

Alchemy 1041

Chapter 1041: The Leader

A young woman appeared outside of a room and waited. She didn't know how long she would have to wait, but she did so regardless.

After a few hours, the door finally opened and an old man with a face full of white hair and a head full of nothing walked out.

"Master!" she bowed the moment the old man walked out.

"Shu'er, you've been waiting for me?" the old man asked.

"Yes master, something has happened," she said immediately.

"Bad news?" the old man asked with a frown on his face.

"Probably not, but it is quite detrimental news to all the alchemists," she said before bringing out a talisman. "This just appeared a few hours ago."

The old man frowned the moment he read the information. "Who else knows of it?" he asked.

"Given that it was broadcasted outside the purchase area, I would say everyone," the girl said. "The news has most likely spread through the entire city."

"That's... What about the Alchemists?" the old man asked.

"I... assume they know too," the girl said.

"That's... bad. I hope they're not demotivated all of a sudden," the old man said as he read the talisman again. "Alex... that's not a normal name, is it?"

"That's definitely one of those players," the girl said. "I have confirmed it with a few other players and they say it's a common name where they come from."

"I will go to my office, bring me Yuan Tailin. He's the one that tested this person," the old man said.

"Yes, master," the girl said and left.

The old man walked towards his office while frowning a little. In a place where one could barely make 60% pill even when they did their best, someone coming and making 94% pill all of a sudden would make them feel horrible about themselves.

As the head of the Alchemy Association, he needed to do something about it.

He walked into his office, and not long after a man named Yuan Tailin appeared in his room.

"Yuan, is this report true?" he asked.

"About the new Alchemist, leader? That's absolutely true," he said. "I watched him do it with my own eyes, and even had a witness with me."

Tell me everything you saw.

Tailin explained everything that happened to the old man.

"An hour of preparation for a single pill?" the old man asked with a surprised look on his face. "Did he give a reasoning why so long?"

"I did not ask, leader. I only waited for him to do it because he said he could do it beforehand," Tailin said.

"So it was not a fluke either," the leader thought. "Has he made another pill?"

"No," Tailin said. "I sent him to his room and told him he could start tomorrow."

"I would have loved to see him make some more pills. What about the pill he made? Where is it?" the old man asked.

"I'm afraid I already sold it, master. The moment I put it up, the crowd went crazy and started bidding on it as if it were an auction," Tailin said.

"So, someone bought it?" the old man asked.

"Yes, someone bought it for 90 thousand True Spirit stones," Tailin said.

"Someone paid 90 thousand for a single pill?" the old man gave a surprised look. "That's... so much."

"It is a pill with 94% harmony, leader. It will barely cause any problems for you and it will heal you from the most extreme of injuries too," Tailin said.

"It is, but still..." the old man found it hard to agree with the price. He wasn't trying to undermine the work needed to reach such a high harmony. He simply felt that there wasn't much difference between a pill at the 80% harmony and the 94% harmony level.

Even a 70% harmony pill wouldn't be that much worse than what it did. As such, the value of the pill seemed almost negligible to his eyes. But then, he had never seen a 94% before, so he may have been wrong.

"Thank you, Tailin. You may leave," the old man said and let Tailin go. After Tailin left, the old man started looking up the different statistics for the past few hours to see what sort of changes had come to the association.

As he had worried, there was a significant decrease in people trying to buy pills today, and it had happened right after Alex's information was made public.

Not only that, many of the alchemists had called it quits for the day to make sense of what had happened today. He just hoped that they weren't feeling bad about themselves. It would be bad for the association if their morale took a hit.

Still, he couldn't help but be a little happy that his association had recruited such a priceless treasure. Even if the Fairy's touch was the only pill Alex could make, as long as he made it to be over 90% each time, his name would spread far and wide throughout the continent, making more and more people come for him to make pills.

Because of that, more customers would come to the association, which could never go wrong.

"Shu'er, can you try and find any information on this new alchemist? Where he came from and why I do not know about him at all," the old man asked.

"I will try my best to bring it to you quickly, master," the girl who was by the door, left once she heard the command.

"I should try asking him directly too," the old man thought and walked out. He left the building and walked towards the residential building inside the compound where the Alchemists usually lived.

He arrived on the floor where Alex was staying and saw a massive line of people that included many students and working alchemists. Not only that, even other top members of the association were there.

"You guys are already here, huh?" he asked as he walked through the crowd. The crowd split up the moment they saw him and greeted him.

The old man nodded toward the rest and walked up to the 3 elders that were outside the door. "What's wrong? Is he not inside?" he asked.

"He is, but he's not opening," one of the other elders said.

"Well, he might be scared with you all hounding outside his door all day," the old man said with a chuckle in his voice.

"Now he will be more scared with you to hound on him too then," one of the female elders said with a mocking look on her face.

All 4 of them suddenly started laughing.

"Alright, everyone, please go back to your rooms or get back to work. You will see the new Alchemist tomorrow anyway," the leader said.

The crowd had to leave unwillingly as they couldn't defy their leader's order. Only the 3 elders and the leader remained outside.

The leader knocked on the door again.

"Don't bother. I don't think he's coming out," one of the elders said. "We're just waiting for the sake of waiting at this po—"

The door opened and Alex walked out. He looked at the four older people and bowed a little.

"Greetings, seniors. Was there something you needed from this junior?"

The four of them showed quite a bit of shock when they saw him.

"So young..." the female elder couldn't help but say.

"Ahem, I am the leader of the Association, Ru Jiuxen and these are my colleagues and member of the association's board. We would like to talk with you a little if you don't mind," the leader said.

"Oh, of course. Please come on in, senior," Alex said and walked in. The leaders walked into the room that was mostly plain with a bed to the side, a closet on the other side, and another room for cultivation or making pills in one's free time.

"I'm sorry, I recently broke into the Foundation realm so I had to cultivate a bit to stabilize my foundation. I must have made you all wait for quite a while," he said.

"It's fine," the leader said. "We shouldn't have come without notifying you first anyway. But, because of what you did, we just couldn't stop ourselves."

"So, what did you want to talk about, senior?" Alex asked.

"You should know what we really want to talk about, shouldn't you?" one of the elders asked.

Alex smiled. "If it is about how I managed to make the pill, then I must say that is a secret that I can't just give away," he said.

"Of course," the leader said. "We weren't expecting to learn anything regarding that today. We just want to learn more about you. For instance, where are you from? I don't think I've ever heard of an alchemist like you. I would have definitely tried to lure you away if you were famous."

Alex smiled. "I don't have much fame before this. I came from another continent, so it is understandable that you won't know about me," he said.

"Oh, another continent? You flew in here with someone?" the leader asked.

"No, I was a victim of a teleportation malfunction and was sent to the wasteland. I had to find my way here. I have tried to go back, but I just can't seem to find a way," Alex said.

"Of course," the leader said while nodding his head. "It will be hard to travel in between continents unless you use the intercontinental formation or some expensive ships with concealment and defensive functionalities."

Chapter 1042: First Day

"Oh... they can travel like that? Do you happen to know how much they cost?" Alex asked.

"You shouldn't bother thinking about it. They need Saint-ranked spirit stones even to run it. Unless you belong to a massive sect, those are impossible to come by," the leader said.

"I would still like to buy one if I can," Alex said. "As long as I can sell pills to afford it, I would like to buy them."

"I don't know if anyone is selling any, so the cost will fall on the person selling, but it will easily be in the millions I'm sure," the leader said.

"I see, I will have to wait around for one of them popping up then," Alex said.

"Anyway, since you are not from this continent, what are your plans here?" the leader asked. "Do you plan on staying here, or will you try and find a way back?"

"I would love to go back, but I have something to do in this place. As long as I am done with that, I can leave," Alex told them.

"Do you need some help?" the old man asked.

"I would love some," Alex said. "I'm trying to find a man that most likely came here from the Wastelands through some boat. Would you mind sending the message out that I'm looking for him?"

"Hmm... finding a person huh?" the leader thought. He was starting to feel bad for just giving out some help since there was a very high chance that Alex would just leave once he was done.

However, since he had already asked him, he couldn't go back to his work. "Fine, I will get some people to put out the message that you are looking for this person. Do you have any information we can go by?" the old man asked.

"Yes, here," Alex quickly pulled out a talisman. "I was intending to get an investigator of my own, but you probably have better connections than me, senior."

"Alright, I will send it out later," the leader said. "For now, tell us a little more about yourself. Whatever you feel comfortable with sharing."

"How old are you exactly? You look very young," another one of the elders asked.

"Age... huh? I believe I am 45 years old currently," Alex said after a short mental calculation.

