

## Alchemy 1051

### Chapter 1051: The Barrier

"You took part in it personally?" Alex asked with a serious face.

"All 10 of us did, along with many others," Qiu Jianhong said. "We're not proud of it, but yeah, we did what we thought we needed to do."

"You thought you needed to kill people from another continent?" Alex asked. He remembered about Puma and the others talking about how they had lost their parents to the attack by the rest of the continent.

"We only killed to protect ourselves," the man said. "Yes, we were there to steal things and were in the wrong. We understood this, so there was one thing we made sure to do, and that is to never kill another person unless it was in self-defense. Even then, we would hurt them at most and let them live."

"Many still died, both from that side and our own," the man said with a saddened tone in his voice.

Alex stayed silent. There was just not enough information about what had happened 5 thousand years ago in the Luminance empire as the royal family had changed just a thousand or so years ago. Most of the records from the past were either destroyed or were not accessible to Alex.

All he learned, he had learned from the beasts and they told him the tales of people dying left and right. However, since there were 3 different continents involved in this matter, there was a chance that it was the other two that were so aggressive.

Also, he couldn't just refute the man given his status, so Alex chose to stay quiet regarding that.

"The barrier in the north, you set that up from the spirit veins you robbed from the Western Continent?" he asked.

"Yes, all of it," the man said. "That was what we went there for anyway."

"All so you could stop a few body cultivators from coming to this side?" Alex asked.

"No, of course not. Stopping the people was not our intention, it was just the result. What we really intended was for them to stop trying to spread the Phoenix flames," the man said.

"Could you not stop something that simple? They were just weak body cultivators after all," Alex said.

"The flame is dangerous. If it ever gets out of control it can destroy everything. If we allowed them in, those people who learned the strength of Phoenix flames were certain to do something like that by accident. In the end, we chose to just exclude them altogether," the man said.

"Is it really that dangerous?" Alex asked. "Can't you just extinguish the Flame? Surely you have someone with Fire dao right?"

"Fire dao doesn't work on Phoenix flames. The only thing you can do is control its intensity by a certain degree. In the end, it will still continue to burn. The only way to stop Phoenix flames is by having the Phoenix itself extinguish it, but ever since... oh, that's tricky," the man said as he placed his palm on the chest.

Beads of sweat formed on his face as he breathed in and out rather quickly. "Nearly broke my oath."

'Ever since... the phoenix went to seclusion? He's talking about after the battle right?' Alex thought. He wanted to think about it more but there was something else that he had learned about that he couldn't make sense of either.

'Fire Dao doesn't work on Phoenix flames?' he thought. That was most definitely not true. He had used it multiple times in different places. It most certainly worked.

'Is it because I have a True Fire dao?' he wondered. 'Or is it my connection to Scarlet?'

Even if it was either of those things, then he was certainly one of the very few people in the world, maybe even the only one who could control Phoenix fire and extinguish it all by himself.

"Do you have any more questions?" the man asked.

"No, senior. Thank you for answering everything," Alex said.

"I don't know how much you care about us repaying the Western continent, but if we ever get an opportunity, we would do it. Especially if there comes a day when we no longer have to have the barrier in the north keep on going," the man said.

Alex's eyes perked up. 'I can make that happen right now,' he thought to himself. However, he didn't know what sort of trouble that could cause him.

What if they decide to get rid of him because he had the power to control phoenix flames? Or they realize that he had bonded with a phoenix which was considered taboo for some reason.

So, he kept quiet for now and nodded to the man, while looking around at the passing scenery.

The mainland of the Southern continent was far greener than what the wasteland, making one think they weren't even part of the same continent.

After a few hours of travel by air, Alex saw large mountains in the distance and realized that they were the mountains that surrounded the Sunborn Sanctuary.

A few spiritual senses passed through him from beasts that were obviously stronger than him, but not by much.

None of the senses felt like they belonged to a Saint Soul realm beast, and Alex was pretty confident he could survive the attack of anything below that just by the virtue of his teleportation dao and his blood aura.

He may need to sacrifice a few of his beasts in order to secure his escape, but that was not a problem for him.

The beasts did not approach them as the old man next to him made apparent his cultivation base as they flew.

Alex himself was surprised when he sensed it. 'That's... high in the Saint soul realm,' he thought. 'Maybe even Saint Transformation realm.'

They weren't lying when they said that the people in the council of 10 were the strongest in the entire continent.

He kept quiet for a while and looked at the passing mountains. From time to time, he would see flying birds that got as high as their ship, but they still never approached them.

"Look, can you see it?" the man next to him suddenly said.

Alex looked to where he was pointing and saw a barrier far away in vibrant blue color, which was certainly appearing that way only to his eyes. "Are we there?" he asked.

"Yes, right past that barrier," the man said.

Alex kept watching as the barrier got closer and closer. "Didn't you say that people without any registered aura couldn't enter?" he asked. "You are sure this won't just knock me back right?"

"Huh? Oh no, there is no barrier that stops anyone from entering normally. It's only for teleportation that there is a restriction. What this barrier will do is let us know whenever someone enters the city," the man said.

Alex felt the cool barrier go past him and a few seconds later a bunch of spiritual senses flew out toward him. Truly, if someone were to try and sneak into the sanctuary, someone would notice them immediately.

Alex then looked in front of him and was surprised at just how massive the city was, far beyond what he could have ever imagined at all.

"Welcome to the most important place in the entire continent, the Sunborn Sanctuary."

Chapter 1052: Sunborn Sanctuary

In front of Alex was a sprawling city, carved onto the side of the mountains itself, that cascaded down to the flatter lands. The city was full of houses and trees intermixed with more people than Alex could ever imagine.

As far as Alex could see, there were houses and open lands and rivers all around him. It was enough to say that the Sunborn Sanctuary by itself was about the size of a normal country.

With nearly a hundred kilometers in radius, the city was certainly not a small piece

Alex's eyes moved towards the mountain where the city seemed to end. There were 7 mountains in total that were like that and they all formed a rough circle where a massive piece of the metal dome was installed.

The dome was littered with runes and formations on it for various purposes, but for some reason, none of them seemed to be activated.

"That dome... is that where the Phoenix is currently?" Alex asked.

"That dome is the true Sanctuary as you seemed to have guessed, and yes that is where lord Phoenix is resting," the man said.

Just then, 9 different figures flew into the sky, 5 men and 4 women. Each one of them had a cultivation base that was definitely no longer in the Saint Soul realm.

'Damn,' Alex thought as he realized who was approaching.

The 9 figures stopped in front of them, all with a wide array of expressions on their faces. Some were surprised, some were confused, and some were just happy to see him arrive.

"You don't have to ask. Yes, he looks young, and yes, he is young. But he is definitely the alchemist," Qiu Jianhong said before anyone else could question Alex's legitimacy again.

"Of course, I knew that. I heard he was a young man, but I didn't expect him to be this young," one of the women said. "Hello little brother, I hope you are having a lovely day."

"My greetings to all seniors," Alex said as he cupped his hands and bowed slightly in front of everyone.

"Let me introduce you to everyone," Qiu Jianhong spoke as he pointed to the lady that just spoke.

"This is Ren Guanting, someone belonging to the Ren family of the Spiritsong city," he said. The woman wore a white robe with black floral patterns all over it. Her hair was fully black, and long that was tied at two parts in front of her.

"This is Gong Liuxian, an elder of the Cloud Fire sect." Gong Liuxian was a shorter man with two long mustaches that were black, contrasting the other white hair that was his beard and the remaining hair on his head. He wore light blue robes with white in many places.

"This is Huang Chen, an ancestor of the Huang family." Huang Chen looked like someone that was transitioning from being a middle-aged man to an elderly. He still had a head full of hair and wore purple robes.

"This is Hou Xinya, a previous sect leader of Dawn's Light sect." Hou Xinya was a tall and lean man, who surprisingly didn't look as old. He was one of the younger-looking people in the group. His clothes were yellow and orange with sun embroidery at various places.

"This is Kang Xuefeng, an ancestor of the Kang family in Sureheart city. If you ever need any ores for a cauldron or anything, this is the man you want to ask. His family owns the majority of the mountains in the Sunless lands and thus mines the most ores from there," Qiu Jianhong said.

"That's not really true," Kang Xuefeng said. "It's been ages since I had anything to do with the Kang family. I'm stuck here for so long that everyone that I ever knew is already dead."

The man's eyes were dull, so Alex believed that he truly was all alone. He wore green robes and was the only one with such color, so he stood out.

"Yes, yes," Qiu Jiangong said and pointed towards one of the other 3 remaining women in the group.

"This is Liang Shufen, from the Liang family, and that is Yao Ning, from the Yao family."

