-off is unprecedented in our six thousand years of history. In addition to that, none of the Fate Readers, not even the Omniscient Sage, could gain even a hint of information about this Danger Zone. So, for all we know, this may be a deathtrap that will kill you all."

You notice disciples around you growing uneasy, giving each other hesitant looks. But Yang Bohai couldn't care less.

"If some of you have seconds thoughts, I can crush your skills right now to rid you of them." — he threatens once more and, just like before, his method gains immediate affect — "We've already sent a few dozen disciples back. Two of them even came back, so quit whining."

"Secondly, the dangers of the zone itself will be just one of your concerns. As our sect have yet to claim ownership, something that you will have to rectify, disciples of all other sects will be present as well. And by all, I mean all: neutral, demonic or righteous; mortal, earthly or heavenly — all will be present, limited only by the quota that was agreed upon beforehand."

"This is a competition. Your performance will affect to which sect the Danger Zone will belong. Win, and you'll be rewarded. Lose, and I'll personally punish you."

"And remember: trust no one, except your own brothers and sisters. For I guarantee you, even the most moral and honorable man will betray his flimsy principles for the enormous benefits his Elders promised him."

[Expeditiooooooon starts!](#)

[Apr 5, 2023](#)

Almost half a day later, you finally arrive to the Danger Zone. And as soon as you do, yours, and everyone else's, attention is immediately captured by the heavenly sounds coming from the nearby.

Music of such beauty and grace nurtures your ears, that all your worries, all your fears... They all immediately disappear in the torrent of perfectly composed notes.

You look forward, towards dozens of disciples sitting cross-legged, in total mental felicity, before a young man with a zither in his hands. His long, thin fingers carefully caress the instrument's strings and he lets out a blindingly charming smile. His features were already too pretty for a man — big, expressive blue eyes, full, thick crimson lips and long lashes that flopped with every blink — yet now, with a cute dimple on the left side of his mouth, he appeared unnaturally comely.

And when you think it's all there is, just a pretty, androgynous youth, comes the voice. The most ethereal, the most angelic voice you've ever heard. A voice that grips your heart, that gently forces you to listen and refuses to let go of its hold until its finished.

*The Sun and the Moon are always apart,
Never together, they bask in their sadness;
The Heavens themselves divide them in half,
Struggle and fight, growing celestial madness;*

*But worry not, sweet darling of mine!
Our love is eternal and timeless!
And if the Heavens dare to strike at our blissful shine,
I'll take it as a divine sign to make them lifeless!*

[Who dis? Is this... a new RO?!](#)

[Apr 6, 2023](#)

[Update 12th April 2023](#)

[Apr 11, 2023](#)

Old saves will probably work, but some things may break/not be tracked properly.

- new Tang Ruo event
- two new books
- start of the expedition
- introduction of the new RO.

Size: 192k -> 207.5k.

[Link](#)

[Q/A #2: Mei Mei \(rest tomorrow\)](#)

[Apr 18, 2023](#)

Mei Mei

Have you ever thought about being Empress? I believe you have good qualities for it.

“Me? Empress?” she says, pointing at her chest with her finger, “Junior Brother, have I annoyed you so much you decided to marry me off to Prince Ruo?”

Mei Mei raises her arms in mock fear and shakes her head quickly.

“Junior Brother, please forgive me! I mean no offense, but from I know of the Celestial Heir, that man is boredom incarnate! He does nothing but sleep, eat and train – sometimes even skipping the first two steps. I'll go mad in such a marriage.”

Have you ever been betrayed by someone you trust?

“What brought such a heavy question on, Junior Brother?” Mei Mei chuckles, a light smile on her lips, “But to answer you... Everyone experienced some sort of betrayal. Everyone suffered through a broken trust. And some, like me, have just been disappointed in people more than the others.”

How can you stand waking up every single day knowing your smile outshines the sun?

Mei Mei rolls her eyes at your cheesy line – she pretends to, at least, as the slight blush that creeps up on her cheeks gives away her real feelings.

"Hmph! You say that to every girl, don't you?" she crosses her arms and gives you an accusatory look, "You will need to repay this offense or I won't forgive you!"

She then puts one of her arms behind her head and looks a bit to the side, perhaps in slight embarrassment for the shamelessness of her next words.

"You know, I recently saw this very cute Sun Drowned Flower for sale in the alchemy pavilion..."

"Have you heard of the recent deaths occurring in the forest? I-It's horrible you know, if it was a person that did this, these people had families: brothers; sisters; parents..." Wu Chen sighs, "Maybe many just wanted a break from the sects harsh demands and appreciate the beauty of some flowers."

He then laughs, mirthlessly, and looks straight into Mei Mei's eyes.

"How fucked would someone have to be in the head in order to murder innocents in cold blood while completely and utterly defenseless? I, Wu Shen, promise this: their deaths won't surely be in vain, knowing that the evil that has tragically cut their lives short will suffer a thousand-fold before it's allowed such a merciful way out!"

As you continue to speak, Mei Mei grows more and more shocked. Her eyes grow wider and wider and, by the end of your speech, she takes a step back in horror, her hand placed at her chest.

"Some vile creature has been murdering disciples in the forest?!" she exclaims, her expression beginning to take on the hints of the righteous fury similar to yours, "It's certainly needs to be brought to justice!"

However, her anger soon is replaced by a complicated, complex emotion – a mixture of guilt, regret and sadness?

"You know, I've noticed the reports about the rate of disciples disappearing inside the forest rising. I ju-" Mei Mei swallows, "But I never thought... I never thought it was something so serious – just usual dangers of the forest. If only I were more thorough, perhaps some deaths could've been prevented..."

Do you think it's bad that I am attracted to what some would call 'evil' women? I like dangerous, poisonous things. No regrets.

Mei Mei smirks, her smile a toothy grin.

"As you may know, have a passion for plants and nature. So, I understand you struggle quite well: the curse of the pretty flower is such that the poor thing always has to grow out poisonous thorns to protect itself from greedy outsiders."

My dearest Mei, I want to ask you if you trust me. Because I believe that I already have gone beyond just trusting you.

“Have you now?” Mei Mei tilts her head back, studying you with a curious look, before her expression brightens, “Of course I do! We’re friends then, aren’t we?”

[Q/A #2. Part two.](#)

[Apr 19, 2023](#)

Yang Bohai

Were you perhaps around the time when the Demon Queen decided to declare war on the Yang clan, and if you were, did you have the opportunity to fight her? I'm well aware of her prowess.

Yang Bohai snorts, his already wicked expression twisting into a wrathful grimace. You seem to have hit a sore spot, discovered a wound that have not yet scabbed.

“Brat, if talk of this matter again in my presence, I will rip out your tongue and force you to eat it,” he says and, your gut warns you, is being utterly serious. He then turns away, not meeting your gaze in a uncharacteristic display of what appears to be... embarrassment?

“That bitch got lucky, that’s all...”

Esteemed elder, who would you consider your strongest disciple?

Yang Bohai nods, pleased with your respectful attitude.

“I’ve had many disciples over the years. Most, useless trash, died in Houtian. Some, those who are somewhat capable, achieved Xiantian. But none came close to my first personal disciple, the current Matriarch of my Yang Clan.”

Tang Ruo

I don't care who rules the Empire, but the day I reach my full potential, I will serve no one. When that day comes, will you challenge me for Wu Clan's independence?

"Your full potential?" Tang Ruo gives you half-amused, half-condensing look, "How high do you think that potential is, for you to entertain such a ridiculous notion?"

"Wu Clan's independence?" Tang Ruo laughs, "The only reason your clan has not turned to ashes is because Grandfather forbids the hungry vultures around you from feasting on its almost rotten corpse."

"Independence," he chuckles again, *"And they say I'm arrogant."*

Ma Rin

Since you're a Xiantian, could you perhaps enlighten me on how exactly someone reaches the Second Rebirth?

"Why are you asking me these common knowledge questions? Go read a book or something, you lazy bum," she says, laying down on a large, soft couch with a goblet of wine in her hand, "If you must know, I can tell you the most important requirement."

"The biggest bottleneck Martial Artist face when struggling for their second rebirth, is forming their own *Aura*. A way to project the power of their blood outside of their bodies."

Could you tell me about the weirdest artifact you have in your collection?

"Weirdest?" Ma Rin ponders for a moment, deep in thought, "Oh! It has to be that thing."

