

Alchemy 1011

Chapter 1011: Getting Answers

Alex walked into the broken hall that had the Sacred flames in the center. It seemed the beasts hadn't gone too far in and had stopped near the flames only.

Alex looked at the floor around him and such bones that clearly belonged to humans. The people that were killed here were already eaten by the beasts. He couldn't help but feel a little bad for the.

"Scarlet, get rid of this fire," he said.

Scarlet flew out from her beast space and saw the flames that burned in front of Alex. Without missing a beat, she quickly walked next to the flames. As she did, the fire vanished.

Alex sensed the area and suddenly the vortex of Qi that was underneath this place started pumping out Qi into the air.

"True Qi again," Alex said with a disappointed face. Had it been Saint Qi, it would've helped him so much.

"Well, have fun," he said to Scarlet who was already starting to cultivate by the Qi. Alex had let her cultivate yesterday morning before the sun rose as well, so she was happy when she got to do it again as the sun rose today as well.

Alex wanted to go call the people and tell them the good news, but he felt a little greedy and wanted to wait an hour or so before calling them. He wanted Scarlet to have as much time to cultivate as she wanted to.

A few minutes later, Scarlet broke through again. This time, she had entered the Skin Tempering 7th realm.

'She's quite fast really. If I let her go on for a day or two non-stop, I'm sure she can reach Bone Tempering realm,' he thought. Seeing her cultivate made him want to cultivate as well.

"I really should go to the south quickly," he thought to himself. He waited for a few more minutes as Scarlet gathered up even more Qi. It was slowly getting to the time when he had to tell the people.

He didn't want to keep them waiting any longer. "You have an hour or two more before they all come here, so you need to be ready to relight the—"

Alex paused because he heard some footsteps. He turned around to see a young man with a dark skin wearing a necklace made up of beast teeth. There was a white tattoo on his stomach that looked like a triangle of some sort.

The young man looked dumbly at Alex while Alex looked back at him curiously.

The young man immediately ran away from the place.

Alex stood there for a few seconds wondering what had just happened. He couldn't understand who the young man was or why he was there at all. What he did know was the young man didn't have a white hair that the Bonehead tribe did.

Which meant that he was from a different tribe.

Alex's senses immediately captured the young man, and his action of running away started looking like one that might belong to a person that had been caught at the act of performing some sort of illegal activity.

Alex got curious.

The moment the young man reached outside the tribe's grounds, Alex was already there for him.

"Aah!" the young man shouted and started running the other way.

Alex quickly got next to him. "Why are you running?" he asked as he placed an arm before the young man to stop him.

The young man tried to dodge, but he ended up hitting the hand due to his momentum and stumbled to the ground.

"Argh!" the young man groaned. He was hurt a bit to badly on his back. Still, he tried to move, but Alex quickly caught him and put both of his hands behind him.

The young man tried to fight back, even kicking Alex, but none seemed to hurt Alex the slightest bit.

"Stop struggling, or I will have to use force," Alex said while lightly squeezing the man's wrists, which seemed to start cracking under pressure.

Alex had no qualms about breaking off the young man's wrists. He had already done so twice just the other day. If anything, the young man's wrist would come back stronger once he healed.

The young man screamed again and finally stopped struggling.

"Now, tell me, who you are?" Alex asked.

"I am Ke Zenquan, please don't kill me," the young man shouted.

"That depends on your answers," Alex said. "What tribe are you from?"

The young man didn't speak.

"Say it!" Alex said as he cracked his wrists even more. Some more force and one of the wrist would have all its bone crushed to nothing.,

"I'm from the Arrowhead tribe," the young man said.

"And what were you doing here?" Alex asked.

"No-nothing," the young man said.

Alex crushed his left wrist completely and the young man started crying out loud. Alex couldn't help but hate what he was doing, but he had no pills that could help him at the moment so he could only use torture to get his answers.

"I told you not to lie," he said.

"I-I was just looking around, that's all," the young man shouted.

"This Arrowhead tribe of yours, how far away is it?" Alex asked.

"It's far, very far. You will need to walk for a day and a half," the young man said.

"If the Arrowhead tribe is that far away, what were you doing here?" Alex asked. He didn't remember hearing about any Arrowhead tribe during his talk with Li Yun and the others from the Bonehead tribe.

The man named Han had mentioned the tribes he had been to, and this one was not it. If that was the case, then Alex wondered what the young man was doing here.

"Please don't kill me," the young man started crying.

"Answer me!" Alex shouted back. "What were you looking for here? What is your purpose in this place? What is a young man like you doing so far away from his tribe?"

The young man continued remaining quiet, so Alex crushed his other wrist as well.

The young man screamed in pain as it was more than just broken bones that hurt at this point. Alex was being so reckless with his crushings that the bone splinters were piercing through the young man's wrist.

"If you answer me what you were doing here, I will take you to the sacred flames where you can heal all you want," Alex said. "However, if you don't say anything instead, the next thing I crush will be your neck."

Ning's hands reached the young man's neck. "Your choice."

The young man who was crying in pain had to stop as the shock and fear of what was going to happen overwhelmed him very easily.

"I-I came to check on the beasts," the young man said.

"Came to check... what? How did you know there were beasts here?" Alex asked as a suspicion grew in his heart.

"We... we..."

Alex's grasp on his neck grew tighter until the pain started seeping through to the young man.

"We were the ones that sent the beast here," the young man said.

Alex stopped. "What? Explain yourself!" he demanded.

"We were the ones that rallied the beasts and sent them to this place," he said.

"We? Do you mean there are others involved?" Alex asked.

When he heard the young man say nothing, he tightened his loose grip again.

"Y-yes, many tribes are in on this," the young man said.

Alex's eyes widened. There was some sort of conspiracy going on here. "Why are you doing this?" he asked.

"It helps mitigate the danger from the beasts," the young man said.

"Huh? How?" Alex asked.

"The beasts like to flock to the sacred flames. So if we gather them up and sent them to the tribes, they won't bother the rest of the tribes ever again. Its a sacrifice for the greater good," the young man said.

"Is that what your chiefs said?" Alex asked with a disgusted look on his face. Sacrificing innocent lives to save themselves, Alex could understand why one would do so, but that still disgusted him.

It was no different from the mad immortal kidnapping and killings dozens upon doznes of alchemists just so he could get a pill out of them. Alex hated those sorts of people.

"How did you control the beasts? Do your group of tribes hold some sort of artifact?" Alex asked.

"No, we just hurt the beasts and leave them. The wounded beasts are forced to find a place to heal. Once enough gather to go to a place, the others follow too," the young man said.

"Wounded beasts?" he thought. He had seen that recently hadn't he? A thought came to his mind.

"What were you doing here exactly?" he asked.

"I-I was checking to see why there were no beasts here," the young man said.

"And was that a task that you were given to do?" Alex asked.

"N-no, I was returning and was on my way home, so I randomly decided to check how it was going. When I saw that there were no beasts from afar, I decided to come and check," the young man said.

Alex's eyes narrowed even more. "When you say you were returning home, where were you returning from?" he asked.

"Th-the east," the young man said.

"You are planning to send another group of beasts to another tribe aren't you?" Alex asked as his hands tightened. "Do you have a target this time around?"

"Ye-yes," the young man said.

"Name it!" Alex said.

"I-I do not know the name, but it is a lone tribe living by the cliff near the canyon."

Chapter 1012: Swift Return

Alex's heart sank as his worst fears came true. 'These bastards are going to send a beast horde into the Stepstones tribe,' he thought.

Or worse, they already had.

'I need to go back,' Alex thought. If he could go there before they were attacked, he could save them.

He used Heaven's Impact on that young man and made him unconscious. Then, he took him over to the hall where Scarlet was enjoying the Qi.

"Make the fire again, Scarlet. We need to leave," he said.

Scarlet tried to argue, but Alex gave no grounds for any arguments. The people were in danger and he wasn't going to waste any more minutes.

So, after Scarlet lit up the sacred flames again, Alex dumped the young man close to it and forgot about him. With how hard his Heaven's impact had hit him, it was likely that the young man would be asleep for days.

With him being so young, he didn't feel right to simply kill him outright, but he wasn't going to let him get away with it either.

He walked close to one of the houses that were barely standing and dumped a lot of the beast corpses he had in his storage ring.

After that, he ran back toward where the Bonehead tribe's people were waiting for him.

He ran back faster this time around, and it only took him half an hour or so to return this time around. Seeing him arrive, the man named Han quickly approached him with a face that expected nothing but good news.

"Brother... our tribe... is it?" he couldn't bring himself to ask properly.

"I've killed all the beast there. None remain any more," Alex said.

The people in front of him started cheering, celebrating, and even crying when they heard the news.

Alex continued speaking. "The tribe is all but destroyed. The houses have been mostly destroyed, but the Sacred flame remains. I'm sure you can remake everything and start anew," he said.