Liang Shufen wore pink robes with frills all around them, making her look exceptionally pretty in that dress. Her face looked quite cute too, despite the clear age visible in them.

Yao Ning on the other hand was an old woman, through and through. Her hair was all white, and her face fully of wrinkles to the point where it was hard to distinguish which folds her eyes went to. She wore simple brown robes and was surprisingly the one who seemed the strongest to Alex.

"This is a previous elder of the Rising Phoenix sect, Tan Yang." Tan Yang was a clean-shaven man from head to chin. He had no outer expression on his face and his body itself wasn't of any note either. He wore normal black and white robe and was the most irremarkable person in the whole group.

"And finally, from the Jade Fire sect, we have Lei Zhong."

"Good to see you," the woman spoke. She wore a cloth that was cyan in color and looked slightly old as well.

Alex looked at each of the members of the council of 10 and bowed towards them once again. "It is a pleasure to meet you all, seniors," he said.

"Let's go somewhere else to talk," Qiu Jianhong said and the rest of them nodded before flying downwards.

Alex looked around at the massive city as he flew down and noticed many people looking up at them. Surprisingly, they all bowed down toward the 10 people that he was flying with.

'So they are popular enough that the normal civilians know of them, huh?' he thought.

They landed in front of a giant building that seemed to be built by the best mason from all around the continent. Every single piece of stone that went into making the mansion in front of him was immaculate.

"What is this place?" Alex asked as he looked at the giant building. "It looks like a palace."

"That's because it is a palace," Yao Ning said. "It's the Palace of the Vermilion Bird."

"Huh? Didn't he live in the Sunborn Sanctuary?" Alex asked.

"No, this is just a fake palace where lord Phoenix greets guests or makes proclamations for the continent, or used to," she said. "Sunborn Sanctuary is their true home though."

"I see," Alex said. He had been to a place like this before. The Palace of the White Tiger was similar as well.

There was a massive palace, a mansion built for accepting guests and other various people, but the real family members of the White Tiger lived underground in the place that was the actual Palace.

They walked inside and Alex saw that the place was kept clean despite the fact that no one should stay in the place.

He saw servants and maids walking by who would stop to bow toward the 10. Alex got curious and asked the council members, "Are you making these people keep the castle clean for no reason, or do you accept guests and other people?" he asked. "Or are you just keeping it clean for the day when the Phoenix comes out of hibernation?"

Ren Guanting released a peal of laughter when she heard that, and the rest chuckled a little as well.



"None of what you said was accurate at all," Huang Chen said. "The truth is, we all stay in this palace, which is why they keep it clean."

"Oh," Alex said with a surprised face as he looked around. "I should've guessed that. But it is still surprising to hear you all live together."

"This is a giant palace. Us living together just means we share this palace which still gives us plenty of privacy," Lei Zhong said.

"I see," Alex said. He checked the architecture of the palace and tried to compare it with the palace of the white tiger, but it was too different to compare.

While the White Tiger had a motif of Gold and White, the Phoenix seemed to have a motif of Purple and Red.

In the case of the White Tiger, the White denoted their names and the Gold denoted their supreme Metal roots. By the same logic, in the case of the Vermilion bird, its name should denote Purple and its supreme roots should denote Red.

Fire for red made sense to Alex, but then... Vermilion wasn't purple at all. In fact, it was red too. Then what did the purple denote?

It could be the color of the Phoenix flames, but Phoenix flames had other colors such as orange, blue, and yellow too.

'Am I wrong in trying to find a reason for the colors?' Alex wondered. It was very well possible that one of the first Phoenix that came to this world loved the color Purple which was why there was the color.

He shook his head and stopped thinking about it.

They arrived in the palace hall where there were seats along either side of the hall, leading to the end with the massive seat of purple and red, on which sat a golden crown with various different jewels embedded in it.

"Did the Phoenix wear a crown?" Alex asked.

"When dealing with matters as the ruler of the continent, yes," one of the council members said.

"Sit on any of the other seats," Liang Shufen said. "We can't wait to talk about the pills we want you to make."

#### Chapter 1053: List of Pills

"Sure, let's talk about the pills then," Alex said. He could see the excitement on everyone's faces and didn't want to waste any time. "However, there is a small problem that won't let me help one of you."

"Huh? What do you mean?" Qiu Jianhong asked.

"It's regarding senior Huang," Alex said. "You're probably unaware since you've remained in here, but I've had a bit of a scuffle with the Huang family."

Huang Chen looked slightly perplexed. "What sort of a scuffle do you mean, little brother?" he asked.

"I come from a different continent, the Western continent, and when I first arrived on the mainland, I needed to sell pills for some money. The Huang family's head realized this and requested me to make a pill for him to improve his cultivation speed. I agreed, not knowing that he actually wanted me to sell him my recipes."

"He tried to imprison me after I told him I wasn't willing."

Huang Chen's eyes narrowed. "Who is the current head? How could he do something like that while being the head of the family?" he asked angrily.

"Actually, I never bothered learning his name. After all, I left the place after he tried to imprison me, and along with that, I took away the ingredients he was going to force me to make pills with," Alex said.

"Good thing you left," the man said. "Those bastards trying to tarnish the name my brother created."

"Actually, it doesn't end there," Alex said. "A year later, when I joined the Alchemy Association and made a name for myself with my pills, he came to the association and tried to defame me. It didn't go his way obviously, but in the process, I felt forced to speak an oath."

"Wh-what oath?" Huang Chen asked.

"I made an Oath that I would never make a pill for any Huang family member in the future," Alex said. "My apologies senior, but I was angry at the time and never expected you to request my pills as well. However, as Oaths go, I am going to have to follow it and thus cannot make any pills you request."

Huang Chen's happiness was snuffed out in seconds after hearing the words that left Alex's mouth.

"No way... but we've waited for so long just for your... this can't be happening," Huang Chen said.

"Young brother, you must have left yourself a way out, right? Surely you didn't make an oath without conditions," Yao Ning said.

"No, I was very angry at that time and I made the oath not realizing that I would have to be in such a situation," Alex said.

"No way," Liang Shufen said with her hand to her mouth. "Is there no way for brother Huang to get a pill?"

"Actually, there are two ways, although I'm not sure how effective they may be," Alex said. "I've never had this oath tested against me before, so I apologize if what I suggest may not work."

"What is it? What must I do?" Huang Chen asked.

"The first method is the worse one and the one that is most likely supposed to work," Alex said.

"Tell me, as long as it is physically possible, I will do it," Huang Chen said.

"You will have to renounce your connection to the Huang family, senior," Alex said. "As long as you are not part of the Huang family, I'm sure I won't face any restrictions from my oath."

"That..." Huang Chen paused. "I can't do that. That's my family, my identity. I can't give up on my name. That's the same as giving up on my ancestors."

"I know, senior," Alex said. "That's why I said it is the worse one."

"What's the other one then?" Huang Chen asked.

"I... I do not know much about oaths to know if they will work, but when I made the Oath against the Huang family, I promised never to make a pill for them knowingly. So, as long as I don't know... that will work right?" Alex asked.

Huang Chen's eyes went wide. "Wait, tell me the oath exactly, word for word," he asked.

"These were my words if I remember correctly," Alex said. "With heaven as my witness, I made this oath today. I will never again knowingly make a pill for anyone that is part of the Huang family."

"Hahaha! The heavens have favored me," Huang Chen shouted. "Thank you young brother for your generous oath."

"Will that help?" Alex asked.

"Yes, yes," Huang Chen said. "But I should probably not talk about that. I will keep myself out of the conversation for now."

The others realized what he had to do as well and continued the conversations on their own.

They started listing off a bunch of different types of pills they wanted to be made. They left the specific pill for Alex and only asked if he had any of those pills at all.

For ease, Alex handed them a talisman with all the pills he could make and what they did. The 10 could then ask for the pills they wanted from that list.

The group read the list with excited expressions as they knew they were getting pills with over 90% harmony. That was something they would've never expected to get in their entire life, so it was a momentous occasion certainly.

After a few minutes of reading through the list and trying to figure out what they wanted exactly, one of them turned towards Alex and asked, "Are these all the pills you can make?"

"I can make any pills that I have the recipe to, but these are the ones I can guarantee will be over 90% harmony," Alex said.

"No other hidden pills that you might be keeping to yourself? It's okay if you don't want to answer," another one said.

"No, I do have a few others, but they do the same thing as the others pill in the list and they do it worse, so I choose not to include them," Alex said. "Why? Did you want pills with effects that are not in there?"

"Actually, yes," Qiu Jianhong said. "There are indeed pills that we wish you can help us with."