"No way! Only 45?" the old man exclaimed.

"Holy! You can most likely enter in the Sundering Sanctum if you wanted to. That's how young you are," the older woman spoke.

"The Sundering Sanctum?" Alex was a little curious. He remembered hearing about that before, as one of the two secret realms in this world along with the Forbidden Orchard.

"Let's not talk about something that won't happen for another 4 years," the old man said. "So, you say you are 45 years old. Does that mean you were 15 years old when you came to this world?"

"15?" Alex asked with a surprised look on his face. Had it really been 30 years since he started his cultivation journey? It had.

"No, I was 18. I spent some time in a place with some time manipulation and ended up missing a few years," Alex said truthfully.

"Oh... there's something like that? Which continent is that in?" one of the men asked.

"Its not a place I can just talk about, forgive me," Alex said.

"Okay, let's talk about your alchemy. Can you tell us how you are able to make a 94% pill? How can someone make such a good pill in such little time?" the old man asked.

"I'm sure you know how, senior," Alex said. "No matter how talented an alchemist is, they are never going to be able to make a good pill unless they have a good recipe. On the contrary, even a bad Alchemist can do quite well if the recipe is good."

"Oh, are you saying you have a good recipe?" the old man asked. "How did you come by them?"

"That's not something I feel comfortable talking about," Alex said. "Forgive me."

"Okay, okay," the leader said. "We can talk about other things."

The group continued talking for half an hour or so. In that time, they asked many questions, but they barely got any substantial answers regarding what they actually wanted to know.

Since they couldn't force Alex to answer, they had to leave regretfully.

Alex learned a few things of his own. He understood the structure of the organization he was involved in a little more.

As it turned out, there was a committee of 10 people, mimicking the Council of 10 that governed the Southern Continent from the Sunborn Sanctuary.

These 10 people were elders of the association that had either risen up in rank or bought their way in and were now allowed to have a say in the decision that was made going forward.

The leader was more of a figurehead than anything, and while he did have more rights than others in normal situations, when it came to the really important matter, he would have to come to a conclusion with the other 9 committee members.

The association mostly included people from the Flowerhall sect as they were the ones that came here looking for a job after they reached the age of 60 or entered the True Lord realm.

The association was divided into a few different parts, each of which worked in its own way.

There was a group that was there for mostly teaching. They were the group where the students went to learn about Alchemy.

The other group was the Alchemists that made the actual pills that the customers wanted.

There was a group that was mostly focused on taking care of the Alchemy garden in the association.

The Swine group was involved in taking care of Pill Swines that new pills were tested on, which was made by another group of alchemists whose job was to come up with new pills, regardless of their usefulness.

There were also a few buildings for research, management, registrations, and sales, but they weren't as clearly divided as these other 5 were.

Alex cultivated for the entire night and left his room early the next morning. His work hours were 8 to 4, so he had to be there sooner than that.

Alex arrived at the pill-making building where he found a staff member to help him on his first day.

The staff member showed a rather shocked expression when they learned who he was and were more than happy to help him.

Alex was taken to his room where he would be making pills for the entire day.

The staff member walked out and came back not long after. Then, he handed over a talisman with a very long list.

"What is this?" Alex asked as he read the talisman. There were many pill names there, all of which were what he listed as being capable of making.

"These are all the requests that came for you, senior," the True realm staff member spoke.

"So many," Alex thought. "They are all willing to pay over 50 thousand spirit stones., so it's good, but aren't there like 100 pills listed here? And they all demand over 90% in harmony. I cannot make all of these today."

"You don't have to make the all in a day, senior. The people who listed these did so knowing that it could take up to a month before the pill was made," the staff member said.

"Ah, that makes it so much easier. If I have 30 days then... I will have to make 3 a day, don't I? That's quite easy." Alex said. "So, what do I do? Choose one?"

"Yes, senior," the young man said.

"Okay, start from whoever came first. Let's go in chronological order," Alex said and picked another Fairy's touch pill which was what he was known for.

"I will bring the ingredients right away, senior," the young man said and left.

Alex waited around for a few minutes before the young man came back with a bag full of ingredients.

"Thank you."

The young man left the room and Alex started preparing the pill. Since the customer wanted a pill with over 90%, he was going to have to give him one, so he needed to prepare quite well.

It took him a little less time than yesterday after cultivating overnight and could thus finish preparing it all just a few minutes earlier.

Then, he made the pill again.

It took him barely 12 minutes to complete making the pill. Once done, he placed it in a pill bottle and called the previous staff.

"Here, I'm done with the pill, bring another set of ingredients," Alex said and started cultivating a little while he waited.

The young man left the room and quickly made his way to the staff room. He was more than interested in learning the result of the pill after knowing who he was working for today.

He had the pill officially tested by someone who worked in sales and verified the product as being what the customer wanted.

Both of them were shocked at the result, but they managed to keep their composure and continue their job.

The sale order was completed and now they had to wait for the customer to come to pick it up.

At the same time, a small change appeared in the information board where one could learn about the various pills and Alchemists that worked on them.

Alex's name was there alongside other newer names and under his name was a single pill he had made it until now.

However, that one pill had 94% written next to it, which many people there were focusing on.

However, just this moment, the 94% changed into 95%, sending the entire crowd in a craze again.

One time might have been a fluke, but twice? That was no fluke at all. Even the people that were skeptical about Alex were starting to have doubts in their own skepticism. If this continued, they would have no choice but to trust in Alex.

People came and went, but everyone's eyes were on the information board outside the sales department. Half a day later, it changed again.

This time, it wasn't the 95% that changed, no. Another pill name appeared next to Alex's name, and this one got 95% as well.

Now, there was no doubt that Alex was most likely the best alchemist on this entire continent.

Alex was done about 5 different pills by the end of the day before he left his room. When he did, he saw Harry standing outside.

"Oh, hey there," Alex greeted him, but Harry seemed to be in no mood for casual talk.

"Alex, I need to ask you something," he said.

"Uhh... sure," Alex said.

Harry took a deep breath. "Can you teach me about Combinations and Structure?"

Chapter 1043: Accusation

Alex looked at Harry with a strange expression on his face. "You know about Combinations and Structure?" he asked.

"I've known it for a long time," Harry said. "I know you have to have knowledge of it to progress in your pill's harmony level. But no matter how much I try, I just can't seem to use what I learn in my pills."

"I've tried following the rules when making the pills, but they never take effect," Harry said.

"Hmm, is this a common knowledge here? Does everyone know about it?" Alex asked.

"No, as far as I am aware, only I know of this. I got an alchemy book in my treasure box when I joined the game and have made use of it since then," Harry said.

"I see," Alex said. "I wouldn't mind teaching you, but I don't think I can do it so soon. How about the weekends? You must be free then too right? I can teach you a bit around that time."

Harry got happy. "Thank you," he said and walked away.

Alex returned back to his room thinking about how he was going to teach Harry. He didn't mind teaching him obviously, but he also didn't want him to know that he knew way too much.

"I'll have to do it in moderation," he thought and got into his room.

Once inside, he focused the rest of the day and night on cultivation. While he was cultivating, Whisker would be to the side making pills all night.

Alex still hadn't received his money yet. That would happen at the end of the week when everything was calculated and everyone was given their share of the profit.

When that happened, Alex thought of getting the ingredients for the cultivation pill again. However, he couldn't make the pill here at all. In which case, he would have to take a month or two leave to go out into the sea where no one could witness the lightning that came with making pill veins.

Alex got up early next morning and went to check on Whisker. He had been making steady progress in all the pills and was getting closer and closer to making True rank pills that consistently reached over 60%.

Since Alex hadn't taught him the Supreme Elemental Accord technique, which he couldn't even learn due to his lack of 7 elemental spiritual roots, he was in fact working with normal ingredients. So, reaching 60% was already doing way better than most of the alchemists that would be of his cultivation base.

If one were to add age to the equation, Whisker would be one of the most talented alchemists under the age of 25. When added in the fact that he was a beast, it would be hard to argue that he wasn't amazing.

"Well, he did learn from me," Alex thought to himself and quietly laughed.

Once he was done judging Whisker's progress with Alchemy, he took Whisker and went toward the pill making building.

As he was going there, he felt a talisman buzz in his storage ring. He quickly pulled it out.

The talisman was a communication talisman given to him by the leader of the association just in case Alex ever wanted to ask something. At the same time, it was also a two way talisman, so Alex was the one receiving a message.

Alex quickly read it and put on a confused look. "Why outside?" he wondered and started walking towards the front of the association, outside of the gate.