From her spatial ring, she takes out a... rock. An ordinary, gray rock.

"See, I had the same expression when a friend of mine came to me with this stone. It looks nothing special, a completely average and plain thingy. Imagine my surprise, when she mentioned that not even Shangtians could see through it. It doesn't emit any Inner Energy, and yet, seven times in the last thirty years, it has glowed with bright crimson light."

You, however, don't listen to a word she says – for there is something in that stone, something that attracts you greatly...

Dozens of demonic disciples arrive and immediately start brewing trouble. They push and shove members of the minor sects, uncaring about causing offense: those who stand in their way get stomped into the ground, their Elders unable or unwilling to help, so most scurry out of the newcomers' path in a frightened hurry.

When the martial brothers and sisters — though they hardly share such close relations — of the Havoc Sect reach the range of your sight, you realize how different they look from what you have come to consider proper Martial Artists.

They do wear neither robes nor uniform, spotting different sets of clothes: from wore-down rags that seem too cheap even for the lowliest of peasants, to sturdy, practical linen pants and shirts. Their bodies are narrow and thin, as if starved for months, and their expressions are savage, flickering with hints of unveiled brutality. They all appear to be on edge, their fidgety eyes dart around left and right in order to perceive any apparent threats.

The demonic disciples stop a hundred yards from the spot of your gathering and their hungry gazes start judging you with a intensity that lacks any notion of restraint.

Look at these sheep! They all look so soft and tasty...

So weak and plump...

These are our enemies? Even the slaves back in the sect are tougher.

[Here they come...](#)

[Apr 21, 2023](#)

[Q/A: Part 3 \(missed questions\)](#)

[Apr 21, 2023](#)

Sorry guys, seemed to have missed three questions in the q/a before. My bad ;(

Tang Ruo*: Are you looking forward to our final battle? I can imagine it already, our potential fully realized and unleashed against each other until only one remains. THAT is life!*

Tang Ruo snorts at your enthusiasm, yet you notice a hint of excitement flicker in his eyes as well.

“Chances that you would be anywhere near my level in ten years are slim. Dedicate yourself to training, instead of daydreaming, others these thoughts would forever remain a mere fantasy.”

Tang Ruo*: Have you ever had a near-death experience?*

Tang Ruo, without an ounce of hesitation, gives you a nod.

“Of course. What self-respecting Martial Artist did not have one? Those who cuddle up in the safety of their home will never forge the will required to ascend to the Heavens.”

Long Chen*: What is your Blood Purity, Senior Brother? The Heavens seem to have blessed you with strength.*

Long Chen shakes his head.

“It’s bad etiquette asking questions relating to one strength’s and foundation. Some may take offense for such a mistake,” he says, “But I’ll humor you. It’s 82%.”

You stand before the fissure in the air, watching as it shimmers with green, bright light. There's a pull from it, like a magnet attracting a metal, but it's weak enough for you to resist without much of a hassle.

Still, there's a non-quiet desire in your mind. To touch the rift, to place your hand upon it, to enter into its depths — a condition known as the Danger Zone Attraction, one that affects every disciple around you.

Some have it just as easy as you, barely noticing the enticing draw. Others, however, sweat profoundly as they force their limbs into stillness.

Your sect, probably due to Yang Bohai's presence, is the first in line to enter the Zone. The elder himself hovers above the rift, staring inside as if trying to pierce through its with the force of his gaze. His attempt is futile, of course, so the old man just snorts in frustration and turns to you.

"You all know your purpose. Get inside and do whatever it takes to claim the Zone for yourself. Cooperate with your brothers and sisters. Don't get fooled by those who will wish to trick you." — he says — "If you succeed in this endeavor, the Sect will reward you handsomely. Pills, techniques, Contribution Points — all will be within your grasp, should you prove to be the winner."

"Do *not* fail me."

With that, Yang Bohai waves his meaty hand. Tang Ruo, the one who sits in front, takes a deep sigh and, with a determined look behind his violet eyes, places his palm onto the portal. His body immediately begins to distort, flickering in and out of existence, before he, in a blink, disappears from your view.

"Next." — Yang Bohai commands and you naturally follow, repeating Tang Ruo's gesture. The rift is cold, almost bone-chilling, but you don't have time to reflect on the sensation: for your body suddenly moves, sucked inside the portal at the speed of light...

[It starts....](#)

[Apr 24, 2023](#)

Sorry boys, girls, and other friends, been a bit busy with irl stuff, but now I think I'm back on schedule. Next update will be aprox. may 7th. Will try to fit in as much of the expo as possible hehe

When you come to your senses, your eyes opening after a struggle, you are greeted with a landscape drastically different from where you have been before. Instead of wide, spacious plains, your surrounding are full of greenery. Everywhere where you look, there are trees: they are thick, with large trunks and long, rough vines hanging down to the ground. The earth underneath your feet is crumbly and wet, the soil collapsing under your step.

The air around you is hot and moist, as sterling as only uninhibited land can be. But it's not just pureness you feel when you breathe. No, there's something else in the air — something *magical* in its nature. For when it travels to your lungs, it nourishes your body on the way. Reminiscent of an alchemical concoction, it slowly refines your skin, reinforces your bones and strengthens your body.

[Expedition Sneak Peak](#)

[Apr 27, 2023](#)

Probs the last sneak-peak for a while... I'm afraid of spoiling too much otherwise :grin:

[Gathering questions for the new Q/A!](#)

[May 5, 2023](#)

Same rules as before ;)

1 question for Tier-1, 2 for Tier-2 and 3 for Tier-3 patrons.

Leave them under this post and I'll answer them in character some time in the future!

[Update 7th of May 2023](#)

[May 7, 2023](#)

- Continuation of the expedition (+15k words).
- New Stat System.
- Added the option to play with 'random rolls', for those who want it.
- Removed skills like manipulation, negotiation etc. Now it's just charisma checks.

[New link](#)

[Q/A or side-story](#)

[May 14, 2023](#)

What do you guys want first - q/a or the side-story? ;)

Whatever you pick, I'll post your choice tomorrow 😊

q/a

side-story

30 votes total

[Tigress Side Story #1](#)

[May 15, 2023](#)

The Tigress couldn't sleep, her large, muscular body struggling to find a comfortable position on the solid ground. The branches of a bush she was in kept pestering her face and tickling her torso, causing her to lightly. But that wasn't the reason for her lack of slumber. Not the main one, at least, for she had slept in situations far worse than this. No, what truly bothered her was... *this place*. This world. There was something strange about it. Something sinister. She could not quite place it: it was an instinct, one seemingly unfounded in reality. But if there was one thing she learned over the last few years, after she was abandoned and betrayed by everyone she knew and, thought, she loved, it was that her gut was her one true friend. Her intuition was to be obeyed and never disregarded.

Just like now.

Suddenly, the Tigress rolled to the right – and, by just an inch or two, avoided a spear that would've pierced her stomach. She flipped herself to her feet, hands on the ground, and let her eyes dart around, studying the new arrivals. There were three of them, all dressed in ragged tribal clothing, wielding spears and boasting glowing tattoos scattered on their exposed bodies.

These were locals, no doubt, but why were they so hostile? The previous strike was neither a warning nor an attempt at incapacitation: the killing intent it emitted was almost palpable.

Grinning, she grated her claws against each other in excitement. *A battle? That was more than fine by her.*

With a snarl, she pounced. Both legs above the ground, claws stretched out, she latched onto one of the attackers and pulled him down. Her metallic blades entered his chest, missing the heart but opening a huge, bleeding wound. What surprised the savage woman, however, was the tribesman's resolve.

He didn't scream. Didn't wail. Didn't produce any sound at all, except for an involuntary grunt, while she was ripping his life away. Instead, he pounded at her sides, smashing his fists against her ribs.

She didn't want to admit it, but they hurt. Much more than punches from a mortal ever should've.

Feeling another attack coming, she threw her legs forward, her body bending in a bridge-like shape. As she got up, the claws, still stuck inside the man's flesh, lacerated it into a skinless mess.

The Tigress hurriedly raised her weapons to her neck to receive the incoming spear. Unable to stop it completely, she redirected it to her shoulder instead. It left a cut, but, in response, she cut off the wooden shaft, turning the spear into a harmless stick.