"I will see what I can do," Alex said. "What sort of effects do you want? It will be easier if you have recipes to begin with."

"Oh, we do have for one of them," Ren Guanting said. "Brother Tan, you have the recipe, right?"

"Ah, yes. Here," Tan Yang quickly pulled out a recipe and handed it over to Alex. "Do you think you can make a good pill with this recipe? It doesn't have to reach 90% harmony, but it will certainly help if it can

reach at least 60% or better. We're getting old and having pill poisoning at this age is not really good for us."

Alex looked at the recipe for a pill with no name at all. It only listed the ingredients and the directions to make the pill.

He closed his eyes and started going through the names on the list and seeing what sort of ingredients they were.

The others kept quiet seeing that Alex was deep in this thought and didn't want to disturb him at all.

The first ingredient on the list was a flower that would numb one's body. The second was a bark from a tree that would improve one's muscles.

The third was a beast's liver which would inflame one's meridians and force them to grow slightly.

As such, Alex went through the entire list of ingredients and learned what they all did. After that, he tried to make sense of what the ingredient would do together when their energy was mixed in a certain way.

"It's... a pill that will give you a burst of power?" Alex questioned. "No, that's not right. It gives you temporary strength, but it's of a defensive kind. Wind? No, wood."

"Resistance then? Resistance to wood?" Alex questioned before finally landing on an answer. "It's a pill to give one a small burst of resistance to lightning, isn't it?"

The entire group of 10 looked awestruck at seeing Alex figure out the purpose of the pill in less than 10 minutes despite the recipe having no indication of what it was about.

"How did you know?" one of them asked. "Have you seen the recipe before perchance?"

"Of course not," Alex said. "I just brute-forced my way to find the answer since I know what the ingredients themselves do."

He saw the faces of the 10 who still couldn't believe it. "It's not as impressive as you might be thinking," he said.

"No, it definitely is," Tan Yang said. "It took my family generations to figure out what it did exactly as there were no apparent changes when one ate that pill. It was only after someone ate it during a lightning storm that we figured it out."

"I see," Alex said. "Your family held this recipe from generations ago to forget what it meant? I didn't expect the Tan family to go so far back."

"No, our family doesn't go as far back, just a dozen thousand or so years back," Tan Yang said. "The recipe has indeed been with our family for a long time, but it wasn't made by our family. We most likely acquired it from someone who acquired it from that place."

"That place?" Alex asked.

"You know," Tan Yang said. "The Sundering Sanctum."

"Oh, the secret realm. I have only heard of it. Does it house a lot of hidden treasure?" Alex asked. He wondered if it was similar to the Demon realm back in the Western Continent.

"We believe it used to, but not anymore," Yao Ning said. "Now it's just a crumbling piece of space we send our best and brightest to test themselves."

Chapter 1054: Strong Individuals

"Someone got it from the Sundering Sanctum?" Alex asked as he looked at the recipe in his hands.

"Yes," Tan Yang said.

"And the Sundering Sanctum is crumbling, you said? It's not safe anymore?" Alex asked. He was quite curious about what he had heard.

"No, it is safe, as long as you make sure that you don't go to certain places. It's easy to figure out once you're in there," Yao Ning said.

"I see, I suppose I should go and see for myself when it opens up someday soon. I can, right?" he asked.

"As long as you are not over 200 years old, you can enter. If you are, then you have to be a Saint realm cultivator to go in. It's a general rule we made to limit the number of people that would want to enter," Liang Shufen said.

"Ah, you made the rules? I see," Alex said.

"Yes, we make all the decisions for this continent after all," Gong Liuxian said. "Although, we should stop talking about the Sundering Sanctum and talk about that lightning pill. What do you think about the pill? Can you make a good one?"

Alex looked at the ingredients again and said, "the ingredients seem common enough. This Jade Starwood resin might be a little hard to obtain, but I've seen the others being used in the association. As long as we can get the resin, I can make them."

"Don't worry about the resin, we have gathered enough in the five millennia we've spent here," one of the 10 said. "We have all the ingredients you will need."

"Oh," Alex got a little excited when he heard that. "How many ingredients would you say you have exactly? If there are more than you need, then I might have a way to further improve the pill."

"Oh, these are all the Jade Starwood resin we have, so given this amount, that is the number of ingredients we have," Tan Yang said.



Alex took the massive jar and looked inside to see the resin filled to the brim. He calculated a little and smiled. "I will have to waste a bit of this for testing purposes, but after I'm done, I think I can make about 15 or maybe even 20 pills. I can't be sure about the amount right now."

"Oh, as long as you can make 10 of them, we will be fine," Ren Guanting said.

"Only 10? One each?" Alex asked with a confused look. Why would you only want one? Wouldn't you want as many as you can have?

Just then a thought came across his mind and his eyes narrowed. "Are you going to be using this pill eventually when you are ready to break through to the Immortal realms and will have to survive the lightning tribulation?" he asked.

"Oh, you know about it? That makes things easy. Yes, we are requesting this pill in preparation for breaking through to the Immortal realms," the 10 said.

"Aren't you guys still quite far away from reaching the point of breaking through?" he asked. As he looked around, he was only met with smug looks from every one of them.

"No way," Alex said. "Are all your cultivation bases in the Upper Saint Transformation realm?"

"You shouldn't ask other people their cultivation base so easily young man, it's considered rude," one of them said with a smiling face, which was anything but a 'no' to his question.

Alex couldn't help but be surprised at the fact that he had been sensing their cultivation base wrong this entire time. Either that or they were deliberately letting him sense their cultivation base was weaker than it actually was.

"How close would you say you are to breaking through to the Immortal realm? 10 years? 20?" he asked.

The 10 in the group suddenly started laughing out loud when they heard that question. "Young man, we were already in the late Saint Soul realm five millennia ago when we formed the council. We have slowly

improved our cultivation base, but it will certainly take at least a thousand more years before any of us can try and breakthrough at all," one of them said.

Alex was still in awe. After all, he never thought he would be in the presence of 10 different Saint Transformation realm cultivators.

After all, neither the Western Continent nor the Northern continent had such a cultivator.

Western Continent was a weak continent, so it was obvious why it wouldn't have one. As for the Northern Continent. Alex remembered the madman talking about the many ancestors from the other sects he had to kill because they attacked him so many times.

It was likely that the Northern continent would also have the same, if not more cultivators in the Saint Transformation realm, had it not been for the madman's terror.

"Are you sure this pill will work for lightning tribulation?" Alex asked. "As far as I understand this only works for normal lightning."

"We... can't be sure, but we are hopeful that it will work," one of them said. "After all, how different can a tribulation lightning really be from normal lightning?"

Alex's eyes narrowed. "It's very different," he said. "Have you never tribulation lightning?"

"How could we? We've never tried breaking through to the Immortal realms before. And as far as we know, no one has in the last 10 thousand years," another one said.

"Why do you ask it like that? Have you seen tribulation lightning?" Yao Ning asked.

"I have," Alex said. "After all, I had to go through the tribulation after learning a dao before entering the Saint realm."

"WHAT?!" the 10 of them were surprised. Even Huang Chen, who was trying to not speak at all to not influence Alex's decision to make pills, couldn't help but shout in surprise.

"You've gone through lightning tribulation before?" they couldn't help but ask to confirm.

"Yes," Alex said. "Anyone who learns a dao must go through it before they can enter the next major realm, right?"

"That's true, but... you learned a Dao before entering the Saint realm?" another person asked.

"Yes, Heat dao," Alex said. "It's what has helped me partly in making such good pills."

"Woah, amazing," they couldn't help but say. "Wait, so are lightning tribulations really that different from normal lightning?"

"As far as I'm aware, yes," Alex said. "Although I cannot say with confidence that what you are trying to do won't work. It's possible that this pill can fend off a bit of damage from the lightning. But I suggest preparing as if there was no pill anyway."

"I suppose we must do that now," Kang Xuefeng said. "Sigh, we were probably expecting breaking through to the Immortal realm to be easy somehow. Of course, it won't be."

They all shook their head in disappointment.

"Anyway, I will still make this pill," Alex said. "What other pills do you want?"

"Is it possible to have a pill that will help you in learning dao?" they asked. "Something that will improve your comprehension or talent in general."

Alex frowned a little. "I don't think I can improve your comprehension ability regarding some dao. Even if it were possible, I don't have that capability, but..." he paused a little.

"But what?" the 10 got curious.

Alex thought for a bit. "I can't say right now as I don't want to give you hope. I can think of an effect that will help you in learning dao that you are close to learning, but I do not know how I can make such a pill. I will definitely need quite a long time."

