

Alchemy 1151

Chapter 1151: Return to the Palace

Alex remembered when his aunt filled a room with Time aura and he was inside of it, trying to sense it. He had not been able to do it at all.

He was on the Ancient battlefield for over two years as well, and he had not been able to sense the Time aura at all. So, that probably meant that he was never going to be able to unless he spent years as Scarlet mentioned.

'Well, we'll see about that in the future,' Alex thought and forgot about the matter.

"So, did I arrive where you died?" Alex asked. "I always assumed the crater that formed was because of me, but I also knew that wasn't possible at all since I teleported here, instead of flying in."

"I don't think you arrived there, actually," Scarlet said. "I somewhat remember flying around and noticing your arrival somewhere not far away from there. I had to drag you back to where I was reborn since that was the only place with fire."

"Oh," Alex said, slightly surprised. "I have always assumed it was my Qi that healed me, but now that I think about it, I suppose the fire healing me makes more sense."

Scarlet nodded.

"Anyway, what are your plans on the Phoenix flames that are spread all throughout the Wasteland?" Alex asked.

"What do you mean?" Scarlet asked.

"I was wondering if you'll get rid of it all now that you're back," Alex said. "Get rid of the fire, get the continent back to how it was."

"Uh... no, I don't think that will be necessary," Scarlet said. "The people of the Wasteland have already gotten used to living that way, so we will let them be. However, we will give them the option to turn their land into a place that can sustain cultivation."

"I see," Alex said. "Then you'll have to go around and survey the people a bit."

"I guess," Scarlet said. "Nothing to worry about. I have people that will do it for me."

Alex chuckled. "I suppose that benefit comes with being a ruler of the entire continent," he said. "Question, how does the Azure Dragon rule his continent? He doesn't rule it at all, right?"

"Huh? Uh... yeah, he lets the little human rule it," Scarlet said. "Why?"

"That means of all the four different beasts, you are the only one that actually rules the continent you were sent to rule," Alex said. "I suppose it's better to say you did since none of you are around to help."

"The White Tiger is dead, the Tortoise is in hiding because he is hurt and is afraid the Heavenly Judgment will kill him, the Dragon is in hiding too, you were going through a rebirth, and who knows where the snake is," Alex said.

"You really know a lot more than you should, don't you?" Scarlet asked.

"I suppose I'm just that much more curious," Alex said. "The only thing that fascinates me more than learning about the continent rulers, is finding out who created the game that sent us all here."

"Does that mean we'll jump on your list of curious topics if you know where to find this game creator?" Scarlet asked.

"Oh, I know where to find him. It's just impossible to go there as I am," he said.

"Where?" Scarlet asked curiously.

Alex looked around and saw the faces of the elders and sighed. "I'm afraid I don't want to say it out in the open," he said. "I will tell you once we are alone."

"Fine," Scarlet said.

Alex felt the first rays of sun hit the back of his head and glow the deck bright. At the same time, he looked in the distance and saw the massive shoreline of the continent.

"We're here," Alex said softly and everyone turned around to look in the distance.

The slaves in the back started cheering and crying as the fact that they were saved became more real for them with the sun out. Alex walked back to his father, who also was getting emotional with everyone else.

"We are finally free," someone shouted, and everyone shouted after him.

"Where... where are we going next?" Graham asked.

"Uhh... probably the capital at the center of the continent. That... should take about half a day at least," Alex said as he judged the speed of the ship.

"Although..." just as he said that, the ship started slowing down. It fully came to a stop once it was on land, on top of a city.

"Let's go down. We'll find a place for everyone to stay for now. They'll probably have to set up a tent," Yao Ning said and was the first to go down.

The rest of the elders followed suit and the boat slowly started lowering. Scarlet moved to the edge of the ship and looked down at the open ground where the ship was landing.

Not far away from there, people were starting to gather up as they were curious about exactly what was happening. When they saw Scarlet on top of the ship, everyone started wondering the same question.

Had the Phoenixes finally come out of their closed cultivation?

Alex quickly jumped off the ship and met with one of the elders. "We're stopping here?" he asked. It was so far away from the capital that it just didn't feel right for him.

"We'll have to give them all a place to stay for now. We'll get them to rest while we deal with more pressing matters," the elder said while gesturing toward Scarlet.