There was already a crowd there, so Alex wonder what it could have been about that the leader wanted him to come out. 'Do the people want to see what I look like?' he wondered.

He walked up to the crowd and immediately someone shouted out loud. "That's him, that's the bastard!"

Alex looked towards where the voice came from and realized what the problem was. "I see, so its you," he said when he saw the man standing in the middle of the crowd.

The family head of the Huang family had come all the way to the city of Many Flowers after learning about Alex.

"That's really him? I wouldn't have thought the new alchemist would be such a criminal."

"I wonder how someone like him can be that good."

"He must have stolen the knowledge from someone else as well."

The various people in the crowd, especially ones that were jealous of Alex and would love nothing but to see his downfall started voicing their opinions.

"Young man, he is accusing you of stealing and running, is that true," the association leader asked.

"Uh... kind of," Alex said. "He's not lying, but he isn't telling you the whole thing. You should wait a bit before you make any judgment."

He walked towards the family head. "So, what can I do for you, brother Huang?" he asked.

"Bastard! I am here today to get back my justice," the family head shouted. At the same time, a few of the people from the Huang family moved up front together to threaten Alex.

However, to Alex's eyes, they were simply too weak to be of any threat to him.

"Justice, you say? May I ask you to clarify?" Alex said.

"You know damn well what I'm talking about. Just because you changed your name doesn't mean your crime washes away as well," the family head said. "Listen up everyone, this man promised to make me pills to help my cultivation. He asked me to buy him many ingredients. When I did, he made me a single pill."

"I took the pill and went to cultivate, but when I returned, he had already beaten up my man that was standing guard and had run away with not just the ingredients but even my cauldron I had lent him."

"He stole so much from me, I demand that we punish him for it. At the very least, we must cripple him," the family head said furiously.

"Yeah, we must cripple him."

"Punish him!"

A few people started shouting in the crowd. However, there were more people that didn't think with their emotions.

"Isn't crippling too intense?"

"We can't cripple such an amazing alchemist. That would be a crime against humanity."

"I'm sure sir alchemist can make the pills for senior, or just pay back what he stole with some added interest as punishment."

Alex remained quiet as he heard everyone speak. He wanted to see just how far the family head would go. And as expected, the family head did start speaking again.

"Friends, you don't need to worry about losing a valuable asset to humanity. The valuable asset isn't him, but rather his recipes that he uses to make the pills. As long as we have those recipes, any of the alchemists here can reach the same level as him," the family head said.

The people were persuaded a little by his words. They started thinking of Alex as not someone valuable but rather someone holding something of value.

Still, they believed crippling someone like Alex was going a bit too far.

The association leader stepped forward and everyone calmed down. "Brother Huang, I'm afraid you are wrong with your words there," he said.

"Huh? What do you mean?" he asked.

"An alchemist doesn't suddenly get better just because he has a good recipe. There are a lot of factors involved when making a pill. Even I doubt I can make any pill reach the same height as young Alex here can even if you give me the recipe," he said. "I'm sure the recipe helps him a lot, but that's not the only thing."

"What? No way, but he said..." the family head looked at Alex. "Bastard, I can't believe you lied to me regarding that too. Either way, it doesn't matter. I demand justice."

"Sigh, what do you have to say about this, young man," the leader asked. Everyone turned to look at Alex.

"Well, first of all, I would like the family head to say everything that happened back then, not just the part that fit his narrative," Alex said. "Please stop holding back information. Since you want justice, you have to tell people everything that has happened."

"What? I have nothing more to say," the family head said.

"So you are not going to say everything?" Alex asked. "Then let me tell everyone exactly what happened."

He looked at the crowd. "This man gifted me a cauldron so that I would come to his house. I did not steal the cauldron. I accepted his request and went to his house to make him some pills, which I did."

"I made him one pill to show him that I could. However, he wasn't there for the pill. He was there for my recipe. When I made the pill, he imprisoned me and told me that the only way to get out would be to sell him the recipe, which I obviously refused."

"He left to give me time to think, but I didn't need to. I beat up the person that standing guard and stole what he had on him. I must say I was incredibly poor at the time, so I needed that money."

"After that, I left the city and never saw him again until today. If you think fighting back against someone that tries to imprison you is deserving of punishment, then go ahead, punish me," Alex said.

The crowd quietened down.

"He's lying," the family head said. "Don't listen to him."

"Am I?" Alex asked. "Then prove it. Make an oath saying that every word that came out of your mouth was the truth. I will do the same as well. Do you agree?"

Chapter 1044: A Good Amount

"An oath? Why should we trust your words? You could very well lie!"

"Yeah, words mean nothing to us. You stole from the family head."

"Don't expect us to believe you just because you speak an oath!"

The few people around the family head that were waiting to talk negatively about Alex took the opportunity to slam him again. They were mere civilians and people of little note, so they weren't aware of the Oath.

However, it was impossible that someone like the Family head would be unaware of heavenly oaths. His face drained of color when he heard Alex say that.

Alex could see that the man had not expected him to know about the oaths at all. 'Oaths must be knowledge that's not so easily shared around here,' he thought.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" the leader asked. "You know what you are trying to do, right?"

"Of course," Alex said. "I have nothing to worry about after all, I won't be lying. As long as the family head speaks the truth, he shouldn't have to worry either."

The family head was fidgeting at the moment. He was racking his brain to get out of the situation, but there was nothing he could do that wouldn't make him look guilty at all.

"You are just trying to hurt me before your own crime is revealed. I won't fall for that," the family head said. He was grasping at whatever branch he could to hang on to the notion of Alex being a thief and a criminal in this instance.

Even as he did, the public perception was already changing. Just refusing such a simple thing to prove the accusation meant that the old man had something to hide, and anyone who mattered in the current situation knew about it.

The various alchemists, committee members, and elders from the Flowerhall sect that had come to request some pills were seeing through the family head's facade.

"Brother, you have said so much earlier, was there any lie in there?" the association leader asked.

The family head was having a hard time keeping hold of his own thoughts. "Ahem, I might have exaggerated about the cauldron. It's true that I had gifted it to him, but that was because I was hoping he would help me make pills that would help me with my cultivation."

"I promise with the heavens as my witness, this person beat up my man, stole my ingredients, and ran away while I was not there," the family head said.

But, people could already hear his twisting his words. After all, that was exactly what Alex had said as well, and the family head was only removing some aspects from it that suited him.

"Young man, you should clear it up. Make the oath so we know what is true," the leader said.

"Yes," Alex said. "I make an oath to the heavens that everything I have said regarding this situation is true. I was imprisoned by this man who told me the only way he would release me was to sell him my recipe. I ran away while he wasn't around by defeating the person that was standing guard and took everything that man had on him, which included the ingredients as well."

The Saints looked to the sky to see any changes, but there were none.

"Family head, do you have anything to say?" the leader asked.

"I... I..." the man looked around in confusion. "This man took my stuff. I demand that he return it or at the very least pay me back."

"And what about the fact that you tried to imprison me? What punishment should there be for someone that does that?" Alex asked.

"I... I wasn't imprisoning you. I only wanted to persuade you to—"

"That's enough farce for today," Alex said. "Seniors, I'm sorry you had to witness this joke of a person's act. As for the Huang family, I have something for you to say."

"With heaven as my witness, I made this oath today. I will never again knowingly make a pill for anyone part of the Huang family," Alex said.

Everyone in the area felt an invisible power slowly path through them before locking onto Alex. The oath was settled and there was no way to remove it ever again.

Since it was a one-sided oath with no conditions for breaking it, Alex would have to forever hold true to this oath or the heavens would strike him down.

The Huang family looked at him with a surprised faces. They could tell that their family head was already losing this argument and was being proven that he was lying, and now the world's best alchemist had promised to never make a pill for them anymore.

The people were distraught.

The family head himself was shocked, but he still had some hope. "I-I don't need you to make me a pill. There are million other alchemists that will help me," he shouted out loud.

"Great," Alex said. "Have fun getting them to make pills for you. Goodbye."

He turned around and left, leaving everyone to watch dumbly. The crowd dispersed when he realized there was nothing more to be said. Alex had proven his innocence somehow using oaths, and even while he had technically stolen, he was also imprisoned in the first place so there was no way anyone would hold him accountable.

The leader looked at the stunned family head and smiled at him. "Please feel free to request some pills to be made while you are here. Farewell."

He turned around and left as well. One after another, everyone left the family head alone and went away.

The family head who had been humiliated could only curse Alex in anger, and in the end, he had to leave as well.

Alex returned to his task like everyone else and the day came to a close. He returned to his room the same as yesterday and started cultivating.