"Also, I've left some of the beast corpses back in the tribe while taking away some. Use the beast corpses however you can," he said.

The people only celebrated harder after hearing that.

However, the man named Han couldn't find it in himself to celebrate after seeing Alex's downtrodden look as well as his look of a hurry.

"Is something wrong?" he asked curiously.

Alex looked around, unsure if he should say it. "Come with me," he said and walked over to the side. Li Yun followed as well, wondering what was happening.

"Do you know the Arrowhead tribe?" he asked after they were more or less speaking in private, away from prying eyes and ears.

"Arrowhead tribe? I believe it's one of the tribes by the Blueheart Oasis a day or two travel away towards the northwest. Why do you ask?" the man replied.

"Arrowhead tribe, along with members of the tribes surrounding the Blueheart Oasis are most likely the ones behind the attack in your tribe," Alex said.

"What? They are the ones that—"

"Quiet down. Yes, they are the ones. They have been wounding beasts and forcing them to find a place to heal, in this case, your tribe. I learned it from a kid from the Arrowhead tribe. He's unconscious in your Sacred flame hall. Keep him there even after he wakes up. I will need to ask him more questions later," Alex said.

The man was starting to get angry. If not for Alex saying that he wanted to question him later, he would've most likely killed the young man when he saw him.

"Why later? You can just wait for him to wake up, can't you?" the man said. "I want to kill that person."

"You can do what you want after I question him in a few days," Alex said. "For now, I must leave." He turned towards Li Yun. "Those people have begun their attack on the Stepstones tribe as well."

"What?" the girl's eyes went wide in shock and horror. "They're attacking our tribe?"

"Yes, the young man told me," Alex said.

"We must go back right now then," Li Yun said.

"I agree," Alex said and turned towards the man named Han. "Don't kill him until I say so."

Han's eyes were serious. "I won't. You should leave right now."

"Yes," Alex said and turned to Li Yun. "I'm afraid you will have to stay behind as well."

"No way in hell!" she cried out. "I'm going to fight for my tribe too."

"You will only slow me down if you went with me," Alex said. "Please understand."

Without even waiting for her to reply, Alex sprinted away. He knew he had already wasted some time talking with the Bonehead tribe, but that was something he couldn't skip out on.

If they let the young man leave, he wouldn't have any way of learning more about who exactly was involved in this heinous conspiracy to destroy a few tribes and their people.

Alex ran without stopping even the slightest bit and even used the Qi he had kept without using after eating the beast's cores. His movement technique aided him greatly as his speed was much higher.

It was already late in the morning by the time he left, so even after running way past noon, Alex had only gone back half the way.

At this pace, he was going to reach the tribe early in the evening. Hopefully, that was enough time. But then again, the young man had to have left quite early to reach the Bonehead tribe so soon.

'No, don't think about it. Just focus on running,' he thought. He wished he could fly, as that would've been much faster, but with the little Qi he had, he would be able to barely fly for half an hour.

At least while running, he could run for the entire way through and still have some Qi remaining at the end.

As expected, it was around when the sun started to set that Alex finally saw the Stepstones tribe in his senses.

Unlike what he had hoped, however, the tribe was currently being attacked by the beasts. He could see many different beasts fighting the many people from the tribe.

And they were all struggling.

Alex ran even faster, burning all the Qi in his body as he arrived at the tribe half an hour later.

He felt tired. Not only had he spent a whole day walking over to the Bonehead tribe, but he had also fought the beasts that were in that tribe, and then ran all the way back here.

After all that, it would be more surprising if he wasn't tired at all. However, that wouldn't stop Alex right now.

The moment he arrived, he brought out Midnight and struck the very first beast that he encountered. The lizard had barely turned its head when Alex's sword fell it from its body.

Blood sprayed out of the open neck, and Alex was doused in it, but he still kept going.

He encountered another beast that came at him. Alex saw the side of this rabid meerkat and recognized the wound from being attacked by something sharp.

Alex also recognized the non-vital part of the beast that was wounded, which meant that this beast hadn't been attacked by any of the people from the Stepstones tribe, but rather the one from the Arrowhead tribes and the other ones.

Alex felt his anger grow hotter as he cut the beast in a single slash and continued further.

He killed around 5 or so beasts before he arrived by the canyon itself. When he arrived there, he finally saw the situation firsthand and realized how dire it was.

From his senses, looking at the overall battle, it looked like the tribe was struggling, but doing well enough that they were holding on. He thought that with him here, they would perhaps even make it out well.

However, when he saw the many corpses of the people lying by the corpses of the beasts that were killed, he knew the situation was worse than what he had first thought.

The chief found him and looked around.

"What are you doing here? Where's my daughter?!" he shouted at Alex.

"She's fine," Alex said. "I left her behind and came to help you."

He slashed behind him, killing dozens of smaller beasts at once as his Sword aura struck down a path and killed everything it touched.

He swung once again, and more beasts died. However, the beasts just continued coming one after another.

'Dammit, not all the beasts are even here,' he thought. 'More are continuing to come.'

He could imagine the people from the other tribes rallying the beasts before sending them this way, and if he left, he could most likely find them, but he couldn't do so now.

He needed to stay behind and help these people.

Alex swung his sword again killing even more beasts, but the beasts were way too many, and way too spread apart to continue using Sword aura to attack.

Furthermore, there were people that were mostly in the way of his attack and he couldn't hurt them.

Alex tried using Heaven's Impact a few times to save the people that were in danger, but that too couldn't be used for long as there were just too many beasts.

Hundreds could die and hundreds would remain still. He needed more than just himself if he wanted to save as many people as he could from the jaws of death.

So, Alex decided to bring out some help.

He brought out the Blood God's Manual.

Chapter 1013: I Win

The crimson book appeared at his behest and hovered in front of him.

Alex flipped the page to the 4th one which was titled 'Blood Beasts'.

"Come out!" he said.

Out of nowhere, nearly 50 different blood beasts appeared and stood before him. A leopard, snake, rhino, and many other beasts that he had killed or had otherwise gained from the Blue Spring sect were all made into different blood beasts.

The chief and many other people that were standing close to Alex was taken aback and even tried to attack the beasts. But their measly strength was no match for the beasts.

In fact, even Alex himself was no match for the beasts at the moment since he had no way of using his own blood skills.

"Fan out," he ordered the beasts. "Kill anything that is not a human."

The beasts, with their limited intelligence, understood what Alex had said and went to fight the many beasts that were around them.

As soon as the blood beasts started fighting, there was no more need for the tribal people to worry.

The many blood beasts went around the tribe and killed any beasts, big or small, saving the tribal men in the process.

Alex made sure to keep a few at the front, blocking the way while the rest of the blood beasts finished the ones that were inside.

Alex himself arrived by the hall of Sacred flames and started killing the beasts that had already come there.

A part of him did not want to kill these beasts, knowing that it was not their fault that they were here. All they wanted to do was heal their wounds and find a place to stay where they would not have to worry about anything in the future.

But the logical part of his mind knew that killing was the only way to get rid of them. Otherwise, these beasts would kill all the humans here for food and would be a menace.

Between innocent beasts that were forced into doing what they were doing and saving nearly 300 different innocent humans from dying or being homeless, he would always choose the humans.

It was the lesser of two evils in his mind.

However, that did not mean that Alex was simply done after killing the beasts. In this incident where both of the sides involved in the battle were innocent, there was a third party that was guilty.

That was the evil that Alex was going to get rid of. Unfortunately, that had to wait for now. There were simply too many here, and more were coming. Since the blood beasts had limited intelligence, he also couldn't just leave the place in case they did something he did not want them to do.

He quickly walked out and looked at the people that were crying, whether from physical pain or emotional pain. Their bodies were hurt, but so was their heart at seeing the sight of so many people dead.

The chief looked in a daze at the destruction that lay around him. His eyes were dull, his mind unable to think of what to do in such a situation.

"CHIEF!" Alex shouted from right next to him and only then did the chief come out of his daze.

"Wh-what? What's happening this time?" he asked.

"Gather up your people by the hall and let them heal. I've cleared it of the beasts," Alex said.

"Yes," the chief said and quickly went around gathering the injured. He ordered the ones that weren't as wounded and had them gather their dead.

Alex looked around as he saw the dead people being carried away.

A man cried as he held onto a woman's corpse whose leg had been chomped off. He recognized the man as the one that had given him the beast core from the fish on his first day here.

Another man's corpse was being taken away. It was the player that had talked with him back when he wanted to ride in the carriage.

He saw a woman's corpse, the one that had made him his current clothes.

Many more familiar and unfamiliar faces passed him, all dead.

Alex watched them being taken away, but he couldn't go and see what was happening to them. He had another duty.

He walked out to the front where his beasts were fighting against the oncoming onslaught of beasts.

Thousands of corpses lay by the front, and yet the beasts still came endlessly. The beasts were fearless, and that was what caused them to not see the danger of their approach.