Alex nodded. He had hoped they would all be taken back to the Sunborn Sanctuary, but that wasn't going to happen. He should have guessed that much at least.

A few people gathered, people in the Saint realm, and the elders gave them the orders to look after these groups of people.

When they heard the orders being given by the 10 council members, while in the presence of the noble phoenix, they were more than happy to comply.

Within minutes, people were bringing out massive tents and setting up formations to help them.

The tribal folks came off the ship one by one as they looked at the massive city with tall buildings with wide eyes. They had spent the majority of their lives living in small huts and then spent another large chunk working in the mines. So, seeing such a city was truly glorious for them.

Once the tents had started being placed, the elders decided to leave. "Let's go. We will teleport directly to the capital," one of the elders said.

"Can my father come?" Alex asked.

"Uhh..." the elders hesitated a bit. "His Qi isn't recorded in the capital's formation, so..."

"Qi? Look at him, he has no cultivation base at all," Alex said.

"Oh, right," the elders realized. "Weird, not even a single realm."

"There was never any Qi anywhere he went," Alex said.

"Then, yeah, he can come," the elders said. "Mortals don't have to be on the list to get in."

Alex nodded and brought his father along with him.

Graham wanted to stay behind with his friends, but he also wanted to go with Alex. So, he was a little conflicted at the moment.

"Don't worry," Alex said. "Once we're done with Scarlet, we will return back here. I still need to make their pills, which I will need ingredients from some other place."

"We're coming back?" Graham asked. "Well, then I suppose I can go with you."

The elders walked slowly at the front, surrounding Scarlet who was in her largest form possible. She was nearly 3 meters tall and everywhere she walked, the people bent their knee in respect.

There were cheers in the city, and news of the phoenix's return would spread throughout the continent at any moment now.

Alex watched the people who were happy, surprised, shocked, and feeling every other feeling in between. These people really were waiting for the Phoenix to return for a very long time.

The group reached the teleportation formation and left the city they were in. All 13 of them arrived in the Sunborn Sanctuary at once and walked out.

Everyone there too was surprised and started cheering for Scarlet's return.

Scarlet smiled and walked through the crowd once more, going back towards the palace. Since the palace was so far away, they flew back through the city and arrived at the palace not long after.

"Oh, the palace is still here," Scarlet said as she remembered the place.

"We've kept everything as is," the elders said.

Scarlet nodded. "I can see that," she said. Her spiritual sense was all around the palace. "Wait, what's up with the pigs at the back?"

"Pigs?" the elders were confused for a moment. "Oh wait, those are pill swine. He was making pills and needed it to test the pills."

"Oh, what sort of pills?" Scarlet asked.

"Ones that will improve your Earth and Water spiritual roots," Alex said.

Scarlet looked back at him with a surprised look on her face. "You never mentioned you were working on those," she said.

"I wanted to forget about it. It took me over a year to find the perfect ingredients to make it," Alex said. "You don't want it, right?"

"Nah, it's useless for me," Scarlet said.

"Of course," Alex said. Heavenly beasts always only had a single type of spiritual root in them after all.

Scarlet walked around a bit and turned to Alex. "Go get your father settled. I will enter the dome soon, and I want you to come with me. I want those answers you've been teasing me about."

Chapter 1152: Enter the Dome

Alex took his father to one of the guest rooms in the palace and called for some servants to bring some food for his father.

"You're going somewhere?" Graham asked.

"Yeah, I'll be with Scarlet for a bit," Alex said. "Just eat what they bring you and rest. I will make some pills for your friends later on, and after everything is over, I will teach you about cultivation and whatnot. You will have to start on that journey."

Graham nodded. "Alright, I will rest," he said and lay on the bed.

Alex smiled and turned around to leave. He arrived in the palace hall where Scarlet was with the elders.

"Oh, you're here," Scarlet said, making everyone stop talking. "Let's go."

"But lady Phoenix, we have to—"

"Fine, fine, do it tomorrow. I'm tired and would like to go rest," she said as she flew away from the hall.

"Understood," the elders bowed toward her and said nothing more.

"What was that about?" Alex asked.

"A pain in the butt, if you ask me," Scarlet said. "Damn, I didn't realize how annoying it was being a ruler. Probably because I never really understood what it felt like not having to work at all. Ah, it was so good."