3 days went by once again with him doing nothing but making pills. By now, he was popular for being able to make 3 different types of pills, all of which had reached upwards of 90% each time.

It wasn't just the customers that were excited, even the alchemists were happy when they saw Alex. They would greet him with a hearty smile and ask for some hints or tidbits of information that could help them in their alchemy journey.

Unfortunately, Alex couldn't help them since he didn't know much about them. Still, he didn't outright refuse them and only said he was busy right now.

The end of the week came around and with that came his payment. Alex was looking forward to seeing just how much his pills had been sold for.

He wasn't aware of the sales side of things, so the payment was definitely going to be a surprise for him.

'Let's see, unlike the first pill, every other pill only has a 10% cut on it, so I should still get a lot, even if it is just 90% of the actual earnings,' he thought. The association would take a cut away even after that which would be a flat rate for the room he was staying in the various other facilities the association provided.

All in all, it wasn't that much money for him.

The door opened and an old man walked in. "Ah, Alchemist Alex, it's good to meet you finally," the old man said as he took out a storage bag from his person. "Here is your earnings for the week. Please sign this talisman with your Qi so we can confirm you did get your earnings."

"Sure," Alex said and quickly checked the storage bag. He saw a massive amount of spirit stones that made his head hurt for a second. It was just too many to just count. He quickly signed the talisman with his Qi and asked, "how many spirit stones are here?"

The old man laughed. "You must have earned a lot," he said. "I'm afraid I do not know, but there is a talisman in there that should have detailed information on everything."

The old man left after that and Alex quickly opened up a storage bag to find the talisman. When he read the talisman, his eyes went wide.

"Woah... 1.8 Million spirit stones?" he thought as he looked at the amount. It was even True Spirit stones. That was so many.

"And it's just a week's worth of money," he thought. He couldn't imagine just how much richer he could become if he did this for an entire year. He would become so very rich.

He stayed in his alchemy room looking at his money while giddy in happiness. He wasn't leaving, even though it had already been long past his day's end.

Harry found him in the room and walked in. "Oh thank god, you're still here," he said as he walked in. "You look happy? You earned a lot or what?"

"It's not a bad amount," Alex said as he put aside his storage bag. "Sorry, did you need something?"

"Oh, I was just making sure you remember what you said to me," Harry said.

"What I said to you?" Alex asked. "Ah! The teaching part, yes I remember. We can have our lesson tomorrow. Uhh... why don't you come by my room tomorrow early morning and I can teach you for a few hours. How does that sound?"

Harry smiled. "That sounds great," he said. "See you tomorrow then."

Chapter 1045: Teaching

Harry arrived outside of Alex's room early in the morning, so Alex quickly asked Whisker to stop making pills and go back into his beast space.

Once he was gone, he finally opened the door and let Harry in.

"Alright, I'm excited to learn this thing. Let's start," he said the moment he entered. Alex chuckled a bit and led him to the Alchemy room.

"So, where do we start?" Harry asked.

"Uh, would you mind telling me what you know in the first place so I can maybe start from there?" Alex said.

"Sure," Harry said and started explaining what he knew.

Harry basically understood everything that was basic knowledge about Structure and Combinations. He knew that the individual specks of powder formed different structures and that when combined together properly, they made a pill better.

He was confused about the specifics of everything, however. He did not understand what exactly the combined form should be or what an individual speck of powder even looked like most of the time.

He didn't understand how anyone was supposed to keep track of the millions of specks of powder that formed when making a pill.

And most of all, Alex realized that he did not understand why a pill would be good just because it followed those rules.

Alex thought about everything and started understanding just what it was that he had to teach.

"Can you tell me when you reached the Saint realm? Like how many years it has been?" Alex asked.

"Uh... ahem, unlike others I focused too much on Alchemy so I was quite slow," Harry said with an embarrassed face. "I only reached the Saint realm about 12 years ago, and it has taken me that long to reach my current cultivation base."

"Saint Condensation 4th realm isn't that bad," Alex said and asked something else. "How comfortable are you in using your spiritual sense?"

"Oh, you might not know this since you are not from here, but our Spiritual senses are quite awesome," Harry said. "We start off early on with this small flower that gives us a Spiritual sense without having to reach the saint realm. That was one of the reasons why I never really sought it out as much as I should have."

'Oh,' he thought to himself. 'City of Many Flowers... that makes sense.'

Alex thought for a bit and moved his hands. The pill that Whisker was making before he had to stop halfway flew out of the Sun's womb, which was just powder at the moment.

"Can you see the individual speck of this?" he asked.

"Individual speck of this powder?" Harry asked. "Uh... I can if I force hard enough. But only right now though, I can't keep track of them when they are in a cauldron."

Alex nodded. "Well that's because you aren't supposed to," he said as he dusted off the powder. "Inside a cauldron, you are supposed to use pill-forming techniques which can help you make pills on their own. There are some that require you to be able to see inside the cauldron at the individual specks, but they are not as demanding as they sound."

"Oh... so I don't have to worry about them?" he asked with a look of clarity as if he understood something finally.

"No, you are meant to rely on some sort of technique. Of course, that probably wasn't true in the past, but others have worked hard to make techniques so we don't have to," Alex said.

"Regarding Structures, there's not much I can really teach you. Every ingredient can have hundreds of different structures depending on the heat, direction of spin, and the speed of it moving in a cauldron."

"If you really care about the shapes, you will have to spend time learning everything on your own by making them," Alex said.

"Or you can just look at a book and learn," Harry said.

"Uhhh... you can do that, but I'm not sure many people would note it down in a book. Do they?" Alex asked.

"Oh, the book I got has the majority of it covered in drawings that are about the structures of some rare ingredients that you wouldn't want to test on yourself because you might not find another one," Harry said.

Alex got a little curious. "Mind if I take a look?" He had a way of finding all the structure for an ingredient if he had 3 of its variations, but he would rather not waste a rare ingredient if he could just learn the information from somewhere else.

"Sure, here you go." Harry brought out the book and handed it over to Alex.

Alex looked at the title of the book. "Internal Pill Shapes - A collection of Studies on Structure and Combinations"

He flipped the page and on the first page, there were two words written on it. He read the words with a confused look on his face. "Spicy Gourd? Is that the author's name?" he asked.

"Ahem, that's just something I wrote. Please skip that and go next," Harry said and flipped the page himself.

Alex looked through the front half of the book was a basic explanation of Structure and Combinations, but it wasn't a book meant for thorough explanations.

It was more so there to give the reader an idea about Structures and Combinations, rather than teaching it to them. What was there was just a precursor to the various different shapes with different ingredients.

Alex looked at the first ingredient, a Foghorn Tree's fruit. He closed his eyes and looked through his sea of knowledge to find that name.

'Foghorn Tree's fruit... can be used for anti-inflammatory medicines. Can be used for burns, and can be used as an ingredient to pills to make a very specific antidote that came from getting stabbed by a Foghorn Tree's thorn. Foghorn trees themselves are very common, but they rarely flower to even produce fruits.'

He recalled all the information he had on that and opened his eyes with a surprised look. 'It's an Immortal rank ingredient,' he thought.

The thorns of the Foxhorn Tree weren't very harmful, but they did cause a lot of rash and itching that normal Immortal rank pills couldn't relieve, and thus one had to make a pill using the Tree's fruit.

Otherwise, their best bet would be to find an Immortal-rank antidote pill with a few pill veins.

He turned through the pages and saw many more drawings of shapes of many different ingredients. The drawings were small enough that the author had managed to cram hundreds of different variations of a single ingredient.

There were about 50 different ingredients in total, and as far as Alex knew, they were all incredibly rare.

Once he was done reading through it all, he handed the book back to Harry and started explaining to him about Combinations.

"For Combinations, you must remember that it's all about reducing the empty space in a pill. The more compact the combination you can make, the better," he explained.

"Wait..." Harry thought for a bit. "Does that mean I will have to know the structures for all the ingredients?"

"Yes," Alex said. "Not just the ingredient either, you will need to know the shapes of the exact way in which the ingredient will be used to release the same amount of energy."

"Damn, that's... that's tough," he thought. "Yeah, it involves a lot of repetitive practice."

Alex taught him various other little tidbits he knew about Structure and Combinations before going on to the main part of that piece of knowledge that Harry did not have at all.

"And to get the best result when making a pill, you want to make the most symmetrical shape," Alex explained. "The better the symmetry, the higher your pill's grade will be."

"Woah..." Harry said as he learned that information. "That's really a lot to take in a single day."