Alex was imagining a pill that when consumed would put one in a trance the same way the flower scent back in the dao mountain did. As long as he could put that effect into a pill, people would no longer have to worry about problems in learning Dao.

"Sigh, this is definitely going to be one of my most ambitious tasks yet. I may even be trying to chew what I can't swallow," Alex said softly. It was a similar feeling to trying to learn the Dao of techniques, as he didn't even know where exactly to begin.

However, considering that he was making steady progress in that, he believed himself capable of at least getting somewhere with the Dao teaching pill too.

"Take all the time you need," the 10 said. "We have hundreds of years to live still."

"Thank you. I will see what I can do about it," Alex said. "Do you have any other pill requests? Feel free to ask."

The group shook their head as they were done with the requests. However, just then, Lei Zhong spoke up.

"Actually, I do have one question," he said. "I wouldn't even be asking this to you had you not proved yourself to be a master Alchemist."

"Is it a hard question? Please ask freely as long as it is related to alchemy. If I can't answer you, I will tell you," Alex said.

"So..." the man hesitated a bit. "Is there a way to improve one's spiritual roots?"

The others were surprised at the question as they never even thought about it.

Alex's eyes narrowed a bit. "There are ways to improve one's spiritual roots with pills, but I am not aware of them," he said. "The recipe I have only worked for people in the True realms."

"So you can't do it?" the man asked.

"No," Alex replied.

"What if you had half a recipe?" the man asked.

"Half a recipe?" Alex got curious. "Do you have one?"

#### Chapter 1055: The City

"This is something our Jade Fire sect most likely salvaged from the Sundering Sanctum as well," Lei Zhong said as he brought out a simple piece of paper. Just like Tan Yang's paper, this listed down a recipe too, only this had half a recipe.

There were 6 ingredients on the list and was halfway cut before anything else could be told. However, it did have a name at the top and exactly what the pill did.

Water Elemental Enhancement pill - Improves one's Water Spiritual root.

"Woah," Alex couldn't help but say when he saw the pill.

"Brother Lei, you never told us you had a pill recipe like that," Liang Shufen said.

"I didn't find the need to," Lei Zhong said. "After all, this was half the recipe and that was useless on its own."

The others nodded since they understood that without Alex they wouldn't have brought up the recipe either.

"Do you think you can do it?" Lei Zhong turned to Alex and asked excitedly.

Alex frowned a little. "I'm not sure," he said with a hesitating voice. "I've never made a pill like this before after all. I will try my best to come up with the rest of the recipe, but please don't expect me to complete it."

"No, no, it's fine if you can't do it. I am asking a lot after all," Lei Zhong said. "Just try your best and see where you go. Do focus on the other pills though, as they are definitely a priority."

"I will," Alex said.

"Let us make a list of the pills we will be needing then," Qiu Jianhong said. "Sister Yao, can you take our young friend out for a while so we can discuss this?"

Yao Ning's eyes drifted toward Huang Chen for a moment and she nodded. "Yes, it will be easier if he's out," she said. "Come, young man. Let me show you around the city."

Alex nodded and walked out with her. Along the way, he wondered how he could help them with the pills.

The lightning pill would be easy and would only take a day or two to completely fix the recipe, but the rest would be hard.

The Dao pill would certainly take a long time to figure out and finding out the rest of the ingredients for the water pill would be hard as well.

'Can I help them with the Earth pill too?' he wondered. Certainly, he could try something with it, whether it was using pill veins or other methods.

"Are you thinking about the pills?" the old woman asked.

"Sorry? Ah, yes. It's hard not to think about them when I've been asked to make such unique pills," Alex said.

"Ah, sorry about that. We should have considered whether you could or not before placing it all on you," the old woman said.

"Oh, no no, I wasn't complaining," Alex quickly said. "I was merely stating what was in my mind. I do love a good challenge, and these few pills you guys have asked me to make are anything but."

"Well, as long as you are not overwhelmed, we are happy," the old woman said. "Focus on the pills you can make for now, and leave the rest for later. You can take as many years as you can for the rest. We're not going anywhere for another thousand years at least."

Alex nodded. They walked out to the city with wide roads with people walking through it as if it were a busy day.

The people stopped to greet the old woman, and from that Alex realized that the old woman frequently went around the city talking with people.

"You like to go around and meddle with the mortals a lot?" Alex asked.

"It's not just me, every one of us does that," the old woman said. "Aside from cultivating, there's not much to do here anyway."

"What about going back to your family and friends? Even though it has been a while, I'm sure there are some still around, are they not?" he asked.

"No, I'm an old woman and I was one of the better cultivators, so everyone who I've known is dead by now," she said. "It's not just me either, most of us have no one close to going back to, so we choose to just stay here."

"You don't think of going back to your family to help them improve?" Alex asked. "Or maybe stay as their guardian?"

"I sometimes have those fleeting thoughts, but they disappear as quickly as they come. Even if I did want to, I am no longer capable of going that anyway," she said.

"Huh? Why not?" Alex asked.

"Because of our oath," the old woman said. "The 10 of us made an oath which forces us to stay in this city and cannot leave for anything unless the majority of us can agree that what we are leaving for is a good cause."

"So you can't just leave because you want to? Did you have to consult before senior Qiu went to get me today?" he asked.

"Of course," the old woman said. "And that was one of the things we all agreed was necessary for us. Speaking of which, come, let me take you to register your aura into our formation's memory so you can teleport in and out without worry."

The two continued walking through the streets, but the woman had certainly taken a turn. After a while, they were forced to fly as it turned out where they were going was on the other side of the 50 kilometers wide metal dome that was the real Sunborn Sanctuary.

Flying so close to the metal dome, Alex finally saw the dome clearly. He hadn't paid attention to it previously, but now he did.

"Is that... supposed to represent a Sun?" Alex asked.

"Of course," the old woman said. "Most of the things you will find here are all about suns and fire. They don't call it the Sunborn Sanctuary for no reason."



Alex looked up at the sky towards the sun and then back down at the dome. "How old is this thing exactly?" he asked.

"The dome? Who knows? They say it's been here since the phoenix first came to rule us, however long ago that was," she said.

'90 thousand years ago,' Alex thought and looked at the dome again.

He tried to view inside, but the metal dome was solid enough to stop him from seeing anything, not even Qi. As for his spirit, he did not dare use it for fear of angering the many phoenixes and phoenix descendants that may be inside.

So, he wordlessly made his way toward the other side of the dome. When he crossed it, he came face to face with something he should have known would be here, but never expected to see it.

The Intercontinental Teleportation formation.

"That's the Intercontinental Teleportation formation, right?" he asked just to make sure.

"Yes, that is it. How do you know about it?" the old woman asked. "We try to keep it a secret if possible."

"I learned about them back in the Western continent. They say there was one there in the past, but there isn't anymore," Alex said.

"Jianhong did tell us a bit about your origin. Is the history easily accessible for anyone to read in the other continent?" the old woman asked. "Does it call us monsters?"

Alex looked towards her and thought he saw a face of regret. "It's not simple information you can just learn," he said. "I had to learn it myself from whatever remained of the White Tiger's legacy. They said that the Intercontinental teleportation was one of the things that were destroyed and taken as resources during the war."

"That's true alright. The Dragon Emperor did not leave anything behind at all," the old woman said.

"Since it's not there, I suppose sending me back using the teleportation formation isn't possible either?" he asked.

"It's not," the old woman said. "We wouldn't know how to without a location to send you. You would need the same formation masters that created these, but many say those were immortals of the heaven, so I don't think we ourselves can do it."

"I guessed that," Alex said. There were many other teleportation formations there as well, all of which lead to different cities in the Southern Continent.

The old woman made Alex insert his Qi into a formation so that it could be recorded. Using this Qi, if he ever did go into the Wasteland, he could now come back through the mountain, passing through the barrier as well.

Once they were done, the woman insisted on taking Alex on a tour of the rest of the city which he accepted.

Along the way, he saw the community that had formed in this small self-contained city. There was minimum outsider influence, and while it didn't fully develop, it managed to remain quite peaceful.

Alex visited the many shops, saw the many landmarks, and met the fantastic people of the city.

After that, the two of them flew back toward the palace so Alex could start making pills for them.

As they flew, Alex remembered everything they talked about today and wondered something. "Senior, the oath that you made, did you leave a condition too?" he asked.

He remembered the others asking him if he left a condition or not. He wanted to learn if they were speaking out of knowledge or experience.

"We did, of course," the woman said.

"Oh, what was it?" Alex asked.

The woman smiled. "I'm sorry, but that's part of the oath itself," she said. "but, I suspect that the day our Oath does end will be our last."