"Hey, you don't get to slack off," Alex said.

"Everyone else does," Scarlet said as she flew away. "Anyway, let's go to my home."

"You don't consider this your home, huh?" Alex asked.

"Of course not," Scarlet said. "This is just a front for the people that want to see a proper palace for a proper ruler. At least that was what my senior told me before leaving. Anyway, let's leave."

Alex nodded and walked to the massive garden in the back. His pill swine were still here, which reminded him that he still had one more pill to make for them.

"Sigh, that dao pill is going to be very annoying to figure out," he said.

"The what?" Scarlet turned around.

"Nothing, just thinking about some pills I will have to make in the near future," Alex said.

"I see," Scarlet said. "Forget about that though, let's go in."

The dome shuddered suddenly, and the massive gate that Alex had seen before started sliding open. The gate was about 10 meters tall and 10 meters wide, and from what Alex could see, nearly a meter thick.

He could also notice formations drawn directly onto the metal gate, which had now slid away entirely.

Scarlet entered through the gate, and Alex walked in too. From the outside, he could not see anything inside at all. It was as if all light was blocked from coming out of the dome.

As he passed through the veil of darkness, he arrived in the light. A brilliant, red light that seemed to give off so much heat that had Alex's body not been attuned to withstanding heat, he would've had to start using his Dao.

"Woah!" he said as he saw the green landscape that surrounded molten lava that went from one side of the dome to the other.

There were no houses to stay in, no buildings to work in. Everything was out in the open, and that surprised Alex very much. Even so, he couldn't voice it as he was stunned by the land inside the dome.

He looked up at the dome itself, which seemed very translucent, with barely any light passing through. That was enough for Alex to see the world, however.

There was a lake in the forest to his left, one that was at the base of a waterfall. The middle area that was full of lava was nothing more than a single line of land, confusing him with how it even came to be.

His best guess was a formation of some sort.

He looked at the bed of flowers to the other side of the magma line, and then at the center where a massive piece of rock stood directly in the molten lava, not affected by the heat at all.

"Is that where you stay?" Alex asked when he saw the rock.

"That's where I go to cultivate, yes," Scarlet said. "You want a tour of the place?"

"Absolutely," Alex said. "But, shouldn't you first open the dome up, and let in some light?"

"Oh, the dome is already open," Scarlet said.

Alex looked up once more. "No, it isn't," he said.

"Well, not like that," Scarlet said. "The dome can't be opened as the gate did. I say openly because it's letting all the light through without stopping almost all of it.

Alex was still confused. "Then why isn't it as bright?" he asked.

"Uh... there," Scarlet pointed to one side of the place, that was the starting line where the magma was.

When Alex looked in the direction she pointed at, he saw something rather curious. A small area in the magma was glowing very brightly as if a flashlight was shining in that area.

When Alex looked carefully, he realized that sunlight from all around the dome was hitting that place.

"Oh," he said as he quickly looked up. Now that he was looking more carefully and was actually searching for it, he could see most of the sunlight had actually bent after they entered through the dome and were converging onto a very, very small area, heating that place to a high temperature.

'All that energy in one place,' Alex thought as he looked at the 50-kilometer-wide dome in shock. 'No wonder it is all molten.'

"You like staying around magma, is it?" he asked.

"Sunlight is good for our body," Scarlet said. "Not only is it good sustenance, if we can have enough of it, but we can also actually improve our physical body too. Although, it's not as easy as those damn tigers, it's still quite good."

"That's a common trait of the Phoenix? Surviving off of sunlight?" Alex asked.

"Common in the Phoenixes at least," Scarlet said. "There are others with phoenix blood that may necessarily be a phoenix, who can also have that trait."

"I see," Alex said. "That's quite a good trait to have."

"Alright. Come on. Let me take you on that tour," Scarlet said and the two of them moved toward the forest.

They toured for a short time, going through most of the locations inside this location. There were actually some buildings on the very another side of the dome, along with another gate that led directly to the Intercontinental Teleportation formations.

After being done with it all, Scarlet brought Alex to the massive rock on the magma.

Alex looked to one side and saw that the converging sunlight had come halfway to the stone they were on already. He wondered just how hot it was going to be if it actually fell on them.