"It can get overwhelming at first, but you will get used to it in time. For now, I suggest starting with common-rank pills whose ingredients you can easily find. Once you have done that, move on to True rank pills, and then by the time you reach Saint rank pills, you will get used to it," Alex said.

"You must have practiced this for many years then," Harry said. "Did you get a similar book as mine from your treasure box?"

"Uh... yeah, it was an alchemy book as well," Alex said.

"Ooh, do you mind if I read it?" Harry asked.

Alex shook his head. "Sorry, I learned it through the game and the book disappeared. I do not have it anymore," he said.

"Oh... that sucks," Harry said. "Still, it must have helped you a lot. When did you start learning about Structures and Combinations?"

Alex recalled back to the first time he learned about this information. It was back in the royal library in Cardinal City in the Crimson Empire. He had read a book that was written by the Royal Alchemist.

"It's been 30 years or so, I believe," Alex said.

"Oh, so you started around the same time as me," Harry said. "I guess you were just better at learning than me."

"No, I just got information that you didn't know about," Alex said. "You would've done amazingly by now had you been given the same information I had been given by someone early on."

"I see," Harry said.

Alex taught a little more and showed him a few examples by making a few pills in front of him.

Once he was done, Harry left the room and Alex was finally free to do what he wanted to on his day off.

Chapter 1046: Noisy, Shut Up!

Alex left the association and walked out to the city. He hadn't got the opportunity to see the various sights of the city when he arrived last time, so he was planning to use this time to do that.

The city was truly very beautiful with flowers blooming on every single patch of land where there was dirt.

The city smelled nothing but fantastic with all the floral scent that the wind carried around. Alex walked through the streets looking at the various vendors and even bought a few things using his newly made fortune.

Clothes were the things he needed to buy the most as they would often tear up during fights or even just simple practice sessions.

Aside from that, Alex stocked up on wooden boxes, pill bottles, empty talisman papers, inks, formation plates, and various other items that he had lost when he came over to the Southern Continent.

Many of the things he lost were irreplaceable, but the ones that were, Alex replaced them.

"Let's go to a weapons store," he said to Whisker, who was sitting inside his robes, and walked along.

The artifact store sold swords, which was what Alex was looking for. As of right now, he only had midnight, and as such he was incapable of using the 21 Sword Array in any of his battles.

With the various other attacks he had, he didn't really need to use that attack, but it was nice having options.

Besides, he had always been planning on using that precise skill to help him learn more about the Dao of techniques, which was one of his goals for the recent future.

If he could learn that, it would open up various different opportunities for him in both normal cultivation techniques and Alchemy.

The 20 different swords Alex bought were all similar in size to the Midnight and as such were easier to make work together.

He looked at Armor and various other artifacts, but none looked as appealing to him. Armor was useless to someone like him who had the Blood armor, and mental defensive artifacts were in general quite useless for Saint realm cultivators as they could easily destroy it.

The materials to make actual mental defensive artifacts that stopped a Saint's attack were near impossible to find after all.

Alex looked at the other artifacts too and bought a few just because he had the money too. Even if he didn't use it, he could give it to his mother, aunt, or his father when he got back to them all.

After leaving the artifact store, Alex went to a restaurant of some fame in the city to try out their delicacy. He sat down on an empty seat and looked at the menu.

"Oh, most of the special ones involve rare flowers only grown around this city," Alex said as he read what was written. "And they say they are good for your health. That one is good for the liver, and this one for the heart."

He went through his knowledge base to see if the claims made in the menu were actually things that the flowers could do for real. "Eh, close enough I guess," he thought. The restaurant was exaggerating, but they weren't wrong in what the flowers and fruits did.

Alex didn't care about it though. He was here just for the taste anyway.

He quickly ordered his food and waited around for it to come. The waiter returned immediately with some appetizers, but the main course would take some time.

"Come, let's eat," Alex said. Whisker came out of his robe and went by the plate to start eating.

The appetizers were a bunch of Graddus fruits that were cut up and boiled in a broth made up of Star Ember flower petals along with Crystal Ginseng.

Every bite he took of the fruit not only had the enhanced taste of the fruit, but also the smell of the flower alongside it.

"Wow, this tastes so good," Alex said out loud. Whisker nodded in agreement and continued eating. Alex went for another bite, but just then he heard a scream.

"AAAH!"

He quickly turned around to see a bunch of girls that were screaming while pointing at him. "There's a rat in this restaurant. Eww!"

The other customers also pointed it out and started saying things. The staff had heard the scream as well and were already on their way to Alex's desk.

Alex looked dumbly at what was happening.

"We apologize for letting a rat into this establishment sir. Please forgive us," the staff said and started prepping some sort of attack to capture Whisker.

"Wait! Wait!" Alex quickly stopped the man. "This is my pet beast. He's eating with me."

The staff paused. "A pet beast? A rat?" he asked. He was a little confused. He could not understand why anyone would make a rat their pet.

"Yes, this is my pet beast," Alex repeated. "You don't have to apologize. You didn't make a mistake. He's just here because I want him to eat with me."

"Uhh..." the staff was a little confused as to what to say. There was something wrong here, but he didn't know how to approach it.

"Uh, dear customer," an older man came up to them. "If this is your pet beast, then would you mind putting it away? It is making the other customers feel disgusted to eat with it out."

Alex looked at them with a rather offended look. "I would not," he said. "This is my pet beast and he's like a brother to me. Please don't call my brother disgusting."

The old man frowned. "Customer, please consider the situation. The other customers will lose their stomachs if they see a rat in the restaurant. Please consider putting it away," the old man asked.

Alex frowned as well. He was slightly angry at how the old man was addressing Whisker, but at the same time, the old man was being as polite as he could, making it impossible for Alex to start saying anything rude in return.

He sighed in the end. "Come Whisker, you can stay in my robes," he said. Whisker ran up to Alex and got into his robes where Alex handed him a small piece of the fruit.

Whisker ate the fruit while Alex looked at the old man. "That's fine, right? He's not in view so that it won't be problematic," he asked.

The old man had only nodded when the other customers started speaking again.

"Oh my god, he's still feeding the rat."

"So disgusting."

"Why are the restaurant owners not just throwing them out."

"God, I can't understand how some people function."

The old man's face turned awkward again. Somehow, the other customers weren't satisfied with the rat being out of sight. However, since Alex had already done what he had asked, it felt awkward to ask him to take it even further.

Still, the will of the majority took precedence for him, so he had to speak again.

"Would it be possible for you to put your beast back in its—"

"HE!" Alex said. "Not it, he. He is my brother, and I will not have you call him as anything else. I already put him in my robes, but since the others are still complaining, screw them."

Alex brought out Whisker again and placed him on the table. "Eat freely," he said.

Whisker nodded and started eating. At the same time, the restaurant was starting to get noisy. The customers were speaking all sorts of things, all negative, and all driven towards Alex and the restaurant.

The old man didn't know what to do anymore. The only thing he could do now asked Alex to leave in hopes of calming the crowd.

However, before he could do so, Alex spoke. "So noisy." He put on a disgusted face. "Whisker, tell them to shut up."

The old man was suddenly confused and looked towards the rat. Whisker was confused as well and looked at Alex.

"I can't speak," he replied using his spiritual sense.

"You are speaking right now," Alex told him.

Whisker paused for a moment and finally understood what Alex was saying.

Suddenly, a wave of spiritual sense spread out from Whisker, reaching all the different corners of the room and reaching into everyone's mind.

"My brother says you are all noisy. Shut up!"

No sound was made out loud, but the words reverberated in their mind, stunning everyone into silence.

The only ones that would come to eat in a restaurant like this were usually mortals or weak cultivators who still needed sustenance. It was rare that a high-ranking cultivator came to a place like this.

However, today one had, and the people had heard words spoken directly into their minds.

"S-Saint realm!" one of the wiser cultivators said as they immediately recognized Spiritual sense.

"Saint realm?"

"No way!"

"That rat?"

The people didn't believe it, but when they remembered the words being spoken directly into their heads, they had little doubts.

Realizing that what they were doing was actually courting their own death, they quietly turned back and quickly finished their meal before leaving the restaurant.

Alex on the other hand took all the time in the world, enjoying the various appetizers, main dish, and dessert along with Whisker.

Once he was done an hour or so later, he finally left the restaurant.

The restaurant owners insisted on not being paid, but in the end, Alex still handed them their money.

After that, he left to visit more of the city, arriving by the Floral Lake at the end of the day.

Chapter 1047: Artificial Scarcity

The surface of the Floral lake was filled with flowers and flower petals. Some of the flowers were aquatic plants that had grown in the lake, but most of the flower and petal was actually something the wind had blown here.