Before she could gloat, however, the third attacker tackled her from behind. Her face landed on a rock and warm blood poured from her cheek. It also didn't help that the man wrapped his hand with her long red braid and started smashing her into the ground. Once, twice, he continued, until the Tigress let out a roar of rage and found the man's head with her palms. She sunk her claws, which now glowed with bright red, into the skull, metal cutting through the bone, before she, with another thunderous roar, ripped it open.

The man collapsed in an instant, the Tigress didn't even get a second to catch her breath. The last attacker, his determination undisturbed by the deaths of his comrades, viciously attacked the back of her knee with his now staff. The weapon, not meant for such use, broke in the process – but not before plastering Tigress once again. Furious, she dug her claws into the earth and, ignoring the pain, weaved her legs around the attacker's calf, before twisting and bringing him down. She turned and leaped, swiping at his throat. The man, even with his death mere seconds away, still did his best to harm her in return. As if his one goal in life, his singular purpose was to murder the redheaded barbarian: he pulled her closer and bit into her already wounded shoulder, spitting away a chunk of flesh before his strength left him and the light in his religiously-fevered eyes vanished.

Panting, the Tigress pushed herself off the corpse and laid on her back. She clutched her wound, her expression confused. These were *mortals*, she knew, and yet she felt the Inner Energy – no, some variation of it – on them. How pec-

Clap. Clap. Clap.

Startled, Tigress jumped back. She frantically began looking around, searching for the source of the sound, but couldn't find any. Until, she heard a tree rustle and turned, witnessing another trio jumping down from a tree. Only these were not the native warriors, their clothes far too extravagant for that. Two

were women, wearing tight, figure-hugging robes that accentuated their voluptuous curves. The third one, standing in the middle, was an enigma. Their silhouette was blurred, veiled by magical darkness. Their face covered by a demonic mask of silver color. Even when they spoke, their voice was distorted and inhuman. But one thing about them was clear.

The sheer arrogance that radiated even through all the methods of concealment.

“What an interesting creature you are,” the figure said, their arms crossed and their head tilted, “The savage dumwits are truly mindless brutes, driving you out when they could’ve molded you into their best Feral Champion. And for what? Some measly pearl?”

The last sentence caused Tigress’s eyes to go wide and bared her teeth, both in anger and fear.

“Who are you?” she asked, taking a step back.

The figure, though, just chuckled and ignored her.

“You truly deserve your high spot on the List. I admit, even I would, somewhat, struggle against you,” the stranger then smirked, “If it was a fair fight, of course.”

They waved their hand and weapons appeared in the robed women’s grasps. One was a longbow, the other a *harpoon*. Without hesitation, they unleashed their skills.

“Art of the Twin-Hunters – Stream of Arrows!”

“Art of the Twin-Hunters – Capture Prey!”

The bow and the harpoon glowed – the Tigress’ fate was soon set in stone.

“Good job, girls,” the obscured figure laughed, watching as one was pulling her harpoon out of the barbarian’s unconscious body, while the other was tying her up with tight knots of Metal Rope, “At this rate, we’ll be able to collect the reward in no time.”

An old, withered scroll appeared before them. The figure then swiped its finger and one row of hieroglyphs was stroked out.

“Will we...” one of the women asked, tightening the ropes. She gulped in hesitation before she continued, “Will we try to take down #1?”

For the first time, the obscured figure became serious. They kept quiet for a minute, thinking, before they shook their head with obvious regret.

“No. With the last reports I’ve heard of him, that does not seem to be possible,” soon though, they found their buoyancy again, “Number two on the other hand... Well, that should be within our means.”

[May 20, 2023](#)

Yang Bohai

Esteemed elder, what is your opinion of the Savage West? They are not incredibly far from the Yang homeland so you must have had some encounters, no?

“Some degrade them as barbarians. Underestimate them by thinking them a lower rank of folks,” Yang Bohai snorts, “Ignorant idiots. Their land maybe barren, their resources scarce, but desperate circumstances produce men ruthless to both others and themselves.”

Yang Bohai then sighs, looking somewhere in the distance.

“Before I basked in the heavenly grace and became a Shangtian, I dared to act arrogant there once,” he chuckles, leans forward and points to a large scar on the back of his head, “I took my revenge, of course. I killed their strongest Ferals, wiped out their champions in batches – but the fact that this ‘Savage West’ still exists, without a Shangtian to protect them, should tell you all you need to know. Unless you’re dumb, but my words won’t help you then.”

Wu Chao

For so long, Tang clan was made unimaginably wealthy by a single Zone. Sadly, Wu clan has had no such fortune or else we might not be in such a dire state today. Tell me, Father, what's the greatest reward you've gotten from a Danger Zone?

Wu Chao chuckles, a dazzling grin spreading across his handsome face. Suddenly, you feel warmth – warmth that quickly turns to unbearable hotness.

“Little one, how do you think I developed my own technique as a Houtian?” he says, “I may be talented, but I’m not *that* talented.”

Tang Ruo

Imagine for a moment, that after beating you in a final battle and proving themselves every bit your equal...an heir to one of the great clans wanted to marry you. What would you make of such a proposal? Even while knowing that this heir still intends to rule their clan and maintain it's independence as a great clan?

“My spouse would naturally be the ruler of the Celestial Empire, with all the power that comes with such position. But a clan gaining independence?” Tang Ruo snorts, “I will not be an Emperor that would allow

such a blasphemy to happen.”

Has anyone in your family including ancestors ever created a martial art without using the first emperors arts as a reference?

Suddenly, Tang Ruo lets out the most arrogant, the most prideful, the most cocky smile you have ever seen plastered on his face, before he points towards his chest.

“Me.”

Mei Mei

Sorry for bringing this up again, but could I ask you when exactly did Long Chen ask for your hand in marriage?

“Oh.. I knew of his lust for me for a long time. He has never hid it. But this outrageous demand,” she spits, putting all of the disgust she feels into the dribble, “He made after gaining insight into his Aura, becoming half-a-step Xiantian. When he knew, I had no power to reject him – when he knew that Father would be unwilling to let such a talent go.”

Can you create poisons that take advantage of regeneration rather than fight it? That one was ingenious but I could've beaten it since I can regenerate faster than it can damage me. Something that uses a healing factor to grow and spread however... :)

Mei Mei squints her eyes, a look that’s both curious and cunning flashes in her gaze.

“A regenerative physique? So that what it was..” she mutters, before shaking her head and giving you an innocent smile, “Senior Brother, I do not brew poisons – my skills lie in curing them instead.”

Long Chen

Brother Chen, before the expedition starts, could I ask you when did that He snake ask for your hand in marriage?

“A few years ago, when both of us were mere Inner Disciples,” Long Chen says, his tone a part regretful, part full of fury, “It was a transaction, of sorts. She asked me to keep it quiet back then, wait for my ascension... If I knew that she was such a poisonous bitch, I would’ve twisted her skinny little neck instead of agreeing to this farce.”

Tigress

Why haven’t you challenged anyone in the arena yet? I remember you mentioned that was one of your reasons for coming here. With your skills you could easily become an inner disciple by moving up in the rankings.

"The Tigress long ago became an Inner Disciple. She's does not stay at the bottom – she rises and conquers instead." The Tigress replies, "As for the Arena... My Master does not let me fight. Says that such pointless battles, ones without the threat of death, would dull my senses. Hamper my instinct to kill."

She grins.

"I agree."

The new day greets you with a surprise arrival: early in the morning, you find a giant humanoid monster of gray flesh beyond the tribe walls. Dozens of tribesmen are already alert, their weapons drawn. They try to appear fierce and prepared, but it's clear that the intruder's appearance has startled them greatly. The sight of their own brethren, another tribesman, beaten and bruised in the giant's grasp doesn't help either.

"Senior Sister Chao, you are even more resourceful than I imagined!" — Yuan Fang exclaims, his unbendable body giving you a slight bow — "Our mission just started, yet you already have managed to capture a tribe. Very remarkable."

- ☒ "Of course, I'm Wu Chao, after all. The greatest talent to ever walk the Martial World."
- ☐ "Thank you for the compliment."
- ☐ "I just got lucky."
- ☐ "What are you doing here?"