"Okay, now that we are done, you can start explaining," Scarlet said.

"Where do I start?" Alex asked as he sat beside her.

"Hmm, start with what you know about why you think I was tempted to bond with you," Scarlet said.

"Alright," Alex said. "I'm not sure about this so this is just a guess, but I believe it has something to do with my body's constitution."

"Hmm? Explain," Scarlet said.

"I got the idea after hearing about your attack and now your own physical trait," Alex said. "Phoenixes seem to be connected with the sun somehow. Do you have any idea why that is?"

Scarlet thought for a bit and answered. "There is a belief in the Phoenix clan that when we were blessed with our powers, the god that blessed us broke off a part of the sun and put it in our body."

"Our bodies were too weak to handle it, so we lost most of the sun, which later turned into the moon, but we still remain a shard of the sun," Scarlet said. "Of course, that's complete bull crap, but that is what is believed."

"I see," Alex said. "Well, I believe the connection I have found is that I have the Sun God's Div— no, Celestial Yang body."

"Okay," Scarlet said while nodding her head. "What's that?"

Alex hesitated a bit. "Have you never heard of the Sun God either?" he asked.

Scarlet shook her head. "I don't think such a god exists," she said.

"I told you before kid, Sun God doesn't exist," Godslayer said from his mental space.

"But that is my body," Alex said. "It has something to do with the sun, which is why I thought you were tempted to bond with me."

"Ah, I see. I can see how it would make sense," Scarlet said. "So your body is related to the sun huh?"

Alex nodded.

"What can it do?" Scarlet asked.

"Uhh, quite a few things," Alex said. "Let's see... I can devour any pill or poison or even beast cores and completely get rid of everything but the energy in it. Meaning, I can never be poisoned either. I can... collect yang to improve my Qi, which is why my current Qi is so much stronger than my cultivation base. My Yang Qi can also activate any formation or script as well. I can also consume someone's spirit and improve my mental strength."

Alex wondered if there was something else that he could do because of his constitution that others couldn't. "Oh right, weirdly enough, I can read the human language, without having ever learned or even seen it before in my life. That is the weirdest of all surely."

Scarlet looked at him with narrowed eyes for a full minute, unnerving Alex in the process, before finally speaking. "None of those sound like they have anything to do with the sun though."

"What exactly can your body do that is related to the sun?"

Chapter 1153: Nine Yang Court

Alex was stunned at the question posed to him by the phoenix. What could his body do that was related to the sun at all?

He had never thought about that question, so he had no idea what to say at all. "I suppose my body is full of Yang, just like the sun?" he said.

"That I can understand," Scarlet said. "But can your body heal while in the sun?"

"No," Alex replied.

"Uh, can it get stronger in the sun or faster?" she asked.

"No," Alex said again.

"So, do you get any sort of benefit while the sun is out that you do not get at night time?" she asked.

"N—no," Alex said. "But my body has Yang Qi though."

"And my body has Fire Qi," Scarlet said.

"Isn't Yang close enough to Fire?" Alex asked.

"They appear to be, but they're entirely different. You can't take two types of elements and say it's the same. Do you think Water is the same as Yin? If so what are the same as Earth, Metal, and Wood?"

Alex shrunk a little. "I don't know," he said. "That's the only idea I had."

"Sun God's Celestial Yang body," Scarlet said out loud. "I don't know who this sun god is or was, but it sounds like you have a body that has to do with Yang, more than it has to do with Sun."

"I..." Alex sighed a little. He couldn't argue at all. "I thought because it had the word sun, it might be the case."

"Just because it has a name, doesn't mean it is that thing," Scarlet said. "Besides, how did you even find out that name? I swear I've never heard of it before."

"I... read it from my game system," Alex said. Even as he said it, he couldn't help but understand the possibility of the game lying to him.

"What's a game system?" Scarlet asked.

"When we were sent here, we had some visual things that would appear in front of us that only we could see. It had a bunch of information about us, which we used to learn about our cultivation base, Spiritual roots, and talents. It also included our body, and mine was called Sun God's Divine Yang Body at the time."

"It was a Divine grade body at the time, which evolved to the Celestial grade after I ate a Nine Yang Divine fruit. Considering what it said—"

"Hold on! Hold On!" Scarlet shouted quickly. "What did you say you ate?"