Hidden beyond the flower and petals was muddy yellow water, that was certainly polluted by the various waves of pollen that flew out from the platform at the center, the Forbidden Orchard.

There were warnings around the side of the lake telling people to not enter the lake or drink its water as it was filled with poisonous pollens which couldn't be separated from regular pollen, so Alex stood away as he watched it.

He had spent such a long time going around the city before coming here that he was just in time to see the sunset over the lake.

When he watched the colors of the setting sun and the purple sky, he couldn't help but think about Scarlet.

He wondered how she was doing. He could sense her somewhere towards the northeast, but it was a vague feeling at best.

Sometimes, he wondered if he should just break their bond and be done with it. However, it just felt wrong to break a bond with the descendant of the Vermilion bird. There was always a chance she could come back anyway.

Alex returned back to the association after sunset and started cultivating once more. Whisker left to practice Alchemy again and so the night passed.

The next day was also free, and Alex used this day to improve his body. His blood beast beat him up all day in the room and by the end of the day, he healed back and gained some minor improvement to his body.

Then, the work week started again, and it was time for Alex to make pills for the next 5 days.

Alex was ready for it.

The week went by in a flash. There were still many pills for him to make that were on the list, so he continued making them at work.

When he was off, he would improve his own cultivation base or his body cultivation.

After that, another week began.

Alex continued this day after day, week after week for 3 months as he amassed millions of spirit stones.

However, around the end of the 3 months, he started noticing a problem with what he was doing.

By now, he had 9 different pills in his repertoire that he could reach above 90% with, so the customers knew they could trust him with almost any pill.

However, not all of his clients were rich enough to afford things that only cost above 50 thousand spirit stones each time.

If they bought a consumable item of that price so frequently, they would go broke very soon. As for the rest of the customers, they didn't even bother looking for Alex as he was too expensive for them.

As a result, after the hype of 90% harmony pills died down, Alex stopped getting many pill requests altogether, and he would be lucky if he had a single day where those were the only orders.

Now, there was a time in his schedule when he had nothing to do at all, and for some reason that sucked very much.

It was only the third day of the week, but he had no more pills to make for some reason. There were other alchemists that had tons of pills being requested of them each time, but he was the only one with not a single request.

And as it turned out, the others had noticed as well.

The association leader came around to voice his concerns. He was less worried about Alex not doing anything and more so that he would leave if he didn't find anything to do.

"What do you think we should do? What do you find easy?" the leader asked.

Alex thought for a moment. "Uh... I suppose the only way is to stop making such high-grade pills, right?" he asked.

"Yes, but... that feels wrong," the leader said.

"And I can't just take the request for low-grade pills and make it as well as I can either," Alex said. "The people will start requesting only me to make the pills."

"Yeah, that's true as well," the leader said. "The main problem here is that you have become very costly to employ. What do we do? Maybe lower the price a bit"

Alex thought for a bit. "No, that serves the same purpose as making low-grade pills. They will pay less for more and they will all expect me to make their pills." He thought for a bit longer and asked, "how about limiting the amounts I can make in a week?"

The leader thought for a moment. "Will that work?" he asked. "You are already getting so much lesser than you did just a few months ago. Limiting the weekly amount shouldn't do anything."

"Then... if we can't limit the amount, we should limit the time," Alex said.

"Oh... what do you suggest?" the leader asked curiously.

"What if... I can only make pills for one week every month or two. Maybe even every 3 months. And there will be a number of pills that will limit how much they can get," Alex said. "By creating an artificial scarcity, the people should come back to buy my pills since they won't have any other opportunity to buy them."

The leader nodded as he thought. "I can't confirm whether you are allowed to do this right now. It's too major of a decision for me to make alone. Let me get back to you by tomorrow after I'm done discussing with the committee members," the leader said.

"Sure, senior," Alex said.

"Alright, see you later." The leader turned around to leave. But Alex stopped him.

"Senior! There was something I wanted to ask," Alex said.

"Hmm? What is it?" the leader asked.

"About my father... has there been any information?" he asked.

"Oh... that," the leader said with a disappointed look and shook his head. "Nothing as of now. The people are still searching for various people that either go by the name Graham or have a son named

Alex, but they haven't been able to find anything. They will still keep searching, but it might take much longer or at worse..."

"It's fine, please keep on searching," Alex said. "Whatever knowledge you can find will be plenty," Alex said.

He was left alone after that to do whatever he wanted while the leader went to have the meeting with the committee members.

After a bit of talk, the committee came to the conclusion that it was in fact in their best interest to limit the opportunity to get pills from Alex as his value would be lost.

After every 3 months, there would be a single week where Alex would make exactly 50 different pills, and everyone would have an opportunity to employ him.

After confirming this information, the leader went over to Alex and informed him of this. After learning that, Alex didn't have anything to do for 3 more months.

So, he decided to take a small vacation and go make some more pills for himself.

Chapter 1048: More Pills

Alex arrived at the edge of the continent and flew away to find a place where no one would see him. He was flying towards one of the islands that were adjacent to the Wasteland that still had Qi in it.

His purpose in come here was just one thing. He wanted to make pills.

He could've made normal pills back in the Alchemy association, but he wanted to make pills with Pill veins. For that, he would have to cause pill clouds to form every single time, which would lead the association as well as most of the Southern Continent to figure out the fact that he could do that.

If it were any other time in the past, Alex would've wondered in his current situation if there was a way to use that to make his name spread faster throughout the Southern Continent in hopes of finding his father.

However, that was not what the current him thought. He had learned his lesson from the madman that kept him imprisoned for nearly 10 years, so he wouldn't show off the pill veins if he could help it.

Who knew what sort of monsters lurked in the shadows of the Southern Continent that would catch him and force him to make pills for them?

They didn't even have to be False Immortals. Even Saint Soul realm cultivators could force him to work for them, and he did not wish to do that.

Besides, making 90% and above pills was enough to send his name reverberating throughout the Southern Continent. Most would likely not even know what Pill veins actually did to appreciate it.

He could imagine a scene where a customer would refuse to pay for a pill because it did not have any Harmony when checked by the pill tester.

Alex made a small area where he could sit and cultivate for the next 3 months while also making pills all the time.

He had bought many ingredients with his fortune for the last 3 months and had used his technique to improve those ingredients to their best. Now, all that was left was for him to make the pills.

Alex brought out Whisker. At the same time, he brought out his Blood Beasts so they could help him gather some more blood in the time it took for him to make the pills.

"Can you go with them and make them gather some blood for me? I will have to focus on the pill so you can do the job," Alex told Whisker.

Whisker didn't like fighting himself, but he was okay with making others fight. He accepted the request and went along with the nearly 100 Blood beasts that Alex had been able to gather for the past year and more.

Most of the Blood beasts, even the ones that were weaker had become stronger in the meantime after Alex gave them his blood to absorb. They hadn't become as strong as the newer ones, but they were getting there.

Alex imagined he could help them reach there after half a year or so of providing blood to them. That was without counting the days when he would gather blood to make a new blood beast.

Alex watched Whisker and the Blood Beasts leave and smiled. He wasn't really worried about the blood beasts getting into trouble with how strong they were at the moment.

Even if they did get into trouble and Whisker was targeted, there was no reason to worry about him as he would revive easily.

As for the Blood Beasts, it would suck to lose them, but Alex could always make more.

Once they were gone to the sea, Alex started cultivating. He spent a few hours reaching his peak condition, and once he was satisfied with his state, he brought out the Sun's Womb to start making pills again.

There were various pills he had to make this time around, including healing pills, antidote pills, and Qi-restoring pills, but the majority of the ingredients were still for pills that would help him cultivate faster.

Alex began by heating up the cauldron and started tossing in ingredients two at a time. He was so used to making this pill now that he could do it without using his spiritual sense and still end up with a Heaven-grade pill.

The rest of the ingredients went in one by one and once he was done, he employed his Pill Splitting technique.

The small pile of powder split into two and started forming spheres that absorbed the energy. As all the energy was gathered, the sky started to get dark all of a sudden, and sounds of thunder could be heard.

Alex smiled when he realized that it was a double thunder, which meant that both his pills had reached 100%.

He used his Qi to protect the pills for the first 3 rounds of lightning strikes. As a Saint foundation realm cultivator, his Qi was as strong as a Saint Core realm cultivator, allowing him the ability to stop up to 4 rounds of lightning strikes.

However, since it was double lightning, he did not trust himself to be able to stop them. So, after the 3rd round, he switched to his blood aura.