Alex watched his blood beasts clear the oncoming beasts as he waited for it all to be over.

'Have they grown weaker?' Alex wondered when he saw the blood beasts fight. At the very least, some of the beasts weren't fighting as well as they should have.

The blood beasts clearly did not feel pain or fatigue, so the only reason for their lack of performance was most likely that the blood aura in the beasts was slowly depleting.

'I can heal them back by using my blood when they are inside the book, can't I?' he thought. Since that was the case, they could fight as long as it was needed for the beast horde to stop coming here. Hopefully, they didn't go to any other tribes either.

Alex waited a few more hours until the beast horde finally stopped coming.

"Is it over?" he thought and sent his senses around him, pushing them to the limit to make sure nothing could hide from his senses.

There were no more beasts that were coming for them. Most that were still around were retreating north.

However, while searching for the beasts, Alex saw something else in the distance to the west.

Fallen in the desert was a woman that had wounds all over her body. She had a bloody face, swollen legs, and worst of all, a bleeding stomach as if someone had ripped out a chunk of it.

"No..."

Alex didn't even think as he jumped onto the leopard beast and ordered it to run. The beast ran swiftly.

Within just a few minutes, Alex arrived next to Li Yun and jumped off the leopard.

"Li Yun!" he shouted as he ran towards the girl.

Li Yun's grunted in pain she heard his name. She tried to move her head, but she couldn't do so. All she could do was stare into the sky as her left eye socket bled without any eye in it.

"Yu Ming?" she asked when she heard his voice.

"Don't speak," Alex said as he quickly caught her and started scanning her injuries.

"M-my t-t-tribe... my f-father... are they... s-safe?" she asked.

"Yes, they are safe. Don't talk now, I will..." Alex tried to bring a healing pill out of sheer instinct but there wasn't any.

His nerves got the better of him as his hands started shaking while he held her body.

He could feel it, her temperature. It was very low.

He could see the part of her stomach that had been ripped away and she had lost a lot of blood. She was dying.

At this point, the only way to save her was to give her a pill, and he did not have one.

He could tell that she was dying and there was nothing he could do to help her.

Being without Qi and a woman dying in his arms in the darkness of the night, he was reminded of the night he did not want to remember. The night when he had lost his master.

"They... are fine?" she asked with a small smile on her face. "That's... good. Thank you." Her wounds seem to no longer hurt her after hearing the news.

"Don't worry about them for now. I will take you to your father in the hall of sacred flames," he said. He started carrying her and brought her over to the leopard before telling it to run.

He kept some tiny hope that the phoenix flames would heal her wounds despite losing vital organs from her body.

Alex couldn't help but get angry at the sight. "I told you to stay back. I told you the beasts were attacking here and there would be many. Why did you come here?"

"Not... beasts," she said with what little words she could muster.

"What?" Alex asked with a confused expression.

"Arrow... head," she said.

Alex started when he heard that. "Did... did the men from the Arrowhead tribe do this to you?" he asked. "Was it not the beasts?"

"It... it was... Arrowhead," she said.

"Where are they? Did they leave you half dead? I will kill them," Alex said. "Did you see where they went?"

However, he did not get an answer from her at all. "Li Yun? LI YUN! Stay awake, we're not far off!" he said as he checked her heartbeat. It was very slow.

"I... need to..." she finally spoke.

"You need to stay awake," Alex said.

"I... need to..." she paused. "Come... closer."

Her words lost volume as she spoke. "What is it?" Alex asked as he put his ears close to her mouth to listen.

"Look... at... me..." she said with what little voice she could.

"Look at you? Wh--"

Li Yun used what little strength she had in herself to raise her head and kiss Alex. Alex felt her wet, blood-stained lips on his for a second before they left.

He was too stunned to say or do anything at all.

Li Yun used the last of her breaths to laugh a little as she said, "I... win."

Chapter 1014: Slaughter

Alex returned back to the Stepstones tribe with tears flowing down his face and holding the dead body of Li Yun.

His mind was all but blank as he slowly made his way toward the hall where everyone was gathered.

The hall was just as gloomy, if not more, and entering the room only made Alex feel worse.

The chief turned around to look at him and saw his wounded daughter. "Yun!" he shouted as he swiftly made his way to his daughter to check his injuries.

He grabbed her away from Alex's arms.

"Quickly, we should place you by the fi--" his words stuck in his throat when he saw her pale skin and lifeless eyes, reminding him of what he had seen 7 years ago when the previous beast horde had attacked them.

That time, it had been his wife that had died, and this time...

"Daughter? Yun? Wake up. Please, wake up. Yun?" he started shouting. Everyone turned to look and saw that she had died as well.

Most thought of consoling the chief, but they were too busy mourning for their own kin.

The chief cried for minutes as Alex stood there blankly. The chief finally looked up at him with clear rage in his eyes.

He grabbed Alex by the shirt with one hand. "You said she was safe!" he shouted. "You lied to me."

Alex tried to speak but no words came from his mouth. There was nothing he could say here that could remove the blame from him. In some ways, he wanted the chief to blame him so that the feeling of guilt he had been having could be justified.

"You let her die!" he shouted.

A few members of the tribe quickly came up to the chief and tried to calm him down, fearing that Alex would lash out.

However, Alex didn't have it in him to lash out. He couldn't even take any action. There was anger in him, boiling on the inside, but he couldn't find it in him to pour it outside. All he could do was say, "I'm sorry. I couldn't save her."

The chief couldn't find it in his to say anything and simply cried.

"How... just how could it have happened? You said you left her far away," the chief said. "How did the beasts get to her?"

The anger boiling inside Alex finally found a way out as viciousness filled his voice. "It wasn't the beasts. It was the men responsible for sending those beasts," he said.

"What?" the chief asked with a confused voice. The others beside him were confused as well.

"This beast horde attack, it wasn't random," he said. "Some men purposefully sent the beasts here so that there would be fewer beasts they would have to worry about. It is likely that... that they found her while returning."

The chief's face darkened as his eyes grew hateful. "These were the task of men?" he asked. "Not only did they kill my daughter, but they were responsible for all the tragedy today?"

"Yes," Alex said. "And I will go kill them."

He turned around without waiting for a response and walked out. The fury that had been dulled due to the shock of seeing Li Yun dying had resurfaced and the only way to calm it down was to kill her murderers.

"They couldn't have gone far," he said to himself softly and brought out of the leopard from before. The leopard was the only beast that was swift enough to make the journey he was about to make.

In doing so, the blood beast was most likely going to get weaker to the point where it would become useless. If the current status of the beast was anything to go by, it would most likely disappear entirely.

But, that was the last thing Alex cared about at the moment anyway.

He rushed the blood beast, making it spend every little blood aura it had in it, rushing through the desert at a very high speed.

His spiritual sense covered a large area as he searched every direction in search of any signs of humans.

The blood leopard ran through the half-moon night even as its speed dropped continuously by every second.

After an hour or so, the beast was so slow that it was weaker than Alex himself, having slowly lost its blood aura. It had, after all, fought for hours even before this.

Still, Alex found it better to ride on the beast instead of running to rest his body which had worked for too long without any sustenance to keep him going.

Besides, there was no point in changing his steed at the moment. After all, he had found the people.

A group of men and women either rode on a few beasts or simply walked as they slowly made their way northwest. Some of the people there were wounded, but not all were.

There were nearly 40 different people here, along with 12 different beasts that they rode.

The ones that rode the beasts were mostly the ones that were wounded. They all looked very similar in terms of clothing, but they all had different types of tattoos on their chests or arms to denote which tribe they were from.

The symbol of tumbleweed meant that the person was from the Tumbleweed tribe. The ones with the snake tattoo were from the Desertsake tribe.

The ones with the horns were from the Bullhorn tribe, and the ones with the wave-like tattoo were from the Blue lake tribe.

Finally, the ones with the Arrowhead were from the Arrowhead tribe.

"That was tough," a woman from the Tumbleweed tribe said. "I nearly died fighting all those beasts."

"Yeah, it's hard to route the beasts as they usually don't want to go anywhere but north," another person said, one from the Bullhorn tribe.

"Do you know why that is?" a younger person belonging to the Bullhorn tribe asked.

"The beasts used to stay in the north for the longest time. We're not sure why, but our best guess is because of the lights in the north. When that light disappeared, the beasts came from the north that day," the man said.

"Any idea what was up north? Why were there so many beasts there?" the younger man asked.

"No idea. No one could really tell since no one could ever go past that monumental amount of beasts after all," the man said.

"Well, now we won't have to worry about them," the young man said enthusiastically.

"Maybe not. We might have to do one more round of it," another person said, this one belonging to the Desert Snake tribe. "Hehe, let me find the best tribe for it this time, okay?"

"Sure," A woman from the Arrowhead tribe said. "These goddamn northern tribes live so far apart that I don't want to do it again. Although, you will have to make sure it's a sizable one."