"Uhh, Nine Yang Divine Fruit," Alex said. "Why?"

"Can you describe it?" Scarlet asked curiously.

"I mean, not visually, but it was so strong that it suppressed an entire area to be without Qi and barely any spiritual energy at all. Anyone who walked into its radius would become a mortal."

"It also shined so bright that the night would look like day, but that was around the end when the fruit was fully ripe. I didn't have my eyesight or any other feeling at the time. I only remember eating the fruit and then I woke up later, fully healed," Alex said.

"You were injured?" Scarlet asked. "Actually, that doesn't matter. Did you eat a fruit of the Nine Yang Divine Tree? No way!"

"I did," Alex said. "I even have the— never mind. Do you know anything about the fruit?"

He felt very sad when he remembered all the items he had lost in the battle against the false immortal. The Nine Yang Divine fruit's seed and 3 of the tree's leaves had been a few of the things he had lost with them.

Worst of all, he hadn't lost it in a place like the Northern Continent, where one could pick it up and keep it after his battle was over. It was lost in the dammed Qi barrier of the Central Continent that would rip everything to shred.

"Did this fruit also get named the same way your body was named or...?" Scarlet asked.

"Oh no, I know its name because it's a fruit," Alex said. "I have the Alchemy God's Knowledge in here, and I can name any and every plant in the world."

"I find that impossible to believe," Scarlet said. "How is there another Nine Yang Divine Tree in this world?"

Alex was getting more and more curious as well. He had searched a bit about the fruit while he was back in the Beast realm in the western continent, and neither the World Tree's seed nor the Nine Yang Divine fruit had resulted in any information.

"Can you tell me why that is important? The fruit I mean," Alex said.

"That plant is treated as the Nine Yang court's god. I can't imagine what they would do if they ever find out that there is another one of the plants out there," Scarlet said.

"Who are the Nine Yang court?" Alex asked.

"They are one of the oldest human organizations in the world. Their past dates back to a time that a normal person can't even imagine," Scarlet said. "It is said that... it is said that their organization was actually established way before the Eternal War even started. As for its purpose... nobody really knows."

"Before the Eternal War?" Alex asked with a shocked look on his face. "When did that start exactly?"

"That information is so old that even I am not qualified to learn about it. You might just have to be in the Divine realm to even learn about it, maybe even Celestial, who knows," Scarlet said. "It was definitely hundreds of thousands of years ago, that's for sure."

"Anyway, where's that tree?" Scarlet asked. "We should tell the Nine Yang court about it before they think this world tried to hide it from them. They are such a strict group of people that they would go to war with the Heavenly beasts if they believed we were hiding it in this world on purpose."

"Uhh..." Alex hesitated for a bit. "It's... not there anymore. After I ate the fruit, the plant was destroyed."

"Oh," Scarlet said with a surprised face. "Okay, that makes it better. The Nine Yang court won't come for this world then if they never find there's another one of their trees here."

"Uhh..." Alex hesitated once again.

"What?" Scarlet asked.

"What if..." he thought for a bit. "What if there were only one tree? What if over a thousand years ago, a bunch of stuff fell from the stars in a meteor shower, and the Nine Yang Divine tree happened to be one of those things?"

"What... are you saying?" Scarlet asked.

"What I'm saying is... what if the fruit I ate, came from the tree that was supposed to be with the Nine Yang court, but somehow it came down here," Alex said. "It wouldn't be the only thing here as many other immortal items fell down as well, including the Blood God's Manual, the Ocean God's Teardrop, and many Immortal and Divine grade cultivation techniques."

"And including all that, the Nine Yang Divine Tree. What if it belonged to the Nine Yang Court?"

Scarlet's eyes went wide and she started fearing. "If... if that were the case and people were to ever find out, then... the Nine Yang Court would definitely punish the one that resulted in it coming here, and... the one that destroyed it."

Alex couldn't help but give a terrified smile at the answer. "Uhh, so it's better if we don't let the cat out of the box, huh?"

"You will definitely have to hide it with all of your life," Scarlet said as she thought about it. "I will have to remove this information from my head too. Dear god, this is scary."