Next

[The Zombie Appears Again...](#)

[May 22, 2023](#)

Next update is planned for this sunday, unless I get overwhelmed with uni. Will have lots of interactions with the tribe members and maybe some action ;)

[Update Delay](#)

[May 28, 2023](#)

Hi everyone! I planned to release an update this sunday (today), but now that I've written it, I'm not a fan of how it turned out. Which is why I need to delay it a bit - to rewrite/reconsider some stuff.

Sorry and thanks for all your support, I promise to get it out sometime next week! I'll post a few sneak-peaks in the coming days ;)

"This is the sacred relic I've been protecting all these years." — the panda explains — "All other Protectors guard similar stones, all exactly the same. How exactly they are supposed to be used, I have no idea. I've had centuries to study its mysteries, yet all I managed to figure out is that it's just an ordinary rock."

You, however, are unable to reply. All of your attention is focused on this ostensibly normal piece of stone. You can't look away. Can't divert your sight. Can't *think* of anything but the pebble in front of you.

Why? Because you have felt power before. You've watched seniors fight in the sect before. You've experienced the aftermath of techniques used by Peak-Xiantians. But in front of this stone, all of it seems just so... meaningless.

In a trance, you step forward and touch the rock. It's warm, but not uncomfortably so: on the contrary, the emitted heat is comfortable. Pleasant. What's strange, however, is that the sensation is not limited to your hand. It's everywhere, spread throughout every inch of your body. For a split-second, there's also something else. A fuzzy, but unmistakable feeling of harmony. Of unity with nature, as if you have traveled back in time, back into your mother's womb — where it's safe and serene.

When you blink, the feeling is gone, but the heat remains. Now that you have had some time to discern it, the warmth is similar to Inner Energy, only a hundred, no, a thousand times purer.

[Sneak Peak](#)

[Jun 1, 2023](#)

Hmmmm.....

[Update](#)

[Jun 5, 2023](#)

size: 223k -> 236k

- talk with panda
- talk with Goshan
- two new events with the tribesmen
- first tribe conquering (one path is still not implemented)

Maybe some bugs/typos. Point them out, I'll fixed everything in a patch a few days later ;)

[Q&A Questions](#)

[Jun 12, 2023](#)

New round of gathering questions for the Q&A. Same rules as before ;)

Ma Rin's room appears to be empty: it's full of luxury, of course, of furniture made of materials more costly than entire mortal towns, but the owner of this extravagance is nowhere to be found.

It's then that you hear the sound of splashing water coming from your right. Noticing another door, you open it, only to come face to face with a scenery that defies reality.

Behind the door lies a world of greenery, full of grass and plants that paint a sharp contrast to the previous interior. In the center of it all is a large, round hot spring, with a waterfall that seemingly pours from the stone-made ceiling.

A pair of bare shoulders and a delicate back greet you from inside the pool, followed by an enchanting, bewitching giggle.

"Impressive, isn't it?" — Elder Rin says, her voice just as smooth and sweet-sounding as you remember — "Cost me quite a hefty sum to build this room, you know. Turn around now, I'm getting out."

☒ Turn around.

☐ Don't turn around.

Next

[I guess there's a reason to go into debt with Ma Rin now...](#)

[Jun 17, 2023](#)

[Q/A Answers!](#)

[Jul 4, 2023](#)

Ai*: Sorry for my curiosity, but Long Chen seems to be infatuated with you the moment you two have met, and yet, you don't look like you enjoy his company and I was wondering why is that?*

"It's not that I don't enjoy his company," Ai answers, looking unsure and hesitant, "My relationship with Brother Chen is... complicated. I owe him my life, and not just once, but I also know what he's after. You can consider him a good friend of mine – he's honest, straightforward and brave. In a place full of cruelty and deceit, his presence often serves as light amidst the darkness."

Ai: *I'm sorry if this comes out as insensitive, and if it makes you uncomfortable you don't have to answer, but how exactly did you know that you possess your Physique?*

"There are..." Ai gulps, not sure whether she should continue or not, "Marks on my body, hidden by my robes. I've always had them, ever since I was born, but it was only after meeting Brother Chen that I realized their meaning."

Jing Guo: *Since we are business partners now, I was wondering why is that you want to open your own restaurant so much, and why restaurant specifically? Don't get me wrong, is just that most martial artists I know are busy developing their personal power, but you don't seem to be interested in those things.*

"Why bother doing something in which you won't excel?" Jing Guo replies, letting out an exhausted sigh, "I know myself well. I may have the talent on paper, but I don't have the will. I can't endure the harsh training, I can't live the life of blood and struggle. Is it too much, to ask for peace? To ask for comfort?"

"As for why the restaurant... I like food and drinks. I'm good at doing business. Put those two factors together, and a dream is formed."

Mei Mei: *What is it you desire more than all else? Whether it be something tangible like wealth or abstract like happiness; if you could make any one thing happen or gain any one thing you wished, what is it you would choose?*

Mei Mei tucks a strand of her hair behind the ear and looks down, embarrassed.

"I... I don't have any wishes, besides good health and long lives for those I care for..."

Mei Mei: *I had a discussion with Long Chen. Care to guess what he told me? Of course, I already knew what I was getting into with you. I didn't tell him about the bomb, but if someone more "moral" were in*

my place right now.. you'd be in deep shit.

Mei Mei grins, her smile a dazzling sight, and puts her hand on your shoulder.

"I only told you about this matter because I trusted you. I'm a good judge of character, you know."

Tang Ruo: *Brother Ruo, what do you think about the Alchemist Elders Student? He Mei.*

Tang Ruo looks at you, unsure.

"Who?"

Tang Ruo: *Were all the guys you fought in the arena as pathetic as that guy whose arm you cut off? And I don't mean their physical strength and talent, more like, were they quaking in their boots too? Has any of them had the spirit to not try to back out?*

"It's only natural to waver in my presence," Tang Ruo answers, nonchalant, "Those who are inferior must bow to the royal blood. I don't blame them for their cowardice, for it is but the way of our world."

Xiong Mao: *You said I am a few thousands years too young to fool you. Just how old are you?*

"Too old and tired to answer such questions."

I imagine it must be a troubling time for you to remember, with your Lord breaking your bond, but what was the Empire like when you last saw it?

"A land of Nine Celestials, all equal except for one. Don't tell me, has something changed? Lord would be beyond furious, if one of the lineages disappeared."

Wu Chao: *Can you tell us about your wife? What kind of person was she?*

Your question startles your father, his expression displaying his shock.

"I never had a wife, what nonsense are you saying, you little brat? I told you to not indulge in alcohol, didn't I?" he scolds you, apparently hostile and yet... there's a sad, regretful undertone present in his booming voice.

Wu Chao: *Father I have met many different members of the other great clans since I've arrived at the sect. However, besides the two of us I have not even heard word of another living member of the Wu Clan who shares our last name. How is this possible? Certainly we can't be the last two surviving members of our clan. And I also find very strange that I am your only offspring legitimate or otherwise despite your known history for sexual escapades*

"You are my only child," Wu Chao answers, sounding both proud and upset, "The Heavens blessed me in many ways, but, in this matter, I can be considered cursed. There are some members of our clan, of course, but none with the relation fit to bear the surname."

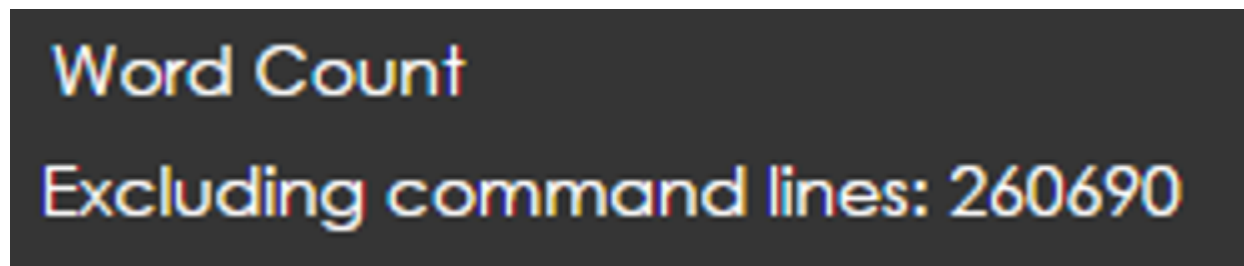
Yang Chen: *What are the origins of danger zones? Did they exist before the appearance of the living god?*

Yang Chen, sitting on a futon in a room full of burning incense, strokes his long, floor-length beard.