"Yeah, yeah, and I don't know who leaked it was us doing that, but we'll have to make sure no one finds out," the other man said. "It was a shame that I had to kill that little cutie from before. If she hadn't put up such a fight, I would've taken her as a--"

BOOM!

A loud explosion shook the ground as sand blew up in everyone's face.

"What?"

"A beast?"

They were all surprised and immediately got ready to fight. However, a second later, they had to switch their focus away as a bloody rain started pouring on top of them.

The rain lasted no more than 5 seconds, but those 5 seconds felt like an eternity as not just rain, but bones and guts flew down as well.

Aside from that, a single head fell. The head belonged to the man from the Desert Snake tribe that was just speaking.

Everyone was shocked at the sudden and violent death and couldn't help but get scared. They grew alert and searched for the beasts, only to find something glittering in the sand.

"Is that... a sword?" one person asked.

"How is a sword here? Where did it come from?" they started wondering.

The young, curious man moved before any of the adults did and reached for the sword. He grabbed it and tried to pick it up but no matter how much strength he used, he could not move the sword at all.

The 16 tons heavy sword was not something this young person could ever hope to move.

Alex arrived from behind the falling sand as if appearing from a curtain. His eyes were filled with rage, his face with disgust and his heart with a will to kill everyone here.

He grabbed the sword that the young man was struggling to move and pulled it out of the sand.

"How old are you?" Alex asked.

The young man looked at how easily Alex pulled the sword out and couldn't help but be surprised. He understood that the man who looked just as young as him was very strong.

"Who are you?" the others asked while pulling out their weapons from this back.

Alex didn't look at them, however, and stared at the young man in front of him. "I asked you, how old are you?" he asked again.

"T-Twenty-two," the young man said.

Alex nodded when he heard the words. "22, huh?" he asked. "Old enough."

No one saw when Alex's sword moved, but they did see when the young man was carved into two from his left shoulder to his right chest.

"You bastard!" the men shouted as they immediately ran towards Alex to kill him.

Alex saw that and got happy. He wouldn't have to worry about the people here running away when he started the slaughter.

Chapter 1015: Avenged

2 were dead and 38 remained. However, Alex quickly found it unnecessary to keep track of them.

They were very weak after all.

Midnight flashed with silver light each time it moved. It reflected the moonlight before falling onto the body of its enemy.

The first to attack Alex was a man from the Bullhorn tribe. His weapon was a sickle, carved from the bones of a beast with similar physiology.

The bone sickles were sharp and strong, and yet they felt dull and weak to Alex when his sword cut it in half, along with the arms of the man that attacked him.

Alex's arms moved again and the sword cut off the man's head this time.

Then, he dashed forward, arriving next to a woman as he ducked to dodge her bone spear. He quickly pushed upward, hitting the woman on the chest with his own shoulders while at the same time spinning to cut her in half.

He grabbed the bone spear from the dead woman's hands and rammed it behind him onto the man that tried to attack him from the back.

The spear went in through his jaw and come out of his head. Alex slowly turned around and let the man's head slowly slide down the spear that remained standing in the sand.

An arrow came flying towards him and hit him in the chest, but it could do nothing more than scratch the leather of the shirt he wore.

"No way!" the woman who had shot the arrow said.

"Who are you? Why are you killing us?" another man from the Tumbleweed tribe asked.

"I'm only doing to you, what you've been doing to these innocents tribe for the past however many times," Alex said. "And you killed someone that I held dear. For that, you will all die here."

"You crazy bas--"

A sword slash cut down 6 different people at once, leaving the rest in a state so stunned that they didn't know what to do afterward.

Alex moved and started cutting more of them in their moment of weakness.

The more he killed them, the more his rage manifested itself on his face. He cut and he killed as that was the only way he could think of to deal with the grief he felt.

He cut another one, a woman with the Arrowhead tribe's tattoo on her body. Seeing her fall, the last remaining 10 or so people saw no way out of this alive, so they decided to run.

However, the first person that turned around to run fell down to the ground with no wounds on his body at all.

"I told you, you all will die here today," Alex said as he stabbed the man that was unconscious.

The remaining people cried for help, but it all fell on empty ears. One after another, they too died.

All 40 of them died.

Alex breathed heavily as his rage finally calmed a little. He was still angry, but he had his logical mind back.

He took a deep breath to finally let go of the rage, and as it went away, sorrow filled him once again as he cried amidst the sand and blood, mourning for the one whose life could have been saved so easily.

It wasn't until after minutes that Alex found the strength to stand back again. Seeing the dead bodies around him reminded him of Li Yun's death, and while that brought back some rage and hate, it wasn't to the point where he had to go kill someone.

He collected the corpses and jumped onto one of the beasts that were there while making his way west.

A few hours later, he arrived at the Bonehead tribe, where the people were working to fix their village this late into the night.

He quickly arrived by the man named Han and asked him for the young man who he had left here.

Han lead Alex into the Hall of sacred flames where the young man was still unconscious.

Alex kicked the kid in the chest. "Wake up!" he shouted at him. Han stood by the side and watched with an angry face that wanted to kill the young man, but couldn't.

The young man slowly gained his consciousness back as he looked around. He was dazed for a few seconds, but once he remembered what happened, he quickly moved away in fear and started screaming.

"Shut up, or I will kill you," Alex said.

The young man swiftly shut up and looked at Alex with a dreadful look in his eyes.

Alex slowly crouched next to the young man and asked, "I have killed some of the people from your tribes that were out here routing beasts towards the various tribes. You will now tell me exactly how many people were involved in this."

"Tell me the truth and I will give you a swift death," Alex said. "Lie to me, and I will hand you over to him so you can feel the pain that hundreds of people felt right here on these grounds where they died."

"Your choice."

The man named Han was surprised and a vicious look appeared on his face. He was looking forward to killing the young man who was partly responsible for the death of the majority of his tribe members.

"You... you will kill me?" the young man asked.

"Your death is certain, that much I will tell you. You can die a horrible death while remaining loyal to your tribe, or you can die an easy death while betraying your tribe. Now, what do you choose?"

"I..." the young man's eyes moved around fiercely, looking for a way out. However, there was none. Still, his eyes grew resolute at the last moment, and he looked back at Alex.

"I won't tell you anything. Just kill me," he said.

"Very well, then I shall leave you," Alex said. "Before I go, however, I will let you know just who you have lost."

Alex said as he brought out the 40 heads of the men and women he had killed.

"No... mother!" the young man looked broken when he saw one of the heads.

Alex looked at the young man and then towards the woman's head with eyes wide open. However, he found it hard to empathize with the young man.

In his eyes, everything happening at the moment was well deserved. He could tell that it was rage that was stunting the rest of his emotions, but at the moment, he was happy they were.

He did not want to pity the death of either of them.

"These are the people responsible for the death of your family and friends. Live in peace, knowing that they are dead," Alex said to the man named Han before taking back the heads.

"You killed them? Are these really all of them?" the man asked.

Alex paused. "I'm not sure," he said. "You can ask for that information from him if you can make him speak," he said.

"What about the Arrowhead tribe in the Blueheart Oasis? And the other tribes that conspired to destroy our tribe?" he asked. "Are you going to attack them next?"

Alex shook his head. "I've killed the ones I had a grudge with. As for the rest, they weren't directly involved with this, so I do not plan on getting any revenge on them," he said.

"But they are our true enemy," the man said. "They are the ones that most likely gave the orders to these men to send the beasts towards us."

"They most likely did," Alex agreed.

"Then? Do you not want to kill them? Do you not feel the anger?" the man asked.

"I do feel the anger," Alex said. "But it was never directed at the people that did not come here. I do not wish to redirect this hatred towards the others that weren't involved in what happened tonight."

"But we have to fight them. They attacked us, so we have to fight back," the man said.

"Yes, you should," Alex said. "But I have no part in that battle."

He finally sighed as the anger he felt slowly bled out of him. "I was dragged into this battle and I've killed the ones that dragged me in. Now, I can only wash my hands off of this anger and hatred."

"If you wish to fight the tribes in the Blueheart Oasis, then do so. That is your right. but, let me give you some advice. These people I killed were much stronger than anyone I have seen between the two tribes I have been to. It is likely you will never beat them. Still, try it if that's how you can calm your heart. As for me, I'm leaving."

Alex turned around and left the man named Han, who in his hatred began beating up the young man inside for answers. Or maybe it was simply to put the rage inside him somewhere.

Alex heard the young man's cries, everyone did, but he did not have the heart to care. He got back on the beast he had come to the tribe in and left.

Alex arrived at the Stepstones tribe just as the morning sun was rising. The chief looked at him gloomily and Alex dropped off the 40 heads.

"These were the men and women responsible for your daughter's death," Alex said. "I know that this won't bring her back, or even get rid of the sorrow in your heart. I only hope that Li Yun's soul can be happy in the afterlife, knowing that her death has been avenged."