"Le-let's not talk about it then," Alex said. "Let's never talk about it. Uhh... let's talk about my body again. I learned about it from the information that was given to me by the creator of the game that sent us here."

"Right, game and creator, yes. Understandable," Scarlet said as she nodded her head, but Alex could see her head wasn't there at all.

"Yes," he said. "It was because of the creator that I thought my body was the reason why you decided to bond with me."

"I see," Scarlet said. "Did you not consider the creator lying then?"

"Never," Alex said. "I... had no reason to, really."

"You've never met this creator, right? So why do you trust him so much?" Scarlet asked.

"I don't know," Alex said. "I suppose I just do."

"Yeah, unless you can find him, you won't know what is true, and what is not," Scarlet said. "But you did mention that you know where he is, right?"

"Yes," Alex said. "In the Central Continent."

"There's a realm that is named like th— wait, Central Continent?" Scarlet was surprised. "Our Central Continent?"

"The same one we can't enter to right now," Alex said. "That is where we come from."

"Huh? Wait, what?" Scarlet was confused. "Those people outside said players came from another world, because of how good their talent was."

"No, they all come from the Central continent. It's an entirely different world in there, and we were snuck out of the place with the old teleportation formations that are still in there. The creator of our game made it happen."

"I am so confused right now," Scarlet said.

"I can understand," Alex said. "Our talent comes from the fact that we are humans without Demon blood mixed into us, which is why everyone is so talented."

"No, wait," Scarlet said. "I'm so confused. Please explain everything from the beginning to me."

Chapter 1154: Immortality and Mortality

Alex explained everything he could to Scarlet. He explained his origin, his journey, and the next goal he wanted to achieve.

Scarlet was surprised at just how ridiculous it all was, and how Alex really had only been cultivating for no more than 30 years until now.

"That's one hell of a story," she said while still trying to put together the information she heard. "So, the Western Continent had items that don't belong here?"

"Yes," Alex said. "Including this ring."

"I see," Scarlet said. "I was wondering how you got those. As long as we hide the fact that the Nine Yang Divine Tree was here, we should be fine."

"Yeah, we should definitely hide that," Alex said. "What about the rest?"

"What other things exactly are there?" Scarlet asked.

"Uh... there's the black stele, the yin orb that I ate, the Blood God's manual that I have, and Ocean God's legacy treasure," Alex said. "I don't think I'm aware of any other. The people must be hiding the rest."

Scarlet nodded. "I would love to see what else there are," she said. "Unfortunately..."

"Hmm? You want to go?" Alex asked. "Then we should go. I want to go find my mother too. We can take my father."

Scarlet shook her head. "The way I am right now, we will die out there in less than a day," she said.

Alex nodded. "I know," he said. "That's why we go on a ship."

"I don't believe we have any ship," Scarlet said. "At least not one that can make the travel between Southern Continent and the Western Continent. That's the largest expanse of water, and not many ships can travel through it."

"But there has to be some right?" Alex asked.

"I never really had any use for them, and with the existence of the teleportation formation, no one really had any need as well," Scarlet said.

"Then what about when the elders went to the Western Continent to rob it?" Alex asked.

"That I believe they used the ships given to them by the Eastern Continent, so it was taken back," Scarlet said.

"I... see," Alex said "but we can still go soon right? As soon as you get a little stronger?"

Scarlet shook her head. "I can't," she said.

"Why not? If you're strong, you won't have to worry about the beasts," Alex said.

"No, but I will have to worry about my oath," she said.

Alex frowned. "What oath?" he asked.

"To protect the worlds we come to, we make an oath to never kill the people here, and to never go to another ruler's land without the ruler present," Scarlet said. "This means I can go to the Northern Continent and the Eastern Continent, but because the White Tiger is not present in the Western Continent, I cannot go. Not just me, even the Dragon or the Tortoise can't go there either."

Alex felt a little dejected when he heard that.

"Is there no way for you to go there at all?" he asked. "Even if you're inside of the beast space?"

"That... I do not know," Scarlet said. "But I would definitely not want to test it."

"Alright," Alex said. "Uhh. do you not have any treasures with you then? One that you brought here from your home world? There should be some there that should help us, right?"

"No," Scarlet said. "I mean, I do, but I don't have access to it right now."

"Is it locked away somewhere? Can we go there? I might have a way to open it if it's a formation or script," Alex said.