By now, his Blood aura was way past the 5th realm of Saint Core in terms of strength, so it could block even the 5th round of lightning strikes. However, he had to be very careful since there were 2 different strikes that happened concurrently.

Once the 5 rounds of double lightning strikes were done, Alex quickly pulled his pills out and quelled the pill cloud above his head.

He looked at the two 5-veined pills and smiled. This was only the first pill he had made and he had already reached the ability to make 5-veined pills.

"Great," he thought and put the pills aside as he continued making more of them.

He could only make 10 such pills before he had to stop. Making pills with pill veins, especially ones with 5 of them took quite a lot out of him mentally.

The mental fatigue that came with making these pills was not something that he could just ignore. He had to stop and cultivate for a while before starting again.

Alex decided to make use of the pill immediately and ate it. Instantly, his cultivation speed improved by a few dozen, going as far as to be 50 times more effective than last time.

Meaning this time around, it was far better and helped him a lot more in cultivating more. Alex was done around 2 and a half days later when the effect of the pills slowly dwindled to nothing, and the fatigue in his meridians became apparent.

They had worked overtime, so he needed to stop putting too much load on them.

Alex went back to making pills again as they didn't require much in terms of Qi. He continued for half a day before stopping when his mental fatigue reached its highest.

With neither pill to make nor time to cultivate his Qi, he began cultivating his Undying Physique as well as his Demon eyes.

Once he was done and his mental fatigue had disappeared, he started making pills once again.

Alex's time was spent almost all in the same place. The only time he didn't have to cultivate or make pills was when Whisker would return with cauldrons full of carcasses and blood.

His only time away from cultivating or alchemy was when he absorbed that blood. He kept the beast cores and even ate one. Then, he went back to making more pills.

The nearly 250 sets of ingredients he had brought along this time around were used up by the time it was halfway through the third month.

He had made the pills sparingly, spent a bunch of the time cultivating, and still ended up finishing them early.

Of the 250 sets, he ended up making about 180 of them into 5-veined pills. Not all of his sessions had double lightning, but the majority did, which he was happy about.

Once Alex was done, he focused mostly on cultivating. Then, a week or so later, he called back Whisker and the rest of his beasts.

Whisker returned with a bunch more blood and carcass. Alex accepted it gratefully and was about to use it again when he noticed something.

"Hmm?" he narrowed his eyes as he looked at the various blood beasts that were around him. There were a few blood beasts that had died in the 3 months he had spent making pills, but that was not what he was staring at currently.

It was barely noticeable on the newer blood beasts, but he could sense it on the weaker ones for sure.

For some reason, the blood beasts had gotten stronger. The stronger ones weren't that much stronger, but the weaker ones were stronger by a realm or two.

"What happened? Why are they stronger?" Alex asked Whisker. Whisker didn't know what to say, so Alex asked him to tell him everything that happened.

"Wait... they drank the dead beasts' blood almost every time after they killed one? Do they get stronger by absorbing the blood of something other than me?" Alex asked curiously.

He picked one of the weaker beasts to test out this theory and made it drink the blood that was gathered for him.

As it drank, Alex could sense the blood aura in the beast getting stronger by the second. By the time it had drank all the blood, the beast had definitely grown stronger.

Chapter 1049: A Week of Pills

Alex returned back to the city of Many Flowers a couple of days later just in time for his quad-annual pill-making week.

Since he had planned for this before he left, he was here in time for it.

Alex handed over the various pills list and what they did to the association so that they could start a marketing campaign for him where the people would know exactly what pills they were getting.

The people had been starving for his pills, so when they realized he was back, they hopped onto the opportunity to get some pills.

However, they realized that something weird was happening this time around as the association announced that they wouldn't be buying pills this time around.

The confusion only lifted after the association revealed that there were only 100 different pills that could be made, and thus 100 different spots would be auctioned off, which was the only way to get your pills.

As long as you bought the slot, you didn't have to worry about buying ingredients or paying for the pill itself. Of course, the slot itself was going to sell for quite a lot.

Alex spent his days in leisure while the association did all the work for him. Instead, he cultivated using the new pills he had made as he waited for everything to be finalized.

A week later, the auctions were done and all 100 slots were sold at a rather high price. The owners of those slots noted what pills they wanted to be made, so Alex got ready to make them for them.

Alex didn't work like an employee of the association, where he would go to the alchemy building and make pills.

Instead, he was handed over the ingredients directly and he would make pills in his own room in a relaxed state. He was given exactly a week to make all pills, which was easily possible for Alex.

Since there were obviously duplicate pills to make, he could reach above 90%, going as close as 98% with his Pill Splitting technique.

In a single day, he could do somewhere between 20 and 30 pills with half a day to spare to recharge, which meant he could make all the pills in just 4 days.

Of course, the latter pills were more singular, so he had to make one at a time, using up the rest of the days of the week.

When he was done, he handed the pills to the association. The association would need a few days to finalize the sales, and after it was done, Alex would get his share of the earnings.

3 days later, Alex was called to the main building of the Association where the Leader's office as well as the various committee members stayed during their time there.

He arrived in a room with all 10 of them and greeted them before sitting on an empty chair.

"Fantastic work, young brother. We have had nothing but praise from the customers for the pills that you made," one of the committee members said.

"Thank you," Alex said with a small smile.

"Here's your share of the profit," the leader said and handed him a storage bag. Alex opened the storage bag and was a little surprised to see how much he had made.

"That's... 2.3 Million spirit stones? It's quite a lot more than I was expecting it to be," Alex said.
"Especially since there was so much spending on our end."

"Yes, there was a lot of spending done during the marketing, the auction, and even when we had to use our own ingredients, but even then we earned enough that you get to leave with that," the leader said.
"The quad-annual event was a success, and we will have to do it once again in 3 months. I hope you're not too drained because of it."

"Oh, no no," Alex said while shaking his head. "I can make pills for years on end and not feel drained, as long as I can switch up what pills I make."

"Good, we will look forward to the next event in 3 months. For now, we have 2 things to discuss with you, I hope you won't mind," the leader said.

"Sure, I have nothing else to do anyway, so we can talk as long as we want," Alex said.

"So, the first order of topic is simple," the leader said. "We have a position in the committee opening up soon. Brother Ku over here will be retiring in a few months, so while we were going through candidates that would be good for the committee, your name was brought up quite a few times. So, what do you say?"

Alex was surprised that he was being offered something so big. "That's... quite a proposition you have dropped on me," he said as he considered the offer.

"Take your time, you can let us know your answer in a day or two if you would like to think it through," one of the committee members said. "Being a member of the committee comes with a certain level of influence and benefits that you would not want to miss at all."

"Yes, take your time," the leader said. "Let me speak of the next topic—"

"I'm sorry, but I will have to reject your offer," Alex said suddenly.

"Sorry? You don't want to join the committee?" the leader asked.

"No," Alex said. "I'm comfortable with where I am at in the association and don't want to go any further. Plus, I am someone that might leave at any time after I find the person I'm looking for, so it feels wrong to join a committee as well. That's why I must reject."

"You can take your time and think young man," one of the committee members said.

"No, I have thought of it, and I don't think I will be joining. Thank you for the opportunity, but I'm sure there are better prospects out there for this position," Alex said.

"If you say so," the leader said with a slightly disappointed face. "We won't make any decision for the next week or two, so if you do change your mind you can let me know. For now, let's move on to the second thing I wanted to discuss about."

The leader brought out a talisman and showed it to the people in the group there. "I had a message delivered to me by the Flowerhall sect today. Apparently, senior Qiu Jianhong has expressed his wish to employ alchemist Alex to make some pills for him and his colleagues," the leader said.

Alex's eyes narrowed a bit. "Qiu Jianhong... where do I know that name from?" he asked as he tried to go through his memory.

"That's the ancestor of the Flowerhall sect who is in the council of 10 in the Sunborn Sanctuary," one of them told him.

"OH! Right. I remember now," Alex said. "That senior is requesting for me to make some pills for him?"

"Yes," the leader. "Apparently, they tried to request you a few months ago, but you were unavailable at the time. And after you came, they missed the opportunity to buy the slots during the event. So they now request that you make some pills for them outside of the event."

"That sounds fair," Alex said. "Besides, they are too influential to just reject right? We should accept their request. Please message them to ask what pills they want and I can make it for them."

"Um, actually... they don't want you to make the pills here," the leader said. "They in fact want you to go to them where they can interact with you and have you make the pills for them as they need it."

Alex frowned a little when he heard that. "Um... I don't want to sound disrespectful, but is there a chance here that they are trying to force me to make pills for them forever? I have had it happen to me before, and I do not trust people as much after that," he said.