Chapter 1016: Leaving the tribe

The funeral took place at noon. When the sun was at its highest, the dead bodies were placed at the edge of the furthest cliff, wrapped in fur and leather of the best kind.

The Chief walked ahead with a long bone in his hand that was burning with the Sacred flame. By the second, the flame was eating up the bone, getting closer and closer to the chief's hands.

The chief slowly walked forward and lit up the dead bodies one by one, until all of them were lit up.

"May the gods in the Sacred halls accept you all," the chief said.

"MAY THE GODS IN THE SACRED HALLS ACCEPT YOU ALL!!" the rest of the tribe followed suit as they screamed the best they could to part with their dead.

Alex looked at only the one at the center that slowly burned in red, pink, yellow, and purple colors.

The fire consumed everything, not even leaving ashes behind. Only smoke remained and it blew away with the wind.

After a few more minutes of mourning, when all the bodies were burned away, everyone turned around to return.

Alex, however, stood where he was, looking past the cliff where the bodies were burned. He looked beyond, beyond the canyon itself, towards the south.

It was time for him to leave.

"This is it for me," he said towards the Chief who was returning as well.

"Sorry?" the chief turned around.

"I'm leaving," Alex said and turned to look toward the chief. "Thank you for everything that you have done for me."

The chief hesitated as little. "You've done more for us," he said. He paused a little and asked, "Are you really leaving?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I will leave right now."

The chief felt conflicted. On one hand, he didn't want Alex to leave as well. His strength was something unheard of in this place and he would be a vital asset to the tribe if he stayed.

In fact, he could even become the chief and live a life without trouble in these lands.

On the other hand, every time he looked at Alex, he saw his daughter's lifeless body being carried in his arms. Even when he knew it wasn't Alex's fault, he couldn't help but hate him for it.

In the end, the chief could only sigh. "If you want to leave, then there is nothing I can say except wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors," the chief said.

"Thank you," Alex said.

"So... where will you be heading to now? You're new here, so you don't know a lot of places," the chief said. "Hell, I barely know anything."

"I know there is an entire land without Qi south of the Wastelands," Ning said. "I will go there."

"South... I see," the chief said. "Hmm, what about your father? You were searching for him here, right? Are you going to leave the wasteland without finding him?"

"About my father, I'm not sure where he is exactly," Alex said. "It would be great if I could find him easily, but I'm not sure if I'm that lucky."

"You could head over to the Blueheart Oasis with us. Even if it is not to fight, you could at least search for your father," the Chief said.

"You're sure you want to fight the tribes from the Blueheart Oasis?" Alex asked. He had told the chief about the people that were responsible, and just like the man named Han, he too was eager to fight them.

"It's not enough," the chief said. "We may have fed the bodies of the 40 dead to the beasts, but will never be enough to bring justice to the hundreds that have died at the tribes' hands. We must avenge our fallen brothers and sisters."

"While that is commendable, I hope you have thought about this well enough. As I've said, the people I've fought were not someone that you could have fought. After all, they were capable of wounding beasts that could not fight when they were wounded. I hope you don't let your drive to avenge the dead lead to the death of the living," Alex said.

"As for whether my father is there or not, while I am curious to learn, I think it would be much faster if I simply gather some Qi and then fly around searching for him. Walking through the desert Qi-less is not very optimal when trying to find people," Alex said.

"You really don't think we can win, huh?" the chief asked. "Maybe you are right, but I just can't get rid of this hatred."

"Swallow it down," Alex said. "If not for yourself, for your tribe. If I ever visit here again in the future, I hope to not hear about your demise in a battle that couldn't be won from the start."

"And what if they come for us?" the chief asked. "If they come to search for their missing people and realize that they had died here. What should we do if they come for us?"

Alex thought for a moment. "Don't fight back," he said. "That is the only thing you can do."

"And just die?" the chief's eyes narrowed. "Surely you're not asking just to remain passive while our enemies come knocking down on our door."

"No, of course not," Alex said. "I'm only asking for you and the rest to not fight back."

As he said that, Alex brought out the Blood God's Manual and pulled something out of it.

The chief moved back in fear when he saw the blood beast stand in front of him. He took rapid breaths to calm himself down. He had seen these sorts of beasts in the fight and knew they were strong. He also knew Alex was controlling it somehow, but the fear still remained.

Alex patted the Blood Rhino. "This is my beast. I will leave him here with you to protect you from any threat," he said. "But my order for it will be simple. I will tell it to protect the tribe from any harm that will come to it. It will, however, not aid you in any battle you start on your own. While limited, this beast has intelligence, so don't think of lying to it either."

The chief looked at the beast. "You're giving it to me?" he asked.

"To the tribe, yes," Alex said.

"It must be very strong," the chief said. "How strong is it when compared to you."

Alex smiled. "If we fought, I would die every time," he said.

"I-is that so?" the chief got scared when he heard that. He looked towards the beast and gazed into its bloody eyes. "I-it won't kill us, right?"

"No," Alex said as he pet the rhino. "It has no reason to. It won't eat, sleep, or do anything. But with time, simply by existing, it will get weaker. At the very least, however, it will be able to protect you for the next 10 or so years easily. I only acquired them not long ago, so I can't guarantee much on whether it will be longer or not."

"I see," the chief said. "Thank you."

"This is farewell then," Alex said and bowed a little toward the chief. He then put the rhino one last time and gave it the order to protect them always.

"I hope to see you again someday in the future," Alex said and turned around. He jumped off of the cliff and landed in the canyon below.

He looked towards the south with the midday sun and started walking. Scarlet flew out of her space and perched on top of his shoulder, accompanying Alex along the way.

The chief turned and returned to the tribe along with the Blood Rhino. The rhino was going to be the sacred beast that protected them from all terror and tragedies.

The rhino stayed close to the beast's quarters at the front of the tribe. Every night, it would stay alert and kill any beast that would come close to the tribe.

The rhino was supposed to grow weaker by the day, and even more so every time it fought. However, without Alex to guide it, the Blood beast would drink the blood of the ones it had killed, and with every drink, his body would not only regain the strength it had lost but also grow stronger.

Alex had no idea that this was the case for Blood beasts or else he would've made use of it. In fact, he would only learn about it a few years later by accident.

Several months later, a man named Han came with many other tribes rallied behind him to go on a war against the tribes of the Blueheart Oasis.

The chief knew this was not something he should be doing, but he felt the urge to say yes since it was his heart that craved to avenge his daughter's death, something he never got to do.

In the end, he decided to not go. While death was uncertain, he still wanted to live a life that his daughter would've wished for him. He wanted to live a life his daughter and wife would've wanted him to live.

It wasn't many years later that he learned that the Oasis tribes had been defeated. Apparently, the tribe's strongest were missing, presumably dead, and as such the attacking tribes were able to ascertain victory, not without a few losses, however.

The chief felt pity for himself for not going to the war, but then when he learned of the people that had died in the battle, he felt that he had made the right choice.

After all, what sort of chief would he be if he wasn't there to lead his tribe to a better life?

Chapter 1017: True Realm Scarlet

Alex was a little bored these days with nothing much to do. He lay in the sand some distance away from a village, as he looked at the starry sky in the night.

He knew those weren't stars now, so it didn't give him the same feeling as it would when he was just a young man.

'I wonder how many of those had people living in it,' he wondered. The moon was still the most brightest, and while part of it was dark, the majority was still very bright. Bright enough to light up the entire area of the dune he rested upon.

At night, the cold wind blew, contrasted by the sand beneath him that was still warm. As he stayed there, he slowly fell asleep.

Alex woke up half-sunken in the sand. He quickly dusted himself off and walked away. He arrived at the village that was close by and went over to a well to wash himself off.

After washing himself, he moved over to the hall where the Sacred flame used to burn. Now, there was only a single bird at the center that cultivated.

Alex felt Scarlet's cultivation and sighed. 'Finally,' he thought.

About a month ago, he had arrived at this location with Scarlet. This was a location that was overrun by beasts, like the Bonehead tribe. Except, there truly was no one that wanted to return here.

Alex didn't kill the beast this time around as there was no need to. Instead, under Scarlet's insistence, he walked over to the center of the room where the sacred flame still burned.

Scarlet got rid of the flame and started cultivating in the Qi. Alex sensed that it was True Qi, and sighed.

At this point, he was all but certain that there was no way he could find Saint spirit veins anywhere in the wastelands. As far as he could tell, during the many years the flames must have sucked away the Qi so much that even if there was a Saint spirit vein, it would have degraded to a True spirit vein in the end.

At first, he was happy seeing Scarlet slowly improve her cultivation base. However, when he asked her to leave, she refused.

Alex wanted to go to the south, but Scarlet wanted to continue cultivating here where she could do so without any restriction.

The two of them argued for a long while before coming to an agreement. Alex would let her stay here but only until she entered the True realms. The moment she did, the two of them would leave.