“Origin is not a word one should use lightly, little one,” he says, sagely, “If you chase after the birth of something so grand... your feeble mind would collapse, unable to withstand the boundlessness of the searched for knowledge. Don’t try to unweave the strings of fate you have no business touching.”

Dragon Taming Emperor: *What is your opinion on the Wu clan? Why have you shown them such mercy?*

“A disgrace,” Tang Yichen replies your to first question. He doesn’t elaborate, perhaps seeing no need to or finding you unworthy of his time, instead moving the next one, “And I have shown no mercy, merely upheld the laws of old.”

A dark rectangular box with the text "Word Count" in a large, bold, yellow font, and "Excluding command lines: 260690" in a slightly smaller, bold, yellow font below it.

[Update Tomorrow ;\).](#)

[Jul 8, 2023](#)

[Update 9th July.](#)

[Jul 9, 2023](#)

Size: **237k** -> **261k**

- Event with Ma Rin before expo;
- Assault path for Rushing Bull Tribe;

- A bunch of new events afterwards

Things got very branch with this update, so if something looks off, don't hesitate to @me. I may have messed up the variables somewhere.

Will need to fix the typos and do a bit of small changes, but otherwise everything should be working fine ;)

[New Link](#)

[Update 24 july 2023](#)

[Jul 23, 2023](#)

All of the new content is **only** for the route where you allow the disciples to stay in the tribe. Otherwise, the game remains at the same point. Size: 261k -> 281k

New stuff:

- power-up (1/2)
- bunch of new events
- a new massive fight (can be avoided and *should* be avoided, you've been warned)
- opportunity to get massively screwed by the author
- possible Ruo appearance (?)

[Link](#)

Wait. Dripping blood?

That's when you notice it. Long Chen's head on the ground, unattached to its body, and with a frozen expression of disbelief.

The figure turns around, glancing first at Long Chen's head, then at Xiwen.

"Is... he... dead?" — the figure's voice is a guttural growl and words are clearly uncomfortable for it to pronounce.

[Is this... a sneak peak?!](#)

[Sep 12, 2023](#)

The dream is suddenly interrupted, but you do not wake up. Not yet. You become of aware of yourself though, conscious in a way one could never be while asleep.

Everything is black. There is nothing except for a voice that feels like everything, vast and omnipotent.

"YOU HAVE SEEN ENOUGH." — the voice states — **"COME, IT'S TIME FOR US TO MEET."**

Every word it tells you is filled with... you don't how how to describe it. You want to say almighty power, but that would be akin to calling a sparkle from rubbing sticks a great wildfire. This voice belongs to something that you cannot and will not ever comprehend.

"ME THAT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST."

[Another sneak](#)

[Sep 21, 2023](#)

Wrapping things up is taking a bit of time, but update is 100% going to be this this week.

[Update 2nd october](#)

[Oct 1, 2023](#)

Size: 281k -> 306k

End of the expedition. A LOT of new stuff. There is an unfinished route (where you're taken prisoner), and some chats/dialogues are still WIP (they are marked as so), but everything else is working fine.

New link:

<https://dashingdon.com/play/nickydicky/super-poma-game/mygame/>

Since this update brings an ENORMOUS change (you'll understand once you play it), I'll be focusing my efforts on polishing stuff for the nearby future - ironing out all the bugs (I'm aware of quite a few of them), rebalancing encounters and adding some flavor/new events before the end of the expo.

[New Q/A](#)

[Oct 9, 2023](#)

Another Q/A is here! Same rules as always: 1 question per Patreon Tier (3\$ - 1, 5\$ - 2, 10\$ - 3), can ask any named character even if you haven't interacted with them before (no guarantee they'll answer).

Questions can be anything, but keep in mind that for the more spoilery stuff I will give very vague answers. Also be aware, characters can lie!

Post your questions below this post ;)

[Q/A](#)

[Oct 19, 2023](#)

HEAVY SPOILERS FOR THE PUBLIC DEMO

Tang Yichen:

Emperor Tang Yichen, the Celestial emperor, the Dragon Taming Emperor, the Flame Devil Paragon, Butcher of the Purple Stone, the Fire-breathing Tyrant and heir to the living god Tang Wei, forgive my audacity, but why have you allowed the eastern clans to maintain their "independence"? With your power you could easily crush the petulant bastards and bring them under heel.

The old, hunchback man raises his head and looks at you.

"Your audacity is not forgiven," he says, "Leave, before I turn you into ash for asking questions you shouldn't."

Mei:

How far would you go for someone you loved?

She smiles, sweetly, the look in her eyes gentle and soft.

“You will probably laugh at me, but... I’m a romantic. A hopeless one. I believe that if you love someone, you will do whatever it takes for them – even things that you thought were impossible for you to accomplish. Love, after all, is not easy to find. And if the Heavens bless you to find your other half, you must treasure them with everything you have.”

Any backup plan for killing the Chen bastard? The fucking cockroach survived the fucking bomb exploding inside him, or point blank if he managed to spit it out, fucking bastard. You really should look into making something that deals with regeneration, anyone of note seems to have it.

Surprise flickers in her expression, eyes widening slightly.

“He... survived a 99,999 stuffed inside his mouth?” she clarifies, a tremble creeping into her voice, “That shouldn’t be pos-”

She stops, composes herself, and nods at you with one of those friendly, artificial smiles you’ve grown to recognize.

“Thank you for trying, Junior Brother. That bomb was already laced with anti-regeneration components, but it seems they were not enough. I’ll need some time to find a solution.”

If you could through some magic choose to have been born as a man instead would you?

She winks and twirls.

“And lose all of this beauty? No, thank you.”

Tang Wei:

You know, your dreams never did say what happened to your sister. Or our sister, I suppose. I feel like I know the answer, but still... did you get to see her one last time?

His otherworldly composure cracks. You see the pain, the grief hidden in his ancient gaze.

“Blood King refused to let me search for her. He said I needed to at least reach Core Formation before he allowed me outside. I know now, it was merely a ploy to motivate me,” he sighs, “My sister died a month after she was kidnapped.”

Is there other ways to increase my power aside from killing?

Tang Wei chuckles, amused.

“Are you reluctant to take lives, little one?” he asks, “Don’t be. The world will not hesitate to rid you of yours. But, I suppose, there is. A few dozen of Qi Stones are scattered throughout the Celestial Empire. If you find a blacksmith skilled enough, you could try refining artifacts into pure energy as well.”

What have you done to me, you bastard? All of my power, contained in the essence of my blood, the thing that very much defined my reason to prevail, you erased it without a trace, and instead gave me a new body that can only grow in power as long as I indulge in senseless cruelty. Explain yourself!

“You are too loud, child,” he reprimands and waves his hand. Your mouth *disappears*, sews itself shut with the skin of your face, “That’s better.”

Assuming I find your remaining Qi stones and follow your bloody path of cultivation, how soon can I surpass liza- I mean the young swordsman outside in cultivation?

“You will progress extremely quickly. A few years, at most, is what it will take you to stand at the top of this world,” Tang Wei explains, “But that boy is extraordinary and I do not give praise lightly. If he was born in my world, Immortals would fight to have him as a disciple. I’ve never seen a soul so attuned to the sword, not to mention that physique of his he still has no idea about. As soon as he discovers it, and that shouldn’t be long, the boy will match your pace. Ha! I’m almost tempted to stay around and watch what will become of him in a decade.”

When I reach Nascent Soul, will I have the strength to take someone with me? Or will the Heavens separate us forever?

“Strength to take someone across world as a Nascent Soul?” Tang Wei snorts, in a mix of derision and amusement, “After a hundred thousand years of cultivation, maybe. And don’t ever expect the Heavens to help you – they are ruthless and unfeeling. Matters of the heart, of friendship, matter little to them.”

Wu Chao:

Father, I think it's time we talk about my future marriage. I know you don't particularly care, but this is the future of our Clan we are talking about, and you are still our leader. You see, I think I've found my soulmate in the Sect. Her name is Mei, and she has everything you could have ever wanted in a partner. She is the prettiest girl in the sect, she is one of the smartest if not the smartest person of my generation and, I say it without exaggerating, we would not be talking right now if not for her skills in Alchemy. And she is a member of a Great Clan! Honestly, it's a win-win both for me and for our clan, in my opinion. There is only one little problem... You see, she is a member of the He Clan, but I am sure you can look past this rivalry of ours for your favorite son, right?