Chapter 1056: Making the Pills

"Die? What do you mean?" Alex asked.

"Nothing, you don't have to worry about it," the old woman said and kept on flying.

Alex was curious but he didn't ask any further as it didn't look like she was going to answer at all. He looked away from the old woman and towards everything around him. He saw the metal dome again and wondered why Scarlet wasn't here yet.

He could sense her somewhere to the northeast vaguely, but that was about it.

They returned back to the palace where the old woman was handed the list of pills Alex was supposed to make.

"Let me add the pills I need in here and we will start grabbing the ingredients," Yao Ning said. "You can rest in your room in the meanwhile. Jianhong, show the young man his room."

"Come." Jianhong took Alex through the outer halls of the palace until they reached a guest room. The room was extravagant with golden pills and designs all around, with beds the size of actual rooms, and furniture which seemed to cost a fortune.

"This is the guest room. We will either have to make some changes to this place so you can make pills, or you will have to go out to an Alchemy shop where they have pill-making rooms. What do you think?" they asked.

"I will take your offer to have it built here. I won't have to lose focus on different things by having to move in and out just to try something," Alex said.

"Sure, we will have it done tomorrow morning," the man said. "You should rest for now."

"Senior!" Alex called him out quickly.

"Hmm?" the man turned around. "What is it?"

"It's about my payment," Alex said.

"Don't worry about your payment. We will pay you generously. Whatever harmony you get on your pill, we will pay you that many thousand True spirit stones, maybe even Saint Spirit stones itself if that is what you want," the old man said.

"Thank you, but I wanted to talk about something else," Alex said. "I was wondering if I could get paid back with help."

"A help? What sort?" the old man asked.

"I have a person that I'm looking for in the Southern Continent. He was supposed to have come to the Wastelands, but I couldn't find him there, which meant that he had most likely come here, but I can't seem to find him at all. I have been looking for him with the help of the Alchemy Association, but no one can find him at all," Alex said. "I was hoping you could use some of your influence to help search for him."

"I don't see how we can be of any additional help if the Alchemy Association is already helping you with it," the old man said.

"I'm sure you will be," Alex said. "The problem is I suspect they are not giving it their all to find the person."

"Not giving it their all?" the old man asked. "What makes you say that?"

"Nothing, it's just a suspicion because it's been 6 months and they still haven't found him. I suspect that they are not giving their all in hope that they can keep me there longer. I hope I'm wrong, but I can't just place all my hopes on them. I need help from elsewhere as well," Alex said.

"Hmm, so you worry that they aren't doing what you're asking them to do, or worse hiding the truth from you," the old man said. "Who exactly are you looking for?"

Alex hesitated a bit before sighing and revealing the truth. "I'm looking for my father," he said. "Just like me, he was a player too."

"Ah, your father," the old man finally realized why Alex was so worried. "Okay, give me as much information as you can, I will try something."

"Thank you, senior," Alex said. "I promise to not take a single spirit stone now that you are doing this for me."

"Nonsense, that's just added bonus. You will still get paid," the old man said. "Stop worrying and just rest for now. You should have a clear mind before you start making pills."

"Yes," Alex said and retreated into his room. The old man left, and Alex sat on the bed alone as he wondered about his father again.

Dark thoughts appeared in his mind, and while usually, he would be quite worried he was thinking like that, he was reaching a point where he had just expected that to be the truth.

He kept his hopes high, but his expectations were at an all-time low.

"I should really just rest," Alex thought and started cultivating. There was nothing else to do for the entire night.

The next morning a few of the 10 came along with other cultivators to help build formations and pits for where Alex was going to make his pills.

Alex watched as they worked in less than an hour and finished everything. Most of the work was something he could've done himself, but there was no way he could have done it this quickly.

"Here," the old woman Yao Ning handed him a talisman. "These are all the pills we need. And here are the ingredients. Please go from the top when making pills. Those are the ones we need urgently. As for the rest, you can take your time with it."

Alex nodded and looked at the list. The ones that they were asking for urgently were cultivation pills, similar to what Alex had made for himself. Only, this wasn't going to have any pill veins in them.

He could make some for them, but when he thought about the pill cloud, the questions, and the possible greed that would show up from it, he thought it better to stay in his hands and make pills that were less than 100% harmonious.

The group that had come left him alone, so he started working. With the ingredients, he had to spend quite a lot of time improving them so he could waste no time.

It took him the whole day to improve the ingredients and once he was done, he was all out of Qi. One of the 10 came to check on his progress and was disappointed to learn that Alex hadn't even started making the pill, but after hearing his assurance that he would hand over the urgent pills within the week, they returned without any remark.

Alex took out one of the pills from his storage ring and ate it. It was the pill for improving his cultivation and he ate it for the moment.

He wouldn't be able to do anything else for the next 2 days, but he was okay with that. In the meanwhile, he left Whisker to go and practice making pills in his stead.

For the next two days Alex cultivated as well as he could, and after the pill's effect wore off, he finally stopped and went on to start making the pills for the council members.

Alex made 2 pills at a time, making a small mistake here and there so they wouldn't reach 100%. Each pill came out to be around 95% and he was happy with that.

He spent the entire day making nearly 40 such pills with a lot of breaks in between. He was also mentally fatigued by the end and needed to take a break. Once he could no longer continue, he took the pills he made and went to find one of the council members.

"Senior Kang!" He met Kang Xuefeng first so he called him.

"Hmm? Do you need something, young man?" the man asked.

"Oh, I made some of the pills you requested. Should I hand them over to you, or?" he asked.

"You are done with some pills? Did they come out good?" he asked.

"Yes, they are all in the 90% and above range," Alex said. "Do you want to check?"

"I would like to check, yes," the old man said and took the storage bag. He checked the pills and was surprised to see that there were 40 different pills in there.

"Wait, you made 40 pills in just 4 days? And they are all over 90% in harmony? How?" he couldn't help but ask. "You must be very tired from working endlessly. You should go and get rested, you can leave the pills with me. I will distribute them."

"Thank you, senior," Alex said. "Is it okay if I go out to the city for a bit?"

"Um, sure? I don't see why you have to ask," the old man said.

"Huh? Oh, I didn't know if you wanted me to stay in here until I've finished making the pills or something," Alex quickly said. He shook his head in slightly hidden frustration.

He had been forced to make pills without being able to go anywhere in the presence of stronger folks that he forgot he was free for a moment.

"I will go out for a while then, please pass those pills along to the rest of the seniors," Alex said and walked out of the palace.

It was already evening time, so he needed to be quick. The place he was going to go most likely still functioned even at night, but he wanted to be careful and go there while he was certain it would still be open.

"If I remember correctly, it's on the other side of the dome isn't it?" Alex thought as he remembered back to the various places he had gone to in the city and started flying in that direction.

#### Chapter 1057: Buying Information in Advance

Alex arrived in front of a building just around the time the sun was going down.

"Great, I wasn't mistaken at all," he thought as he read the name on the board at the front.

The Insight Pavilion.

He walked in and saw a few people in soundproof boots buying information from the pavilion. Alex looked around and found a person who worked in the building.

"Excuse me, I want to talk with someone with some authority in this place," Alex said.

The man who was there for security purposes looked at Alex for a second before asking, "For what purposes, may I ask?"

"I want to buy information that is not available yet," Alex said.



The man was confused. "Buy information that is not available? Uh... wait around, I will call someone."

A few minutes later, a man with a bald head and cultivation base in the early Saint Condensation realm walked down the stairs after being called.

"Who?" he asked, and the security pointed toward Alex.

The man turned towards Alex and his eyes narrowed. Even if he didn't know who he was, he could sense Alex's cultivation base and realized that he had a guest in the building.

"Greetings senior, how may I help you?" he asked as he cupped his fist in front of Alex.

"I want to buy information from your pavilion that isn't available at the moment," Alex said.

"Um, can you elaborate a bit more?" the man asked.

Alex nodded. "There will most likely be many people in the future that will try to learn about me through your pavilion all over the continent. I want you to record the faces of everyone who tries to do so," he said.

"Ah, I see," the man said after realizing what Alex was trying to do. "Just your information, senior? Or is it your faction?"

Alex raised his eyebrows as he realized he wasn't the first one with such an idea. 'So there are other people who preemptively try and buy information of people who had tried to look up information about them, huh?' he thought.

"No, it's just me," Alex said.

"I see," the man said. "Please come with me so we can better discuss this elsewhere."

The man took Alex up the stairs to a lounge area where he served him some tea before beginning the conversation.

"So, this is going to cost a bit senior, I hope you are prepared. I will list off these prices," he said.

"Sure, go ahead," Alex said.