Scarlet was angry at not being able to stay on for much longer, but under the threat of breaking off their bond, she quickly caved in.

It had been a month since then, and only now was she starting to enter the True realms.

'Sigh, I wouldn't have told her so if I knew she was going to take this long to break through,' he thought to himself.

In the month of their being here, due to the lack of the Sacred flames, the beasts had moved away from the place and went to various other locations.

At the same time, Alex had spent the month going around various different tribes around the area in search of his father.

Unfortunately, it didn't seem like he would be able to find him at all.

The Qi in the area fluctuated as in one swift motion, Scarlet broke through from the Mind Tempering 9th realm to True Disciple 1st realm.

There was absolutely nothing in her cultivation base that seemed to require careful consideration. 'Is this how the children of the Heavenly beasts are?' Alex wondered. 'Would Pearl have been the same if he had gone through the ritual where he would truly become a white tiger?'

Thinking so wouldn't help him at the moment, so Alex stopped thinking about it.

He looked towards Scarlet who had grown quite big as well. Alex wondered if she could fit on his shoulder at all.

"Come on. Now that you've broken through, it's time for us to leave," Alex said.

Scarlet looked towards Alex. "Okay," she said with her own voice.

Alex was taken aback a little when he heard her. "You can speak now?" he asked.

"Yes," Scarlet said. "I've always known how to speak. I just wasn't able to since my body isn't meant for speaking. But breaking through to the True realm allows me to speak."

"I see," Alex said. "How did you learn the language though? Did your parents teach you?"

"I learned it from them and others I was around, yes," She said.

"Alright, let's continue this conversation on the road," Alex said.

"Can't we spend some more time here? I want to break through to Saint realm," Scarlet said.

"No," Alex said. "If you want Qi, it's there in the south as well."

"Oh... right," she said with a confused look. "It's so weird."

"What is?" Alex asked.

"My mind," she said. "It feels so... clear. I should have reached this cultivation base a long time ago. That would've been so helpful."

"Well, whatever. You're there now and that's all that matters, right? Let's leave," he said.

"Okay." Scarlet didn't hesitate this time around. With a better understanding of what was happening, she could make decisions she would've otherwise been reluctant to make due to her lack of foresight.

She flew and landed on top of Alex, perching on both of his shoulders with one leg on each, sitting on his head.

Alex paused awkwardly. "Can you... get smaller or something?" he asked.

"Huh? Oh yeah," she said and flew up before changing size to become her original size and landing on top of him. She perched only on his right shoulder, and finally, Alex felt comfortable enough to walk away.

"Can all beasts change shape so easily?" he asked. "Is it that just to those that have the blood of the Heavenly beasts?"

"You know about Heavenly beasts?" she asked with a surprised look on her face. "Oh yeah, that would make sense, wouldn't it? You have the White Tiger's scent in you after all. How did you get it, by the way? Are you not from this world?"

"I am," Alex said. "I just happened to come across the White Tiger's blood essence and took it in."

"Weird," she said as she looked at him closely. "But then, I should have known you had the White Tiger's blood essence. I think that was why I bonded with you because your aura felt familiar to me."

"You feel that my blood is familiar? Do the Vermilion birds stay around the White Tiger a lot?" Alex asked.

"No, we come from the same place and have the same origin, so we can tell," she said. "Speaking of which, where are you from?"

"From the Western Continent," Alex said. "Well, technically from the Central continent, I guess."

"Central continent? There is life there?" she asked.

"Oh yes, quite plenty too," Alex said. "Although I wouldn't be surprised if you didn't know. Your lord must have been wounded a long time ago. I'm not sure if he's healed by now or not."

Scarlet's eyes shined when she heard that. "You know about that too?" she said. She was starting to get curious about how he knew that.

They left the village he was staying at for the month, but not before reigniting the flame so that the beasts could come back here and not disturb anyone else.

Since Scarlet was finally capable of proper conversation, Alex decided to ask some more questions.

"Where's your home?" he asked.

"In the land of... wait, you mean here. It's a big city in the south. I think they call it the Sunborn Sanctuary," she said.

"I did mean here. Where were you born? Here right?" he asked.

"Yeah, I suppose. It gets confusing at times to decide," she said.

"It gets confusing? Why?" he asked.

"Well, it's hard to explain because it has to do with my feeling. It feels like I wasn't born here, even when I was born here. Especially when you know it's not a permanent place for me to stay at and at some point I will have to return."

"I see," Alex thought. "You do only have a millennium or so still. Enjoy it while you are here."

"Also, can I go to your place, this Sunborn Sanctuary? I would love to go there and see the various other Vermilion birds that live there. Although... would your parents or whoever you came with to this world get angry? The ruler of this continent won't get angry and just kill me, right?"

Scarlet was amused to hear the question. "Don't worry, no one will be angry at you if you go there. Well, not any Vermilion bird at least. I can't guarantee about the humans though. Also, even if you do get in trouble, you can just break off our bond, right? You seem to really want to do it," she said.

Alex coughed a bit and didn't say anything. He thought of something and asked, "do you think I can ask your lord for some phoenix blood? Maybe even some blood essence?"

Scarlet gave a confused look. "Why?" she asked.

"Uh... I want to see if I can improve my Fire spiritual root by using the blood of a Heavenly beast," Alex said.

Scarlet thought for a bit and said, "I can put in a few good words. But only if you quickly bring me to the south quickly enough so I can cultivate even faster."

Alex smiled. "Alright, that's a deal then."

Chapter 1018: Grand Bazaar

About a month or so later, Alex arrived at the top of a barren mountain range and looked below at a place far down.

In the shadow of this large range lay an Oasis. In the deep valley that was the oasis, there was a market established around it that people ran from either the tribes or people from the city beyond the giant walls to the south.

This was a place known as the Sunken Oasis, and the market was known as the Grand Bazaar of the Wasteland.

This was the place where everyone came to buy and sell their things for food, clothing, weapons, or other things.

Metal was one of the most popular things that were sold here as metal was very rare in the desert after all.

Aside from that wood was also hard to find, but it didn't sell as well as metal, especially since the desert people had already figured out alternatives to wood.

They had houses built from stones, and their fire never needed fuel. So, they were more than happy to go without it.

However, Alex cared for none of that. What he was more curious about was the fact that they apparently also sold spirit stones in this place.

Alex was more than curious about it and wanted to learn if the tribe people from nearby were cultivators now, so he felt like he had to come here.

During the last month, he had spent the majority of it on the road. However, from time to time, he would take a detour to a village or tribe nearby to check if his father is there or not.

He also needed water and food for his journey, so he would sell the beasts he killed on the way to acquire those.

During one of those trades was where he had come to learn about this Grand bazaar. They spoke so highly of it, that even if there was nothing he wanted from this place, he would still visit it.

It could be said to be one of the many wonders of the Southern Continent after all.

While Alex was curious about the bazaar, what he was really interested in was the wall in the south which was another source of shadow in this place.

Beyond those walls was where the Qi could be found, and he couldn't wait to go there.

Alex jumped off the steep mountain and basically ran all the way down to the foot of the mountain that was over 2 kilometers below him.

There were roads by either side of the mountain range that could be used for easier travel, but that meant taking a long way around, and it was easier to just run down.

Scarlet slowly flew down from the sky after him and perched on his shoulder again, as she always did.

"Ooh, this place looks fun," she said when she saw the market up close.

It was around 10 or so in the morning, so there were around 5 hours of sunlight remaining before the shadow fell into this place.

Alex slowly walked towards the bazaar while looking at the many carriages that ran through the place that brought many things to sell or buy.

Alex slowly arrived inside the market itself and saw what was being sold.

Grains, dried meats, flowers, colors, spices, and various other things. Alex was tempted to buy the things, especially the clothes that were being sold.

He truly wanted to wear cotton clothes again, instead of the leather cloth he had been wearing for 2 months now.

Unfortunately, he didn't have any money on him at all.

'Wait, what do they use as currency? Dead beasts, right?' he thought to himself while looking around. His spiritual sense took over the market and looked at everything.

'Yes, the beasts work,' he thought.

He approached the middle-aged vendor. "Brother, I want to buy these 3 robes. Can you tell me how much it will cost me?" he asked.

"Aha, don't worry customer. It won't cost you—" the vendor looked up in time to see the clothes Alex was wearing and paused. "Uhh, do you have money?" he asked.

"No, not exactly," Alex said. "I was hoping to trade with you using something else."

The vendor's eyes moved towards Scarlet that was perched on his shoulders. "I can trade with the bird, but you can only get 2 robes. That's also only because this bird is very beautiful to look at," he said.

Scarlet got angry and was ready to burn everything. Alex only chuckled and shook his head. "That's not it, brother. I had a beast corpse that I can sell if you are willing to buy," he said.