"Ah, the thing with the Huang family? No, that's not possible. These are the 10 of the strongest cultivators in all of the Southern continent and they are who keep this world at peace after the Phoenix went to sleep," the leader said. "Besides, they are a council, so they technically have rivals and oppositions in there who will definitely help you if you ever are trapped by someone else."

"I see," Alex said. He didn't feel much better, but his suspicion dropped a little.

"Besides, I don't think this is an opportunity you can just let go. Not everyone gets to go to the Sunborn Sanctuary like you are," the leader.

"Wait... the Sunborn Sanctuary?" Alex asked with a surprised look. "I thought it was a place you were not allowed to go."

"You can if you are invited by the council. After all, they make all the law."

"I see, I would love to go there if I have the chance," Alex said.

"Then, should I accept their offer?" the leader asked.

"Yes, please accept it," Alex said. "I will look forward to the day I get to go there."

"Great, I will let the Flowerhall sect know of our intentions and they will contact their ancestor to give them our answer. You should expect to leave within the week."

The leader kept away the talisman. "That should conclude our meeting today. You may return back to your task."

"Then I will take my leave." Alex stood up and left the room, slightly excited at the fact that he would be by the Phoenix's domain in just a couple of days.

Chapter 1050: Qiu Jianhong

Alex was told that Qiu Jianhong, the ancestor of the Flowerhall sanctuary would come to get him personally.

All but a few teleportation formations in the Sunborn Sanctuary were still working and the ones that did work didn't lead to the city of Many Flowers.

Also, going into the Sunborn Sanctuary itself required a special type of access that the council members could only grant, so the ancestor had to come on his own.

A few days later, Alex stood in the lounge area of the Flowerhall sect where he waited for the ancestor to arrive.

The Flowerhall sect was right next to the Floral lake, so he could see the flowery water all day long if he just stayed there.

He looked at the Stone platform at the center of the lake and couldn't help but wonder about it.

"Do you know when that place might open up, senior?" Alex asked the woman that was sitting opposite him.

"The Forbidden Orchard? By our estimation, it will be another year at the very least, and a year and a half at the most," the woman said. She was named Qiu Hanyu and was the current sect master of the Flowerhall sect.

She was also the great-niece of the ancestor that was coming today, making her a blood relative of someone in the Council of 10.

"Do you wish to enter the Orchard?" the sect master asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I've been curious about what's inside for a while now seeing as how much pollen gets spewed out every now and then."

"I'm certain you will be surprised when you do enter, but I hope you don't expect anything too great. In the end, what you will find are all plants after all," the sect master said.

"I understand," Alex replied.

The two of them talked for a while before Alex sensed the arrival of a strong cultivation base. He turned around to see a bald man with a face full of beards wearing a yellow robe walk towards them.

"Granduncle, welcome back," the sect master stood up and greeted.

"Haha, little Hanyu, how are you doing? I hope you're doing well," the old man spoke with a loud voice and a face full of smiles.

"I'm doing quite well, granduncle," she said. "You must be tired from the journey."

"What tired, I just took a small ride. That's nothing for me," he said and turned towards Alex. "Who might this young man be? So young and already a Saint Foundation realm cultivator."

"This young man is the one you are looking for. He is Alex, the Alchemist that you came here for," the sect master said.

"What? No way!" the old man showed a little surprised look. "But you're so young."

"Thank you for the compliment, senior," Alex cupped his fists and bowed a little. "It's a pleasure to meet you."

"No, seriously, how old are you? You are quite young," the elder said.

"I am 46 years old," Alex said truthfully.

"Seriously? Only 46?" the old man asked. "Little Hanyu, are you sure he is the Alchemist that I requested? Isn't he a little too young?"

The sect master chuckled a bit. "It is in fact surprising to learn of alchemist Alex's age and youth, but that does not take away from his ability as an Alchemist. He is after all the best alchemist in the continent right now, maybe even one of the best in the entire world."

"Seriously, it's so hard to imagine," the man said. "I'm sorry if I'm being disrespectful in any way, it's just truly unimaginable that someone who hasn't even reached the age of 50 has gained so much achievement in Alchemy."

"I do not find any disrespect in your words, senior," Alex said. "In fact, I take them as nothing but a compliment."

"Haha, I quite like you," the man said. "So, are you ready to leave?"

"Yes. I can leave anytime you want to leave," Alex said.

"Great! Let's go," the old man said and turned to leave.

"Eh?, Granduncle, you won't be staying for a bit?" the sect master asked.

"I'm afraid I can't," the man said. "The others have been very excited about the prospect of having high-level pills being made for them. If I waste any more seconds here, they will skin me alive. So I will be leaving right now."

"Alright, please do come around from time to time," the woman said.

"Okay, okay," the man said. "Come on, little brother. Let's go."

He walked away and Alex quickly followed behind him. They reached an open area where there was a ship that had landed in a field of flowers.

"Do you like using a boat or do you prefer flying on your own?" the man asked.

"I'm fine with either," Alex said.

"Good, because I would have told you that you weren't allowed to fly on your own," the man said and jumped onto his boat.

Alex got onto it as well and asked, "I'm not allowed to fly on my own? Is there a flying restriction along the way where we are going?"

"No," the man said. "It's just that the mountain range that surrounds the Sunborn Sanctuary is filled with beasts that are very strong and will most likely hurt you if they see you flying through it."

Alex was a little surprised. "And it will be fine if we are on a boat?" he asked.

"Not really, but I will be by your side, and I'm stronger than any beast there so you will be fine," the man said.

'Then can't I jump fly too?' Alex thought but didn't voice his opinion.

The boat flew off and away from the city of Many flowers, going further and further away from the colorful place and into ones that were more of so just green.

The city of Many Flowers was at the very bottom left edge of the map while the Sunborn Sanctuary was towards the middle of the continent. So, even when they were flying on a Saint-ranked ship, it was still going to take them over 5 hours just to reach there.

"Is there a reason why we are not using the Teleportation formation, senior?" Alex asked. "I heard that a person from the Council of 10 could take me in through the formation."

"Hmm? Oh, no. That's a small bit of misinformation that has spread around that we don't bother correcting," the man said. "The teleportation formations only accept people whose Qi has been recorded inside the Sanctuary, so if we were to teleport, I would be accepted, but you would be rejected."

"The main problem here is that I cannot add your Qi into the record without taking you there myself first. Once I've done that, you should be able to teleport in and out into the few sect teleportation formations around the continent."

"I see," Alex nodded as he heard that. It made sense somewhat.

"Tell me about yourself. I want to learn how a young man like you can become such a talent in Alchemy," the man asked.

Alex nodded and explained as plainly as he could while hiding the most important information.

"Right, I forgot you players, or whatever you're called are very talented," the man said. "Still, you have had quite a journey. To think that you came from another continent. Which continent did you come from exactly?"

Alex was about to lie as usual and say the Northern Continent, but he paused. The man in front of him looked pretty frank and cheerful, so he wondered if he could ask something that he had been wanting to know about for a long time. A question he regretted not asking directly in the Northern Continent.

"From the Western continent," he said. "I came across a teleportation formation that sent me to the Wasteland."

"Western Continent? It's doing so well that it can raise someone like you?" the man asked with a surprised look on his face.

"It's... doing fine. I was luckier of the bunch as to where I got to cultivate," Alex said. "Senior, there is something I learned a long time ago, that I have been wondering about. I hope you will clarify this for me."

"Sure, what is it?" the man asked.

"It's regarding the invasion of the Western Continent," Alex said. "You were a part of it, right?"

The man's face grew a little serious. "You know about that?" he asked.

"I do," Alex said. "Would you mind telling me why you did that?"

The man hesitated for a bit and sighed. "We didn't have much of a choice at the time. Or maybe we did, but we chose to take the easy way out."

"What happened that you didn't have any choice?" Alex asked.

"This knowledge goes back to something that I have taken an oath to not talk about, so I am unable to clarify everything, but around 4000? No, 5000 years ago, we were in desperate need of spirit veins, so when the Eastern Continent approached us with the proposition to invade the Western Continent, we jumped on it," he said.

"The Eastern continent proposed it first?" Alex asked.

"Yes, and we accepted the proposition along with the Northern continent saying we are doing it for the good of the world, but mostly it was to use the opportunity to take away the Spirit veins," the man said.

"Why did you need so many spirit veins?" Alex asked.

"Do you know about the barrier that stops the Wasteland from the mainland?" the man asked.

"Yes, I've been there," Alex said.

"We needed spirit veins to run exactly that barrier," the man said. "We desperately needed it back then and we chose to take it from another continent than use the ones in our own."