"So, since you are trying to intercept information about you being taken out, for a single person, our price will be lower," the man said. "We have two types of systems you can buy. One is where we charge you per information intercepted and you will have to pay by post. This one is what I will suggest if you don't believe many people will look for you."

"There is still a price to pay at the start, but most of the price will have to be paid in post for each piece of information. The initial investment in this way will be 10 thousand True Spirit stones a year, followed by 100 True spirit stones per information of yours that was requested," the man said.

"If you don't want to go this route and know your information will be requested a lot, I suggest going with the prepaid plan where you will have to pay 120 thousand True spirit stones at the start, and all information after that will be given to you at a monthly basis without any additional charge," the man said.

Alex nodded as he heard the numbers. "Will you sell the information that I have bought this sort of system in your pavilion?" Alex asked.

The old man chuckled a bit. "We sell information here senior. As long as someone wants to learn it, we sell it for a price. However, for a price we can also hide it," he said.

"No need," Alex said. "I will take the yearly prepaid plan. I want to pay you everything for the year."

"Oh, you must be expecting many people to look you up," the old man said.

"That's the hope," Alex said. "So, what do I do now?"

"Uhh, let us prepare a contract to be signed. After that, we will be done," the old man said.

Alex nodded and waited for the contract to be prepared. A person walked in with two pieces of talisman and handed them over.

Alex took both the talisman and saw the contract that was written in there.

"Please give some of the required information in there so we can know exactly who you are senior," the man said.

Alex nodded and wrote the information into the talisman. Once done, he handed over both the talisman and let the old man check it.

The old man looked through his head and suddenly exclaimed. "Ah! Are you the alchemist who can make those amazing pills senior?" he asked.

Alex nodded. "I am," he said.

"It is a pleasure to have met you, senior. I didn't know you were in the city," he said.

"I have some work," Alex said. "Are we done?"

The old man checked the contract quickly and nodded. "We're almost done, senior. All that is left is for us both to place our Qi into it," he said.

The old man placed his Qi on both of the talismans which glowed slightly and handed it over to Alex. Alex did the same and placed his Qi into the talisman as well.

The talisman pulses with light for a moment before going dormant. Alex split the two talismans apart and handed one over to the man while he kept the other one. He also brought out 120 thousand True spirit stones and gave them to the man.

"Thank you for working with us, senior," the old man said to send Alex off.

Alex nodded and was about to leave when he thought of something. "Do you have an image recording talisman?" he asked.

"Image recording talisman? I do, senior. Why do you ask?" the old man asked.

"Record my image please," Alex said.

The old man was confused a little but did as asked. A moment later, he had a talisman in his hand that had the perfect depiction of Alex that no one else would be able to find anywhere.

"If someone tries and look for my information, give that image away freely," Alex said.

"Sorry?" the old man was surprised. "You want us to willingly give away information?"

"Yes," Alex said. " And don't ask them for money in return. I will pay you some more if that's what you want."

"You can just pay us for the cost of the talisman senior," the man said.

Alex nodded and handed a few more thousand True spirit stones. "Remember, tell them you have my image and give them away free if they ask for it," he said.

"I will make sure that's made aware senior," the old man said.

Alex nodded. "I will leave for now. I will be back in a month to get the list of people who are looking for me," he said.

"We will have that ready for you senior. You can take it from any of our branches," he said.

Alex bowed a little and left the building.

By the time he was out of the pavilion, it was already dark outside. The sun had set and thus the many lanterns and artifacts had started glowing by the side of the road.

Alex flew through the sky as he hoped what he had done today would give him some result.

He had asked the association leader for help in finding his father, and that hadn't resulted in anything for the past 6 months. He had also asked Qiu Jianhong a few days ago for help as well, but at some level, he knew he couldn't trust him either.

In the end, he had to rely on himself to find his father. With what he had done today, if anyone ever wanted to search for his information, they would be recorded by the pavilion.

Alex now hoped that if his father was still alive, he would go to this place as well and find out about him. With his free image being distributed, his father would definitely recognize him.

After that, all that would be left would be for him to get that information from the pavilion and then go and find his father.

That would be the perfect scenario.

Alex hoped, no, prayed for it.

He returned back to the palace and went on to cultivate his physique and eyes. The next morning, he went on to make more pills.

Over the course of the next 2 weeks, he made pills daily and finished everything that was requested of him but the lightning pills.

The lightning pills required a bit of recipe correction so he spent another week doing that, after which he was finally done.

Alex handed over all the pills over to the council who couldn't help but be shocked.

"You finished all of this in less than a month?" Yao Ning asked.

"Of course," Alex said. "Since seniors wanted me to make the pills, I had to give it my best."

They nodded and looked through the pills. "All the pills are really here," they said.

"Oh, what about the other pills? Any ideas?" Lei Zhong asked.

"I haven't had the time to think about them, but I will start now. Since I will need a lot of ingredients for research alone, I hope you seniors will help me in that regard."

#### Chapter 1058: Working on Upgrades

Alex lay on his bed as many thoughts went through his head.

The council members had asked him for 2 more pills, which he couldn't make at the moment at. For Alex, it was 3 pills he needed to make.

A pill that would help learn Dao, a pill that would improve Water spiritual roots, and a pill that would improve Earth spiritual roots.

If possible, he would want to make one for all spiritual roots, but that was too ambitious, even for him.

"The Earth one might be the easiest," Alex thought. "I already have a recipe for the True pills, so it's only a matter of improving that to a Saint rank level. If not that, maybe I can make a 9-veined True pill which would work as a normal Saint rank pill?"

At the very least, he knew what he had to do for the Earth pill. For the Water one, he only had half a recipe, so he needed to make up the rest of the ingredients without knowing what they should do.

"That will be hard," he thought. "Even then, at least I already have half the work done for me."

Alex got frustrated when he thought about the Dao pill. "How the hell am I even going to make something like that?" he thought.

If anything, it would have to be something that emulated what he experienced in the lake at the top of the dao mountain, or the fruit he ate back in the eastern mountains of the Western continent.

"I should bother with that once I'm done with the other two pills," Alex thought and simply stopped caring about the Dao pill for now.

Of the two remaining pills, Alex wanted to try out the Earth pill first. If he could make one with pill veins, then he wouldn't have to bother with improving it.

As for the ingredients, he was sure he could find almost everything on this continent, but a single one.

"Can I even find Corrosive Willow in this continent?" Alex wondered. That was one of the plants that were very rare as the only willow plant was in the poison swamp in the Western Continent.

"Where do I find a poison swamp?" he wondered. He knew it didn't necessarily have to be in that sort of environment, but then one had to rear it on his own to make it grow elsewhere.

As far as he knew, Corrosive Willow was not on the market at all. "May the council knows something," he thought and walked out.

He went to find someone and met the tall Hou Xinya wearing his recognizable yellow and orange robe from Dawn's Light sect.

"How can I help you?" the old man asked.

"I'm looking for some ingredients. I know I told you guys to find as many water-type and earth-type ingredients before, but now I need these ingredients specifically," Alex said.

"Sure, I can add it to the list of the things you want," the old man said as he read the list of ingredients.

"No, these have to be the top priority," Alex said. "Please do this as quickly as you can, and sorry if I disturbed your cultivation session."

"No, it's alright. I haven't started yet. I'm one of the 2 people that didn't go to cultivate in case we were needed," the old man said. "Don't worry about these. I will get these immediately."

"Thank you," Alex said and returned to his room.

He did what he could without any ingredients to practice with, but it wasn't very helpful. Which was why he was very excited to learn that the ingredients had arrived just a day later.

"Are you sure these are the ingredients you wanted? It doesn't seem right," the old man said.

"What's wrong with them?" Alex asked.

"They are all True rank ingredients. They won't work on us," the old man said.

"Oh, I'm going to use them to find their Saint rank equivalent. That way, I can make the Earth spiritual root improving pill that I told you I had the recipe for," Alex said.

"Oh," the man got excited for a second before getting dejected. "Well, that's disappointing then."

"Sorry? Why is that disappointing?" Alex asked.



"One of the ingredients you asked for didn't come at all," the old man said. "Apparently it doesn't exist at all?"

Alex sighed when he heard that. "It must be the willow then. Sigh, I have found a single plant before in the other continent and I stripped it clean. I had a few remaining, but..."

He couldn't help but sigh every time he remembered losing all of the ingredients he had gathered. Had it not been for the madman, he would've still had it. But then, had it not been for the madman then nothing here would be happening anyway.

"I will see what I can do without it," Alex said dejectedly and turned around to leave.

"Wait, young man," the old man said. "Did you say it exists? It really does?"

"Yes, I've used it to make the pill before," Alex said.