"Is that so?" the vendor said as he looked around Alex to find a place where the beast's corpses could possibly be. "I'm sorry, I don't trade with corpses. I only trade with spirit stones."

"What?" Alex looked confused. He could see the entire market both on this side and the other side of the body of water in the middle, and none of them were exclusively selling anything for just spirit stones.

'Why would you come to this place if you want spirit stones?' Alex thought. He could see that the vendor wasn't trusting him at all.

"Fine, I shall get some spirit stones. Do you know where I can trade corpses for spirit stones?" he asked.

The vendor pointed towards another vendor far away where many carriages were gathered. "They take beast corpses and buy them for many things, including Spirit stones. You can get some there," he said.

"Thanks," Alex said and quickly walked away.

He arrived at the new vendor and asked if he could get some spirit stones for beast corpses.

"Yes, you can," the woman said. "Do you have some beast corpses to sell?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I have a few."

He moved his hands and about 30 different beast corpses came out from his storage rings. He used to have more, but he had exchanged it for water and food along the way.

"How much would you say I can get for these?" he asked.

The woman looked at the corpses with a bit of a surprised look on her face. It wasn't every day that she saw someone bringing out beast corpses from thin air.

The cultivators didn't fight off any sort of beasts in the wasteland, and the tribe's people couldn't use storage bags. So, it was really a surprise to see it all come out all of a sudden.

She wondered where he possibly got it all from. She quickly checked Alex's cultivation base but could see nothing. 'A mortal huh? I wonder how he used the bag,' she thought.

Her eyes a bit around the many beasts and she said, "150 Spirit stones."

"Hmm, 150?" Alex asked. '5 per beast?'

He couldn't tell if that was high or not. People rarely used spirit stones as currency in this place for some reason, so he was unable to figure out anything.

'Well, 150 is a bit low, but it's not bad for a few beasts I casually killed while coming here,' he thought. 'I can earn more once I'm inside and start making pills.'

"I will take the spirit stones, thank you," Alex said.

The woman nodded and brought out 150 spirit stones before handing them to Alex.

Alex took the spirit stones and stared at them. He stared at them for a good while before turning to look at the moment.

"Did you make a mistake?" he asked, showing the spirit stones back to her.

"Mistake? Did I miscount?" the woman asked.

"No, the number is not the issue here," Alex said. "It's the spirit stones themselves. You gave me common Spirit stones by mistake."

"Oh... uh, is that so?" the woman got nervous for a second before feigning ignorance. "I must not have looked carefully."

"Since you did not look carefully, you might have not looked at the corpses carefully too. Because there is no way they earn such little money," he said.

"No, no, that is all they sell for. The cultivators don't really want these beasts," she said.

"Is that so? Then maybe I should take this to the old man with a grey beard about 30 paces in that direction? He seems to be selling these for about 20 spirit stones per beast," he said.

"What? No, that's not possible. This is the correct pri—"

"Are you sure that is the right price?" Alex's voice rang in her mind, shocking her to the depth of her core. Finally, she understood who she was dealing with.

"A saint realm expert!" she said softly under her breath. She quickly bowed, even kneeling in front of Alex, begging him to not punish her.

Alex felt awkward and sighed. "Get up and give me my spirit stones. I will leave immediately," he said.

"Yes, yes," the woman said and brought out about 150 True Spirit stones in total. Alex finally felt satisfied with his sale.

"Do you know what the tribe's people use this for?" he asked. He could see some tribe folks specifically buying the spirit stones.

"The stones? That's mostly for when you are traveling and need to bring along some Phoenix fire," the woman said. "The Qi inside them keeps the flame alive for a long time even when taken away from the spirit vein it is attached to."

"Oh, I see," Alex said. That made sense, considering the fire attracted Qi to continue burning.

Alex thanked her for the information and the trade and went back to the clothing vendor, who he paid with spirit stones and quickly got a set of clothes.

Now, he didn't see anything else he had to do, so he left for the wall in the south.

Alex looked at the many stairs that needed to be climbed to reach the top of the mountain wherein lay the gate to go to the south.

From what he had come to learn, there was a natural mountain range that separated the north from the south, and every location of it was guarded by people.

The one he was approaching was but one of the many gates that led into the non-wasteland side of the Southern Continent.

Alex was wearing fresh, blue robes and looked nothing like a barbarian anymore, and with his fair skin, it would be impossible for anyone to think of him as a barbarian.

He saw many other people who either quickly ran past him or flew through the air to go in. Seeing the people, he was getting excited as well.

Finally, more than 2 months later, he was going to be able to cultivate Qi again. He could only imagine how quickly he will be able to search for his father after that.

Alex arrived at the top of the stairs and got in a line. He looked around the place, seeing the giant metal gate that acted more like a formation flag than anything. So many meters below behind him was the grand bazaar he left behind.

Scarlet was still on his shoulder, but she seemed tame enough to not stand out. Compared to the many people with various beasts in cages or items on their person, she managed not to stand out much.

After a few minutes, it was finally Alex's turn, so he walked forward to enter. He proceeded to bring out a few Spirit stones, like everyone before him.

He handed the spirit stones and walked in. However, just as he touched the barrier that everyone passed through, he was sent back flying.

Alex crashed onto the ground a few meters behind and got up in a daze. "What the hell was that?" he asked.

When he looked back up, there were guards that were already next to him, pointing their spears at him.

"Woah, what's going on? Why are you pointing your spears at me?" Alex asked.

A man quickly arrived outside the gate not even a few moments later. "Who dares to try and sneak out of the wasteland?" he asked.

The young, but fully bearded man arrived next to the guards after seeing them next to Alex. "Is it him that tried to sneak in?"

"I did not try to sneak in," Alex said. "I paid my fee and tried to walk in. Damn, why the hell did that barrier stop me?"

The man looked at Alex with a small smile on his face. "I've never seen barbarians trying to enter the south through the gate. You're quite the bold one," the man said.

"Barbarian? If you mean the people from the tribes, then I'm not one of them. You should be able to tell that from my skin, shouldn't you?" Alex asked.

"Yes," the man said. "But I can't really just judge things based on skin. Who knows what you barbarians are up to? You will do anything to find a place that will make your Phoenix fire better."

Alex took a second to gather it all in and shook his head. "I'm not someone from the wasteland. I only came here two months ago. I'm a Saint realm cultivator looking to go south of here," he said while revealing his spiritual sense.

The man took a step back in surprise. He gestured for the guards to put their spears down.

"My apologies, senior. I was mistaken about your identity. Please let me call someone who is better suited to handle your presence," the young man said and pulled out a talisman before communicating with someone.

Quickly, an older person with an equally gruff beard flew out at an incredible speed.

"Where's the Saint realm cultivator?" he asked as he looked around before his eyes fell on Alex.

"Oh, it must be you, brother," the man said. "May I know your name?"

"Yu Ming," Alex said as he got up and looked at the man carefully.

He looked at the blue robe, which seemed not that different from the robe the young man was wearing. He wondered if they were whether from the same family or not.

"Where did you come from?" the man asked.

Alex dusted himself off and looked at the full-bearded men in front of him as he wondered if he should be saying anything. In the end, he needed to go in.

"From the Northern Continent," Alex said.

"From the Northern continent? Why did you come from the north then?" the old man asked. "You should have flown through the eastern regions into the south."

"I did not come by my own wishes," Alex said. "I came here because of a teleportation accident. I was never supposed to be here."

"Oh, sound terrible," the man said. "Anything we can do to help?"

"Of course," Alex said. "You can let me in."

"Hmm?" the man turned towards the gate. "Oh wait, you can't enter, can you? Of course. Your Qi hasn't been recorded by the formation."

Alex was thankful that the conversation wasn't going in any weird direction where they stuck to thinking he was from the tribes. He was worried how he was going to prove about his cultivation base if they thought his spiritual sense was just a random result from accidentally using a Spirit Cleansing lily or something.

"Can you do something so I can enter?" Alex asked expectantly. However, when he looked at their face, he realized something was going on.

"What's wrong?" Alex asked.

"Well, I'm afraid we cannot help you," the old man said. "I'm not saying I don't want to, but we truly cannot help you."

Alex frowned.

"Let me explain," he said quickly. "We need to record your Qi to let you in. But at the same time, we can't record your Qi without taking you in. Do you see the dilemma we are facing?"

"Wait... are you saying that I cannot record my Qi because there is no record of my Qi? What sort of stupid system is that?" Alex asked.

"As I said, brother. No one comes from here. Everyone that is allowed inside is already supposed to be inside. We make everyone register before leaving," he said.

"Dammit, so there's no way for me to go inside?" Alex asked.

"Not from here, I'm afraid," the man said.

"Why do you even have this barrier? Why stop the tribal folks from going in? This young man said something about Phoenix fire?" Alex asked.

"Oh right, there have been instances where the barbarians have gone in and destroyed cities by lighting things on phoenix flames because that's what they are used to. Every barbarian wants to live around the phoenix flames to improve themselves, and they are too stubborn to understand that they aren't allowed to do that."