He listens to you at first, lips tugged up in delight. When you mention the He Clan, however, his demeanor changes completely: the easy-goingness you’re grown so used to vanishes, and, for the first time in what feels like forever, you see your father serious.

“Don’t even think about it,” he states, his tone unusually authoritative, “You will stop this nonsense at once, or I’ll beat it out of you.”

“Bu-”

Wu Chao doesn't let you finish: in a blink, he stands before you, arm raised and *slaps* you hard. You fall, knees legs under the power of his palm, and spit out a mouthful of blood.

"I've never imposed restrictions on you," your father says, "I've always let you do as you wish. But one thing I will not allow, not while I still draw breath, is any tie to those vile bastards."

Tell me about my mother. Who was she?

Once again, he looks uncomfortable at the question. Despair painting his face, anger tensing his flesh, guilt flickering in his eyes.

"Didn't we have this conversation already? She was a nobody. Leave it that."

Ruo:

Brother Ruo I'm sorry to bother you, but I'm in quite a predicament. I believe it was you who told me that "on the path of power, every road is a good one if it leads to the top" but after joining the He Clan, I'm beginning to question that. My family, my honor, even my reputation—it's all gone, and now for the greater good or some righteous goal, but only for the pursuit of strength. *Sighs* I apologize for getting sidetracked but do you think I made the right decision. When I reach my goal will it makeup for my sacrifices or at least my betrayal?

"While I do not blame you for your decision, everyone should have their principles. Their bottom lines they are unwilling to cross, no matter how tempting the reward is. Honor is what separates us from mindless beasts, keeps our minds sane and human. What you did, I would never ever consider."

DQ:

I look at the Demon Queen genuinely confused. This is his mother? This is the Demon Queen? The same one who defeated Bitchy Bohai? How interesting. "So Pan Dai-Lu was it? How has your day been?"

She looks you over and licks her lips.

"Good enough. Just found my afternoon snack."

Xiwen:

Would you be surprised if I told you that an Ascension Sect Elder - Ma Rin, asked me to spy on you? Can't really blame her after getting to know you a little. Yet it seems, unlike me, you did all the spying during this expedition... Oh well, will try to do better next time we meet.

Xiwen laughs at your admission.

"Did she now?" he smiles, "Can't say I'm surprised. I will not deny that I have my secrets, but, I promise you, I mean you no harm."

Out of curiosity senior... what are your thoughts on the attention you receive, specifically since it is from all genders? If I may be do bold as to ask... do you have a preference?

Xiwen shrugs his shoulders.

“Beauty, outward appearance matters little to me. It’s what insides that counts, the soul of an individual that attracts me.”

You stand alone, just like you're meant to be. Alone, your face, hands and clothes covered in blood both fresh and dried. Corpses, mangled, mutilated and torn apart surround you, their sheer numbers almost drowning you in slowly rotting flesh.

Looking down at them, you feel nothing but contempt: killing them have been far too easy. Beneath your feet are legends of this world, beings recorded in myths and tale, but what are they, really, if not ignorant ants?

You see your 'friends'. You see your family. Dead, expressions of shock and terror forever frozen on their faces. These are even more pathetic, weaklings that deserve no karmic ties with you.

You raise your hands, crimson glow erupting from your hands. The corpses around you dry, first turning it into skinless bones, then becoming mere powder. You inhale and absorb them all, fulfilling the ultimate purpose of these useless meat sacks — become your nourishment.

You let out a haughty smirk as you clench your fist, feeling the unimaginable power contained within. You glance up at the sky, the grin growing wider.

Soon. Soon, you will leave this tiny, insignificant world behind and arrive to where you belong by birth.

[Sneak Peak](#)

[Nov 10, 2023](#)

"Just as I thought, your bizarre condition must have something to do with this thing. Others have told me this was a part of the quest in the Danger Zone, but it's more important, isn't it? Tell me. And be honest this time."

You struggle, trying to find an explanation that wouldn't reveal too much, yet one that the Elder will find satisfactory.

"It's a stone with extremely pure Inner Energy."

"Oh?" — Ma Rin quirks a brow. She's not sure of your answer, but is not too suspicious of it either — "That's plausible, I suppose. And whatever happened to you requires this 'pure' Inner Energy?"

You nod, unable to take your eyes off the stone. Amused, the Elder moves it from side to side and giggles when your gaze, unwittingly, follows it. You force yourself to snap out of the trance.

Ma Rin tilts her head, her smile turning cunning.

"So... I have something you desperately need, huh?"

"What do you want?"

Her eyes darken. She cups your chin with her fingers and traces your lip with a sharp nail.

"Get on your knees." — she orders.

[Sneak Peak2](#)

[Nov 11, 2023](#)

She came to the sect personally and demanded you to be handed over to her for punishment. Our Elders refused, of course, and we were fortunate enough for that day to be one of the rare ones where concepts like 'reasoning' and 'logic' mattered to the insane woman. Demon Queen left without bloodshed, but she didn't return to the Havoc Sect. No, instead she traveled to your ancestral Wu Clan and..."

"... razed it to the ground."

"What?" — you ask in disbelief.

"It's a wasteland now, a territory of collapsed cities and blood-colored glass. Your uncle, Tang Tao, was slain by her hand and your father barely escaped into hiding with severe injuries."

...

[Nov 13, 2023](#)

Your whole body hurts, your head pounds as if your brain is a beast struggling for freedom, and it smells...

Fuck. Fuck, it smells so bad, the unbearable stench bends you over and you vomit.

Right on the frozen in terror face of a young, dead man. You stagger back, shocked and flabbergasted, and then you glance around.

You in the middle of a street and all around you are corpses. Torn, dismembered bodies, pools of blood and eerie silence.

What the fuck?

[Last sneak before the update \(Sunday\)](#)

[Nov 17, 2023](#)

[Update 20 nov 20223](#)

[Nov 19, 2023](#)

Size: 306k -> 330k.

New: Lots of Ma Rin content, aftermath of the expo, master selection, one arena fight (pretty short one though)

Changes: Simplified Guo's restaurant; added healing talisman in the shop; probably something else, I don't remember.

I've also moved the game to itch.io for performance reasons, which involves a new save-system. There is automatic saving at certain checkpoints, as well as manual saving during meditation (when you spend EXP). I'll probably add other ways to do it (sadly can't from the stat page).

Tell me how the new platform works for you and whether there are any issues or not.

Unfortunately, old saves won't work.

[LINK](#)

[Boosty.to](https://boosty.to)

[Nov 24, 2023](#)

https://boosty.to/poma_if

Hey everyone! As many of you know, I can't get withdraw money out of patreon and will be unable to do so for an indefinite amount of time. It's still there (basically patreon safe-keeps it until I'll be able to withdraw it), and the number does wonders for my motivation, but due to sanctions I can't access it for now.

Therefore, I don't really have a choice but to use an alternative platform that **does** allow me to withdraw the balance. You will still be able to sub there using paypal and for you, practically, nothing should change (same tiers, same privileges, same discord bot).

If you are able, I would be infinitely grateful if you guys could make the switch with me once your sub here expires. I'll be keeping up both Patreon/Boosty for the foreseeable future (at least a few months) with the same content, and then we'll go from there.

If you have any questions/concerns, don't hesitate to PM me and I'll do my best to answer them.

Even mortals trust their guts, Martial Artists consider their intuition sacred. And yours, right now, screams that something's wrong: you intend to listen.

You turn around and start to leave, but freeze in your tracks when, right before you, two figures rise from the ground. They are draped from head to toe in black, so much so they would be invisible in the darkness, both gripping silver knives.

There are no words exchanged. No boasting, no explanation and no hesitation. The man slashes his knife at your throat, the woman aims at your heart.

[Who did you guys piss off?](#)

[Nov 26, 2023](#)

She wears an indecent top, one that exposes flesh just inches below her breasts, and sports no shoes, bare feet stepping onto the leaf-covered ground. Tattoos cover her toned arms, decorate her chest and adorn her well-defined stomach. They reach up to her neck, intricate designs of what you think are flames, water, lightning, wind, metal and scales. The tattoos continue, alongside two diagonal lines, into her pants.

She's tall, taller than most men you know — closer to seven feet than she is to six. Her body is long and lean: not really buff and muscular, but far from soft or pudgy.