"If you can guarantee that it exists then we might have a way," the old man said.

"Oh, what way?" Alex asked.

"They say that the Forbidden orchard houses every plant that has ever grown in this world," the old man said. "There is a chance that you might find something in there."

Alex's eyes widened. "The Corrosive Willow grows in a mostly toxic environment. Do you know if there's something like that in the Forbidden Orchard?" he asked.

"Yes, there is. There are places with poison, places with only water, desert, mountain peaks, deep gorge, places without sun, places without Qi, and everything else in between," the old man said. "The people who made that place knew what they were doing for sure."

"If there really is such a variety in there, then maybe I can find something in there," Alex said. "Thank you for informing me of that, senior."

Alex returned to his room after taking the ingredients. While he hadn't received everything, he received the ones he needed, so he could start upgrading the recipe to saint rank if he could.

"How should I go about this then," Alex wondered. There were a few things he had learned about how to downgrade ingredients, so he had to use similar methods for sure.

If it was the old Alex, he would have to use his 'feeling' of the energy in the pill and find something that matched.

However, now he had a much better choice.

Alex picked one of the pills and closed his eyes to sense it properly. As expected, the majority of the energy in that ingredient was the Earth energy.

About 1% of the remaining energy was another 5 energy. As this was a True rank Earth ingredient, this one would not have Metal energy at all.

As for a similar Saint rank ingredient, it wouldn't have Water energy on top of not having metal energy.

"Now, I just need to figure out the ratio the final ingredient will become if I were to replace this ingredient's water energy with earth energy too," Alex thought.

It took him a moment to figure that out as the amount of water energy in there was so incredibly minuscule that simply sensing it alone was a hard task.

Fortunately, his Dao of Five Elements helped him in being keener about the energy and thus Alex figured out what he needed to look for in the Saint rank ingredient.

The other aspects of the ingredients like what they did and what they were came second to this. With just this information, Alex could be sure as long as he came across an ingredient of this exact ratio of energy, he could replace it as a Saint ingredient.

Now that one ingredient was done, it was time to figure out the ratio of everything.

Alex was surprised at how quickly everything went. In just half an hour, he was done realizing all the necessary information about the ingredients that he would need to improve the recipe to saint rank.

The only thing left was to go through all the ingredients that he would get a few days later and try them too.

Then, after he hopefully finds the Corrosive Willow in the Forbidden Orchard, he would be able to make the pill to improve Earth's spiritual root of everyone that was in the Saint realm and below.

"Woah, that's amazing," he thought to himself. He couldn't help but wonder just how much such a pill would sell for.

"No, stop daydreaming," he told himself. There was still a chance that he couldn't find the willow, in that case, he needed to know by context what sort of ingredient was missing.

To know that, he would need to have some other recipe at hand.

"Sigh, I will have to work on the water one now," Alex thought to himself. But he had to wait for a bit before he got the ingredients for that.

Alex decided to spend the next two days cultivating again and so he did. With the pill he ate, the cultivation speed was raised to the maximum and he managed to cultivate 50 days' worth of cultivation in just two days.

Once he was done, he left his room to go find the elders.

Huang Chen was the other one that wasn't cultivating, so he was the one that handed Alex the storage bag. "Here, everything we could get our hands on has arrived for you."

#### Chapter 1059: Awake

There were millions of ingredients out there, of which Alex was somehow sure he knew all of them. He wasn't sure why he was so sure, but he was. The alchemy god's knowledge gave him the confidence that every single plant out there was in his mind.

So, when he tried to think about the various different plants and their parts that could help him in making some pills, it was practically impossible without spending months and months just thinking about it.

As such, Alex found it easier to actually test out ingredients by himself, which gave him ample opportunity to see if they were usable or not.

He separated the 6 ingredients for the Water pill he knew about and kept them aside. Then, he took the rest of the ingredients he had acquired and separated them into Earth and Water-type ingredients.

Now that he had done this, he had to start somewhere. As he thought of which one he had to start with, his head started hurting from the confusion.

For the water pill, he needed to find the rest of the ingredients. To find those ingredients, he needed to first know what exactly a similar pill did inside one's body to improve their spiritual roots.

He needed to know the exact effect so he could replicate something similar to it.

For the earth pill, to randomly know which ingredient he could use instead of the willow, all he had to do was get an idea of just what sort of ingredients were used normally, in which case he needed a recipe to refer to.

If he only had the Earth pill, he thought he could find the water pill, and if he only had the water pill, he could somehow get an idea for the earth pill too.

However, he knew neither, and as such he couldn't make progress on either.

Alex paused for a bit. "Maybe I don't need to know about the pills?" he wondered. After all, he had improved his spiritual roots before, and not all had been through pills.

His Metal spiritual root had improved thanks to the White Tiger's blood essence. His Yang Spiritual root had improved thanks to the Nine Yang Divine Fruit, and finally, his Yin Spiritual root had improved thanks to the frigid yin bead he had found in the Icy hell region of the Western Continent.

The only regretful thing about it all was that Alex was either unconscious, not himself, or simply unable to focus on what was happening when he was undergoing the improvement.

However, there was another.

His fire spiritual root's improvement came as the result of a technique that gathered energy from the fire treasures outside and improved his fire spiritual root.

"If I can somehow use a pill to mimic what I did with the technique then..." Alex was a little excited about finally finding a way to possibly improve his other spiritual roots.

The best part about this wasn't that Alex was fully awake when he had improved his Fire spiritual root, but rather he could do it again and see exactly what it was that happened.

Without hesitation, he sat down and used the Fire Spiritual root improvement technique in the third level of his Flame Mastery Technique.

He closed his eyes and sensed his Qi stir in his dantian.

The many crystal-like foundations in his dantian were larger in amount each time his dantian was fully melted as the Qi rushed out of it.

He sensed the Qi goes through his Fire Spiritual root and try to pull the fire energy from the surrounding. However, since there wasn't anything there, nothing happened instead.

Alex quickly stopped after getting all that he needed from this small test.

He opened his eyes as he recorded down his new understanding of what the pill must definitely do. "When the pill is eaten, the energy from it must go into respective spiritual root through the specific path that allows for Qi to be absorbed," he thought.

Finding out exactly which ingredients or a mix of ingredients would do that would definitely take some time, but what did he have if not time?

Until he could somehow find his father, and then somehow find a way back to Pearl, he was stuck on this continent.

Alex started testing out the various ingredients with Earth energy in them. For now, he needed to find the equivalent ingredients for the upgraded recipe.

There were thousands of different types of ingredients, which all would take him multiple days, even months to go through.

Without any hesitation, he locked himself up in the room and did it endlessly. The only time he would stop would be two days a week which he would instead spend on cultivation, but the rest of the days were spent on finding exactly the ingredients.

After about 20 or so days, Alex was done finding all but one ingredient for the Earth pill.

As for the final ingredient, Alex went through all the available ingredients, trying to find the perfect one that fits it.

He made many pills using various ingredients in between the other real ingredients using a similar recipe to what the True rank Earth pill used.

He tried it for 5 days before Alex had to stop. He was simply trying things without any information.

He knew what the pill's effect had to be, but none of the pills had the effect he wanted. Most of the pills simply turned out useless due to having nothing but Earth energy in it, while the others while usable, didn't have any useful effects.

"I can't do it on my own," Alex thought. He needed to wait until he could find and check just what sort of ingredient a Corrosive Willow was. As long as he got the elemental constitution of the ingredient, the ratio of the energy in it, he could continue this pill.

After that project had to be shelved, for now, Alex began with the Water pill again. However, this one was far more difficult than the Earth one.

To start with, he didn't even know how many more ingredients it was he needed. 5 more? 10 more? Who knew?

Pretty soon, it was clear that this pill was infinitely harder than the last one.

"Urghh! I give up," Alex said out loud. "I can't do this until I get a pill as a reference."

It was better to just wait for the Forbidden Orchard to open up and try it afterward.

"I should leave."

"Leave? You can leave now?" a voice spoke to him.

Alex immediately stood up in surprise. "Godslayer? You're awake?" he asked.

"Yes... I have been for a few days now," Godslayer said. "It has taken me a while to try and make sense of what has been happening."

"I'm glad you are finally awake," Alex said excitedly. He went into his spiritual sea and floated next to Godslayer whose flames had rekindled to the levels they were before.

"How are you feeling?" Alex asked.

"Not good, but not bad either," Godslayer said. "Like the first time you took everything from me."

"Oh," Alex said. "Well, thank you for helping me back there."

"Back there? Does that mean you succeeded?" Godslayer asked.

"Yes, we succeeded in running away," Alex said.