"Since then, the seniors from the Sunborn Sanctuary simply decided to add a layer of defense to the barrier by not allowing the barbarians from entering," he said.

"I see..." Alex sighed. "So I really don't have any choice."

"I mean... I don't really see the problem here, brother," the man said. "All you have to do is go east from here. When you arrive at the sea, go onto a random mountain to get your Qi back. Once you're done, you can fly over the ocean toward the end of this mountain range. Once you are there, there will no longer be any barrier to stop you."

"Oh... I see," Alex said as he thought for a bit. That was not a bad idea. It only delayed his journey by maybe a month or two at best anyway.

"I should do that," Alex said. "Is the ocean towards the east closer?"

"Yes," the man said.

"Do you perhaps have a map of some sort I can borrow?" Alex asked. "I wish to learn a bit about the Southern continent. The tribal folks had no such thing."

"Ah, wait," the man looked into his storage bag and pulled out a scroll. "Here you go. You can keep it."

Alex unfurled the map to look at it once before closing it. "Thank you," he said.

He decided to leave the place now. He turned around to go back down the stairs but stopped. He looked over his own shoulders and remembered something was missing.

"Scarlet?" he turned around to look. The two men that were watching him leave got confused for a second.

"Brother?" the man asked.

Alex didn't respond and tried to feel scarlet. "Scarlet!" he said once more, but the bird didn't respond. He closed his eyes to try and feel the direction of where scarlet was and quickly found her.

His eyes turned around to look at the barrier. He didn't see just the barrier, but rather far beyond it inside.

Scarlet was inside, and continuously going further and further.

"Scarlet, what are you doing?" he asked through his bond. At the same time, he asked the men outside. "Can beasts go in there without recording their aura?"

"Of course," the man said. "We only have qualms against barbarians after all. Anyone and anything that is not it can easily go inside."

"I see," Alex said.

At the same time, Scarlet spoke from the inside. "Thank you for bringing me to the south. I will return back to my place and start cultivating again. You don't need to search for me," the bird's message said.

Alex stood there stunned for a few minutes as he realized that his newly bonded bird had left him.

Chapter 1020: Going East

Alex realized that Scarlet was not returning at all. She had gone south, and most likely to her family.

In some ways, Alex understood why she did what she did.

'Sigh, I suppose that makes sense,' he thought. He walked down the giant set of stairs and left the mountain range.

The grand bazaar stood before him, but he had no plans of visiting it. He turned towards the east and started walking in that direction, hugging the mountain range as he went along.

There were people coming in and out of the Oasis, and along the way, Alex asked a few that were going east.

Most weren't or said no, but there was a tribe that was going way east, so he started traveling with them.

He sat inside the carriage and in his free time brought out the map of the Southern Continent that he had been so excited to see.

He unfurled the scroll and saw the map he had seen before. After just a glance, it was enough for Alex to be shocked.

"Wait... the entire Wasteland is just a fourth of the continent? There is so much more land beyond this mountain range," he thought.

The wasteland and the south seemed to be naturally separated because of how the land mass was formed. The wastelands seemed to be nearly cut off from the main continent that was chocked by the ocean on two sides.

There was no notations regarding the northern side of the continent besides simply naming the place 'Wastelands'. However, the south was teeming with cities and names.

Alex saw hundreds of cities, both named and unnamed. As he read the names to remember them, his eyes fell onto the center fo the continent.

In the middle, there was a massive mountain range with barely any humans living in it. From what he could tell, the mountains were too high, so people didn't live in it.

They either lived outside of the mountain range or in the center of it. The mountain range formed a natural valley that seemed to be filled with humans, and Alex understood why that was after reading the name of that place.

"So that's where she went, didn't she?" he thought. The location at the center of the continent was the Sunborn Sanctuary.

Alex saw a lot of islands around the continent, a lot of mountain ranges, a place towards the east called the Sunless lands that lay outside of the main continent, and many other places.

The man was unfortunately not as well labeled as the map he had gotten for the Northern Continent, so he had no way of telling what clan, family, sect, or what not occupied which place.

He couldn't tell if there were any important places that weren't cities or mountain ranges.

Still, Alex looked at the map closely and looked for a place where he could go inside from.

'If I'm here,' he thought, judging by an oasis that was noted on the map, I should reach here very soon. Once I'm here, I can either go by land or go by sea.

Alex wondered what he should be doing exactly in this scenario.

"I will think about it when I get there," he thought and closed the map.

He spent the next few days talking with the people from the tribe or killing beasts that made their way here from the north. The tribal folks were more than happy to have let him come with them.

As he thought, his journey came to an end in less than a week. The carriage stopped at the tribe's doorsteps and Alex walked out.

As Alex walked out, he could already smell the ocean.

'It's close,' he thought. The tribe members had indeed said that the ocean was about half a day's walk away from their place, so it wasn't surprising that Alex could already smell it.

He thanked the tribe members and despite their insistence, he walked away.

Half a day later, He arrived at the edge of a cliff. Beyond the cliff lay the murky blue ocean water, and in the air were many different colors.

'Qi,' Alex thought when he could finally see it. It had been so long since he had seen Qi out in the open, so he was surprised to see that his Demon eyes still worked.

Alex looked towards the left side of him and saw the cliff continue for hundreds of kilometers further than here.

He looked to the right and saw the mountain ranges that went on along further. He carefully looked at the mountain and sighed.

'Those people were right,' he thought, remembering back to something the people he had just journeyed with said.

He had asked if there was a pathway through the mountain in the east and they had told him that there indeed was.

Many different tribal folks were already living in those mountains after taking some phoenix flames with them. Some of these migrations had been as recent as just a century or two ago.

Alex could indeed see the lack of colors on those mountains, letting him know that he most likely would not be finding any Qi in there.

'I guess I have no choice but to go through the ocean then,' he thought.

Ocean was a scary place for a cultivator. He had heard it multiple times, from different people. It was a place without humans to keep the beasts in check, and as such, the beasts had grown to a frightening level.

Even Shen Jing had told him that even as a Saint realm, one wouldn't be safe in the ocean.

Alex took a deep breath as he got ready. However strong the ocean may be, he had no choice but to go into it.

So, without any hesitation, Alex jumped from the cliff and dove into the ocean. He sank deep into the ocean and even reached the sea floor of how shallow the ocean by the cliff was.

Alex quickly swam back up and floated in the ocean.

The water was cold and dark, and with it being close to evening, it was in shadow too. However, despite all of that, Alex's face still turned into a smile as he sensed Saint Qi in the water.

It was faint, but it was there.

Immediately, he started cultivating. His body turned into a vortex that sucked in all the Qi from the surrounding water.

'There's not enough,' Alex thought to himself and started swimming.

He continued collecting Qi even as he swam away from the cliff. The further away he got from the land, the denser the Qi became.

At some point, the Qi was dense enough that Alex had collected enough Qi to no longer remain in the water.

He used his Intent and the world responded. In the next instant, he was a little less than a kilometer away from where he was just before. Only this time, he was flying in the air.

"Hahaha! Finally!" he shouted when he sensed the Qi. He looked to the left and saw that the nearest land to him was many kilometers away. The ones to the right were the same.

Alex then looked to the front where he could see many mountains coming out of the ocean as solitary islands that remained there.

Just as he was looking, he sensed some movement from below him as a snake came flying out of the water.

Alex looked down and saw the snake. When he sensed his cultivation base, he could only chuckle.

The snake was high in the True realms. If it were still in the wastelands, Alex would've had to move and attack physically.

However, now that he had some of his Qi back. He needed to do no such thing.

He simply moved his hand as if it were a blade, and an invisible slash appeared from it.

The Dao of Space and the Dao of Cutting worked together to form a blade out of space itself, which tore through the space in anything and cut it in two.

The snake didn't last a single second as it was cut in half by his attack.

Alex didn't even bother gathering the beast core of a True realm beast as that would have no use to him.

Instead, he started flying towards the mountain to the east. He decided to not get bothered by any beast in the ocean and used his concealment technique to hide.

A saint beast would still easily notice him, but he was fine with fighting them. If they were too strong, he could just teleport away.

Alex flew close to the mountain and landed on top of it. The mountain was surrounded by the ocean so it could be considered to be more island than a mountain.

He swept the entire land with his spiritual sense and saw what was it in. After a few seconds, he took back his spiritual sense as there was nothing here for him to worry about.

Alex found a secular spot at the top of the mountain and sat under a giant tree. Finally, he could cultivate peace.

His cultivation method went to work immediately and Qi from all around the mountain started flowing into him. Little by little, he was regaining his ability to use his cultivation base once again.

As he cultivated, a few of the Qi in his body also disappeared, going into his right shoulder plate.

Alex couldn't help but smile when he sensed that. "It is about time you healed, little fellow."