Her hair is short, a wavy mass of multi-colored strands falling on her forehead. Her face is heart-shaped, features sharp and striking.

She stands confident and straight, but opposite of rigid: there's a gracefulness to her, a sort of carefree fluidity.

The stranger crosses her arms, grinning lazily.

"I'm right, aren't I? I'm very pretty."

[Who's this](#) 🗨️

[Nov 28, 2023](#)

[Q/A](#)

[Dec 10, 2023](#)

While you guys are waiting for the update (came down with a fever, sorry), let's do another Q/A session! Same rules as always:

- 1 question per tier (1 for Houtian, 2 for Xiantian, 3 for Shangtian)
 - You can ask any **named** and **living** character. The only exception to that is Tang Wei, and this is the last q/a where I'll allow any questions towards him.
 - You can ask anything, but keep in mind that characters may lie or may just ignore you. So be careful whom and what you ask.
- Leave your questions in the comments to this post =)

[Q/A Answers \(Part I\)](#)

[Dec 16, 2023](#)

This is part I of the q/a (you guys have turned in quite a bit of questions this time lol), with answers to the questions asked on [boosty](#). Part II, with questions asked in here, is coming tomorrow =)

Tang Ruo

Senior Brother Chen, the one who beat you- sorry -AND me so effortlessly... he's joined your clan hasn't he? Imagine that... remember when you told me that I couldn't overcome our difference in background? I wonder if the Prince believes Tang Clan's 'Immortal Warrior' would agree. Forgive me, I'm being unfair. The fight was hardly fair. I mean, we ARE reincarnations of your progenitor. In a way, that makes us more Tang than you or anyone else could ever be. Tell me, Ruo... does my face, the face of your greatest ancestor, remind you of your greatest defeat?

Tang Ruo looks at you, an unusual expression of perplexity occupying his normally impassive face. Your rant, it seems, managed to melt through the iceberg of Prince's arrogance and force his utter confusion on display.

"I have no idea what you're talking about," Tang Ruo states, "The blood purity prophecy is one thing, but you look nothing alike Tang Wei."

Having said that, the Prince takes out a portrait from his spatial ring, where a man drastically different from the one you saw inside the volcano is depicted.

"This is Tang Wei. Neither you, nor Long Chen resemble him in the slightest." Ruo shakes his head, "And if you think you can injure my pride by mentioning the 'Immortal Warrior', you are mistaken. It's true that the times are tough, but when I rule the world in fifty years, none of it will matter."

Yang Chen

I wonder, Sage, how are you related to the clan's other Shangtians: Master Bohai and clan leader Bai?

"Relations become complicated when one lives for as long as I have lived," Yang Chen answers, "You can consider us a family. Two brothers and a younger sister."

Tang Wei

*You tell me I'm your true face and reincarnation, but I'm a girl. Was it just a coincidence that I was born female, like that Havoc Sect freak, or were you originally a woman? Strange question, but... *gestures at the white vacuum* not the strangest thing happening around here.*

"It is but a trivial matter," Tang Wei waves your question off with a laugh, "Bodies and souls are connected. Linked in a way that you won't be able yet to comprehend. A soul as powerful as mine would

naturally shape whatever body it occupies into one that suits me.”

Some Techniques haven't been shared since their conception or discovery, like the Demon Queen's Heavenly Asura Transformation, but we're all told that every power in this world is yours or a bastardized version of something greater. Can I eventually gain these singular Techniques without being taught since I'm you?

“Don't repeat my own mistake and waste your time by focusing on techniques. They can be useful, for they cost less Qi and are quicker to cast, but you must only resort to them once you figure out the principles of Dao that lie in their foundation. To do otherwise would be akin to giving a blade to a toddler.”

So what happens to you now? I won't lie to you, you're a dick, but I feel bad for your family. Do you think they're out there somewhere? Your mother, your sister, your wife... oh, that's two questions. I guess I can't help but wish there was a happier ending, for everyone involved. I don't even know their names, except for Xue. It feels odd. Caring so much about strangers.

“Emotions can be both a strength and a weakness. My rage, sorrow and desire have been my fuel for millions of years – they are the only reason I was able to overcome hardships and ascend to godhood. And yet, my own feelings have also turned to be the catalyst of my demise,” Tang Wei chuckles, “Be careful with your heart. Don't let it be affected by things that it shouldn't be affected by.”

“As for me... I will disappear from existence. Cultivators do not reincarnate, for we follow a path of defying the Heavens – a path to power not meant for humankind. And people like me are the natural enemies of the universe. We took so much from it and gave nothing back except death and destruction.”

Um. Your Majesty,Lord.,, first Me?My apologies I don't know how to adress you properly, however I would humbly ask you to share some of your infinite wisdom with me.Oh and by the way I wondered if you knew that your strongest descendant destroyed all the dragons in the worlds for some mysterious reasons,dragons that you have spared.To be honest these beings were quite mysterious but I think the biggest mystery you left to us was the Devils Breakout.What are Devils Lord Tang Wei?

“He exterminated the dragons? Ah, that's why that little boy was so weird.” Tang Wei sighs, looks up to the sky, “A smart man, yet far too ignorant to make smart decisions. I suggest you get powerful and you do it soon.”

Mei Mei

Do you have a favorite color?

“Green. The color of life and the blooming spring.”

Senior Sister Mei, what does true freedom really mean to you?

"Freedom is the ability to make your own decisions. It's the presence of a choice and the lack of the restricting chains. Freedom is when you finally have control over your own life."

So I've heard that you and Long Chen travelled together years ago and stumbled upon ancient ruins. How did the two of you get to travelling together in the first place?

"It's just happened that way," she chuckles softly, "We were sent on a mission by a sect and stumbled upon the ruins."

Tang Jia Celestial Sword Mistress

Bowing in a respectful manner and choosing your words in the most respectfully way to not offend the Sword Mistress, your heart is racing with fear but with an other emotion more akin to admiration "Your highness Celestial Sword Mistress. It is known throughout the entire Celestial empire that your sword mastery is unmatched and that your beauty shines like a stainless silver sword. Forgive my audacity but which qualities of body and mind do you require of your spouse?"

Tang Jia throws you a cold, apathetic and sharp like the sword on her waist gaze, before ignoring you all together.

Tigress

What will be your reaction if I told you I had drawn a horrible version of you, a mockery of nature, a picture that is born out of madness, desperation and alcohol?

"The Tigress knows not what to say, except advise you to drink less and think more."

Long Chen

What is the true limit of your regeneration?

"Limit?" Long Chen grins arrogantly, "I don't have one."

Wu Chao

I know who my mother is. I don't blame you for not telling me, but.. But I don't know what to do with this. So much stuff has happened in such short span of time, and... I guess I need someone to talk to, and you happen to be the only person I can trust to discuss this. Kind of funny, now that I think about it... I will probably meet the person who told me this information soon, and I wanted to ask you - Should I go through with it?

Suddenly, Wu Chao slams a fist into the desk he's sitting behind. The wooden piece of furniture collapses, splinters flying everywhere as Wu Chao breaks it in half. The man himself fixes you with a wrathful stare.

“Stop,” he orders, “I told you who your mother is. I am your father, and it’s your duty to believe me. So, stop.”

He walks closer to you and lifts you by the collar, his hands trembling from anger and... pain?

“I said, FUCKING STOP. Stop asking about her. Stop thinking about her. You don’t have a mother. She was a maid and she died in childbirth. End of story. Accept it.”

[Q/A Part II](#)

[Dec 17, 2023](#)

Tang Wei

Honorable Tang Wei the pocket dimension you created for yourself while you recovered is something we in the Celestial Empire called a Danger Zone. Over the years there have been hundreds if not thousands of similar pocket dimensions that have appeared scattered across all of the Celestial Empire. Were you also responsible for creating these dimensions as well? And if so what purpose did they serve?

“What you call ‘Danger Zones’ are merely spatial rifts leading to parts of shattered worlds. They occur naturally, and I merely imitated one.”

Honorable Tang Wei my current goal in life is to restore my family the Wu Clan to greatness. Is it possible for me to teach my future family members the proper path of cultivation as you were taught even if they don’t possess the body of a martial sovereign and could we then alter the state of this world and change it into one that they can remain in even past the stage of a nascent soul?