"Then why are you still imprisoned? I haven't seen you leave the room since I woke up," Godslayer said.

"I'm not imprisoned," Alex said. "I'm helping some seniors with some pills."

"I see," Godslayer said. "So, what happened to the old man? Did he die like we hoped or did you receive some assistance?"

"He died," Alex said. "Or at least I think he did. He was already near death by the 8th lightning bolt, the 9th one should have killed him."

"Well, if you say so," Godslayer said. "And then? What happened after that?"

Alex's mood turned a little sour. He sighed and explained everything he could.

"What? That little cat is missing? And you haven't tried to find him?" Godslayer asked.



"I can't," Alex said. "As I mentioned, I'm on a different continent. Without a way to go to the Central continent, I have no way of getting back to him."

"And you can't do anything to speed that up?" Godsalyer asked.

"Not that I know of," Alex said. "Even if I do reach the Central continent, I can't enter it due to the protection around it. As far as I'm aware, only Immortals and above can enter it."

"That sucks for you then," Godslayer said. "At least you are safe. You can find another beast in the future if you can't find that little cat."

"No, I will find Pearl. He's not a pet I'm just going to give up on," Alex said.

"Hah! You do you then," Godslayer said. "Alright, let me rest now. Go back and continue making those pills."

Alex nodded and was about to leave when he saw the silver mountain in his periphery. "Wait, I wanted to ask something. You know about that silver mountain, don't you?"

Godslayer looked at it and frowned a little. "Don't make me talk about it," he said in a sour mood.

"Why?" Alex asked. "I have realized that this entire mountain is nothing but solidified Space aura or something like that. I just wanted to learn more about it."

"Of course it is. You consumed a goddamn space stone after all," Godslayer said.

"Space stone? Is that what it is called?" Alex asked.

"Yes, it's a Space stone. It's a piece of stone with space in it. It is what is used to make storage rings, like the one you have," Godslayer said.

## Chapter 1060: Information

Alex gave a surprised look. He quickly looked at his right hand, but he wore no ring inside his own mind. But still, he could visualize it. The golden ring with the ruby on top was where he kept all of his items.

"Wait, that stone the same as the one I somehow took in?" Alex couldn't help but ask. "They are of different colors though."

"The one in your ring was modified to work as a storage vessel and as such corrupted. Normal space stones are purely silver in color," Godslayer said.

"I see," Alex said. "So, on the outside, you can use it as a storage vessel, but once you use them, they end up giving space aura to you?"

"Hah!" Godslayer couldn't help but get angry when hearing that. Not just angry for himself, but for everyone out there that would love to be able to consume a space stone.

"You are one of the few abnormal people who can take in a space stone. Do you really think it is that easy?" he asked angrily.

"Oh, sorry. I thought it was something common in the immortal realms," Alex said. "There are only a few out there who can do it? Who are they?"

Godslayer remembered the answer and couldn't help but get even angrier. "Those bastards in the goddamn Sky God's palace. Don't remind me of them," he said.

Alex was taken aback. 'Another god? Is that why he is so ticked off?' he thought. He tried remembering the different gods Godslayer had talked about, but he couldn't remember any Sky gods.

"Was the Sky God involved in capturing you?" Alex asked. "Was he there with the Sword God?"

Godslayer grumbled. "No, the Sky God just trapped me in her treasury for who knows how long," he said. "I just want to kill them all."

"I see," Alex said. He didn't want to get Godslayer angry, so he decided to leave for now. Since he got more than what he had come here for there was no reason to stay any longer.

"Well, goodbye then. Rest for now, and tell me if you want some more energy. I can go and gather some death aura from dying people if that helps," he said.

"Sure, if you want to make me stronger, you can go ahead," Godslayer said and went back to slumber.

Alex nodded and looked at the silver threads that flew in the sky above him. "Space stone, huh? At least I know what it is now," he thought.

He came out of his mind and checked his ring as well. He smiled after finally learning a bit more about the world and left his room.

He went to find something. Lei Zhong and Yao Ning were the two that weren't cultivating this time around, so he met them.

"You can't continue?" Yao Ning asked with a disappointed look. "Is there any way we can help? We can give you more resources for the experiment."

Alex shook his head. "I've hit a stone wall. If I want to break through, I will have to wait until I find something in the Forbidden Orchard. If I do find what I am looking for there, I can all but guarantee a pill that will help improve your Earth spiritual root, considering you have it that is."

"Alright, we will look forward to it then," Lei Zhong said. "How long before the Orchard opens this time around?"

"Well, it is my first time, so I don't know much about it, but I have heard that it will open within the year. Maybe even in just 6 months," Alex said.

"Oh, that's fast," Lei Zhong said. "So we will just have to wait a year at most? That's far less than what we were all expecting."

"To be honest, I don't think it will take that long for me to make the spiritual root-improving pill once I am able to break through this barrier I'm facing," Alex said. "However, the real problem is the dao pill. I don't even know where to start."

"Just focus on the Spiritual root pill for now. After all, having a better spiritual root is automatically better for Dao in the long term anyway," Yao Ning said.

"Yes, senior. I will do just that," Alex said. "Since I have nothing else to do in this city, I plan on leaving tomorrow. I hope it is alright."

"Of course," Yao Ning said. "Feel free to return anytime you want. Your aid has been incredibly helpful, so we can't get enough of it."

Alex nodded. "If you will excuse me, seniors, I have somewhere I need to go for now," he said and left.

Alex walked out of the palace and flew away. His current destination was the Insight pavilion. As it had been over a month since he last went there, they had most likely already prepared his information package based on who looked him up.

Alex arrived in front of the building a few minutes later and entered it. He called the manager of this place again, and the bald old man took him to a private lounge area.

"I thought you would have come earlier. We prepared your information 4 days ago," the old man said as he sat down on his chair.

"I wanted to but I've been a little busy lately," Alex said as he sat down on another seat as well.

"Of course, of course," the old man said. "One does not get to your level without busying yourself every day."

"So, where is it?" Alex asked.

"Ah! Right here." The old man quickly brought out a storage bag and handed it over to Alex. "You were right in buying the package you did. You are looked up to so much."

Alex looked inside the storage bag and saw over a thousand different talismans. "Oh wow, thousands of people looked me up," he said.

"Hmm? No, each talisman holds about a dozen different people's information. In fact, tens of thousands of people searched for you. I don't know how you are going to learn anything from it, but I hope you do," the old man said.

Alex was a little surprised, but when he thought about it, he didn't need to be surprised at all. 'At least my plan to be famous is definitely working,' he thought.

He pulled out a talisman just to see what it held and looked into it.

The first person on the list was someone with no name. The talisman had no image attached to it either, so basically, the person searching for him was anonymous to Alex.

What was included however was exactly what sort of information the person had searched for.

From looking at the information, Alex figured out that the person only wanted to learn when the next time he made pills would be again.

He looked another one up and this person just wanted to look up what sort of pills he made and if he really was as good as everyone said he was.

Another person wanted to check if he was still in the Alchemy Association or if he left that place already.

The next person was the first person with some identity in the records. While he did not have a name, he was said to be a man from Dawn's Light sect.

Alex looked at the rest of the information in that talisman and there was nothing in there that could be considered extraordinary information.

'Well, there are tens of thousands of it to go through anyway,' he thought and put back the talisman.

"Thank you for this," he told the old man.

"Of course. It's a pleasure to work for you senior," the old man said.

Alex stood up to leave and stopped. "Don't bother making this for me next month. I don't know where I will be on the continent, so I will have it prepared from wherever I am," he said.

"Oh, as you wish, senior," the old man replied. "You can go to any of our branches and get it prepared within the hour."

Alex nodded and left the building.

Now that his task here was done, he saw no more point in staying in this city.

He went back to the palace and told the two elders that he would be leaving the next day. The two of them understood and agreed.

Alex went back to his room for the rest of the night where he cultivated in preparation for the next day.

After a whole night of cultivating, he finally left in the morning.

Instead of flying through the sky, he decided to use the teleportation formation to get out of this place.

The teleportation formations were all gathered around the same location near the gigantic Intercontinental Teleportation formations. Alex arrived there and went on to buy a ticket.

"What city would you like to go to, senior?" the girl in the reception asked.

"Umm," Alex thought for a bit. He had assumed that he would be going back to the City of Many Flowers but now that he thought about it, there was still more than a month's worth of time before he had to go back there.

So, he decided on going somewhere else.

"What's the closest city in that direction I can go to?" Alex asked.

The girl looked in the direction he was pointing at and showed it on a map. "You can go to Blindheart city here. That's the closest city with a teleportation formation that is connected to here," she said.

"Sure," Alex said. "Then I will go to Blindheart city."