“Cultivation is boundless, but a soul is bound by its limits. Nothing is impossible, but every possibility is relative. To turn this world into a place suitable for real cultivation, you would need power the current you can’t even comprehend.”

So, Tang Wei, just out of curiosity tell me. How do you, a god from a world far away and far more advanced than this one, rate my bodily talent?

Tang Wei, however, just shakes his head.

“Bodily talent doesn’t matter. Flesh means nothing to a cultivator: it can be created, shaped and structured at will. Unless you have a special physique, which are much more complex, a bodily talent like yours can be achieved with a single pill. And with another pill, it can be exceeded by a hundredfold.”

Despite what worth I may have in your eyes, I thank you for the gift of power. Is there anything you'd like me to do for you as a thank you to repay this debt? If not yourself, then for your lost love or someone else.

"I have already expressed my wishes to you. Live your own life and make sure not to have regrets," he chuckles sadly, "Unless you will be able to uproot the Heavens, descend into the underworld and return my wife back to the land of the living, don't bother yourself with repaying this favor."

Although I don't find the things you've done morally right, I hope with every fiber in my being that you may reunite with your lost love and someday make it up to the innocents you've harmed. Of course, with the exception of those who've committed evil. Do you think I can get to the heavens and fight to protect mortals? How many are there stronger than me? How did you protect yourself from being deceived?

"Protect the mortals? A fool's errand. They are supposed to die, that's why it's easy for them to reproduce. It is the heavenly design, why waste your life on fighting the universe for something so meaningless? Lives are not equal and they are not supposed to be. As to how to survive in the cultivation world, I only have one advise: rely only on yourself."

There's something in your story that doesn't match. You've said so yourself that my existence is purely by chance, that I was not made to be your perfect exact copy. Then explain to me how there is an old prophecy dictating that if someone has 100% BP, then they will be the next Invincible? If you said that your plan was to possess one of us and then consume all of Poma, who created this prophecy? Were you aware of it?

At the mention of the prophecy, Tang Wei brows furrow. It's the first time you've seen any kind of perplexity in his all-knowing expression, but it doesn't last long. He soon throws his head back and laughs out loud.

"Damnable Heavens," he curses, half-amused, half-enraged, before he turns to you again, "It seems that no matter how strong you think you get, in the end you always end up a pawn – it's just that the chessboard grows bigger and bigger. Now I'm really curious what your true destiny is."

Lord Wei I have a question for you. I was offered a position as an inner disciple under the Warlord Yang Bohai, which I rejected with the intention of seeking out Sect. Elder Aiguo or perhaps Elder Shouzi, as I figured Bohai's askings wouldn't leave me with the best reputation, leaving it harder to restore that of my clan's, but now that I essentially have to commit genocide to reach my peak, it seems that I'll have to sacrifice my image anyway. Which is what makes me backtrack on my original thought. Should I train under Bohai? If not, who do you think is the best option? Ma Rin? The Monkey God, as if I could get an audience with him, or the two replacements I already had in mine.

"None of those names is familiar to me. There is only a handful of people worth taking notice of in this world, and none of those 'masters' are included on the list."

Pan Bo (Mo Long)

Pan Bo it has been nearly 3 years since we last spoke and I informed you of the scheme that your lovers family the He Clan involved you in to accomplish her death. What have you been doing since then? How strong have you grown and what are your current plans/goals?

The man before you now looks even worse than he did three years ago: he has grown thinner, his face gaunter and hollow. His entire body seems to twitch as he stands, as if his own limbs refused to listen to the commands of being still.

"I have been killing them. Killing them all," Pan Bo answers, with the look of pure madness in his crimson eyes.

Yang Chen

I had thought you couldn't be deceived, how is it that you've taken Lei Xiwen who's a filthy rogue hailing from the Song clan as your disciple, has he truly deceived you, perhaps you are not as smart as they say or is it that you've turned traitor and decided to betray the Celestial empire?

Yang Chen, sitting cross-legged in a room full of smoke from a burning incense, ruefully strokes his beard.

"So young, yet so full of anger," he picks up a cup of tea and sips it, "You wish to speak with me about politics? You are not qualified. Go study for a hundred years and ask me again then."

Long Chen

Brother Chen After you told me you were looking for a better alternative to the He Clan, I was going to offer you the opportunity to join the Wu, but seeing you've been smuggled by Ruo, I'm guessing it'll be harder to swindle you my way. So to put it simply, what must I offer you so that you'll join us? Or is that favor enough?

"I thank you for your offer, but I've already made my decision and I'm not the kind of man that betrays his word. And, to be frank... I wouldn't join the Wu anyway. You may be a Major Clan by law, but on practice your family is nothing but a dying remnant of the past. No offense."

Ai

Ai you have what some people (not me I love you) might consider a...bit of a unhinged and simple-minded goal. I'm all for watching little on So kill overpowered nobles however, what's your plan for when all those mortals you uplifted begin acting just like the nobels you hate.

"Goals must always be accomplished one by one. Right now, the most important thing is to end the mindless tyranny – everything else comes later."

Wu Chao

Chao you senile drunkard and filthy whore!! How dare you hide my mother's identity from me!? How dare you not carry out your duty and kill that filthy rouge when she washed up on the shores of our clan!!??

Your father doesn't get angry. He doesn't yell, nor does he beat you. No, he just summons a bottle of wine and gulps the entirety of it down his throat.

"You know nothing," Wu Chao says when he finishes, "Just an ignorant child that I have failed to educate on when to keep their mouth shut."

"Nicely played."

Mei Mei smiles widely, tilts her head and crosses her arms.

"You've figured it out?"

"With you putting on such a delightful show, wouldn't it be disrespectful of your audience to not recognize it's true meaning?"

She laughs, but not in that soft, feminine giggle of hers: the supposed sound of joy became a malicious chuckle.

"Ah, but fooling the audience was exactly my goal."

"Then let's call me special."

Another laugh, followed by a wink.

"Let's."

[Sneak peak of a Mei/LC event =>](#)

[Dec 18, 2023](#)

[Update 23 dec 2023](#)

[Dec 23, 2023](#)

- complete code overhaul of the game. A lot of mechanics have been changed: no more training grinding, less convolution, new talents and more.
- a massive event with the new RO
- new event with Mei and Long Chen

Word Count +15k

[LINK](#)

[Save to/upload from disk](#)

[Dec 23, 2023](#)

Added an experimental feature to export saves to disk/upload them back.

<https://forum.choiceofgames.com/t/wip-path-of-martial-arts-the-beginning-dark-eastern-fantasy-315k-words/136642/2157>

Description: Blue Fire King, Tang Huo, has put a request with the sect to escort his daughter and her newly-wed husband to Beichang Province. Due to the recent instabilities within the Empire, the route is filled with bandits — with quite a number of Martial Artists among them. Moreover, Blue Fire King believes that his daughter may be the target of a kidnapping attempt.

Assist in the journey and bring the couple to Blue Fire King without them suffering any harm.

Reward: 1000 Contribution Points.

Requirements: Late-Houtian Level

Difficulty: Very Hard.

Punishment for incomplection: Fine of 300 Points.

[New Mission](#)

[Dec 27, 2023](#)

Before ██████████ can answer, however, an enthusiastic clapping of hands rings out through the ██████████.

"My baby is so perceptive!" — a high-pitched, vibrant voice follows it. But despite its youthful energy and joyful tone, you can't help but *shiver* at the sound. There's something sinister in the way the voice spoke, something so outrageously evil it corrupted the innocent words with dreadful power.

You turn your head to face the voice's owner and your heart stops beating. Your lungs stop breathing. And your thoughts stop thinking.

[Who's this?](#)

[Dec 29, 2023](#)

P.S.: new update is about 33% done

"If an imperial descendant wants to kill you, you kneel and obediently fucking *die*." — ██████ spits out — "But since you're unwilling, let me lend a hand!"

"World Burning Art — Fire Incarnate!"

Her hair, her skin, the whites of her eyes: everything turns dark blue, the hue of the early night. Indigo flames dance on top of her flesh, captivating sparks accentuated by the moonlight. She points her sword at you and speaks, her majesty unquestionable.

"Three moves." — she states — "In three moves, the wind will scatter your ashes and the Heavens will claim your soul."

[Last SP before the update ⇒](#)

[Dec 30, 2023](#)