Scarlet chuckled a bit. "It's not a place you can access at all," she said. "Unless... no, that would be stupid."

"When will you have access?" Alex asked.

"When I reach the Immortal Realm once more," Scarlet said.

"Oh right," Alex remembered. "You used to be an Immortal. You know what it feels like to break through to Immortality. Can you tell me anything that I might get to use? Any hints that would help me?"

"Uhh..." Scarlet hesitated for a bit. "We try not to tell people about Immortality. It... it can make them fail."

"Hmm?" Alex was surprised. "That... I feel like someone told me something similar before. It might have been the panther."

"Well, it was a smart panther then," Scarlet said. "The thing about Immortality is... it's different from what a mortal expects of Immortality."

"What do you mean?" Alex asked.

"You sure you want to know?" Scarlet asked.

"Absolutely," he said.

Scarlet sighed and asked. "What's the first thing you think of when you hear the word Immortality?"

"Umm... that I won't die," Alex said.

"And do you think Immortals can't die?" Scarlet asked.

Alex shook his head. He knew of Immortals that had died. Hell, there were 7 different people's fragmented memories in his head that he knew had already died.

One had to rip out their spirit and memories to pass along the Undying Physique technique as their inheritance. None of the Undying Gods had lived after their spirit was hurt.

Even the White Tiger had died.

"No, they die," Alex said. "But that's only when you get killed or poisoned or that stuff, right?"

"Yes," Scarlet said. "But... uhh, I don't know if I should tell you or not. This might end up helping your inner demon very much, which is why I'm hesitating."

Alex hesitated to ask for her to continue as well when he heard that. "It's... something bad?" he asked.

"Kinda, yes," Scarlet said. "Should I still say it?"

Alex thought for a bit. Was he going to give up on his chance to learn about the Immortal realm? Most definitely not.

"Tell me," Alex said. "I'm ready to hear it."

Scarlet thought for a bit and nodded. "Fine, I'll tell you," she said. "The truth is, when you reach Immortality, you stop growing in age and can thus essentially live forever. Your lifespan becomes infinite."

Alex nodded as that was to be expected.

"Buuuut, Immortality is not something the heavens can allow one to keep," Scarlet said. "That is not the natural order of life after all. So, from time to time, the heavens will attack you with tribulation lightning. You cannot stop it, and you cannot hide from it. The only thing you can potentially do is move it back by a few years. But for that, you will have to break through to the next realm."

"The higher your realm is, the later the heavens will come after you. But they will come. As such, your mortality rate actually goes up way high once you reach the Immortal realm," Scarlet finished.

Alex's eyes were wide. "The heavens not only judge us before we enter the Immortal realm but after we reach it as well?" he asked.

Scarlet nodded.

"And people die from this easily?" he asked.

"If you don't have something special about you like a strong technique, or strong artifacts, the chances of dying is over 60%," Scarlet mentioned.

"And... how often does this tribulation lightning come? You make it sound like it's often," Alex said fearfully.

"There's no fixed time period, but it is about 10 thousand years after reaching Immortality," Scarlet said.

Alex was a little taken aback. "Wait, 10 thousand? You worried me for no reason," he said.

"Yes, it's not scary at first," Scarlet said. "But the more you survive it, the stronger the lightning becomes. Unless you can continue breaking through your cultivation realms, at some point, the lightning would get too much for you and you will die."

"I don't see why this is so scary though," Alex said. "You just have to continue breaking through and you will be fine."

"You say that, but what about people whose cultivation speed isn't the best?" Scarlet asked. "A normal person takes 10 to 20 years to break through in their early Saint realm. Later on, it reaches anywhere between 2 to 3 centuries for each realm. The ones out there won't reach Immortality for the next thousand years minimum."

"Imagine that sort of speed, but you are actually an immortal now. Cultivation speed drops so much that the average cultivation speed amongst people who don't belong to big clans and families is anywhere between a thousand and 2 thousand years. And that's just for the start."

"As they progress, their speed lowers. At that point, the heaven catches up to them very quickly," Scarlet said. "I imagine you are not very scared about this, but for normal people, the knowledge that reaching Immortality is just finalizing their mortality is an unbearable knowledge. If they learn about it, their Inner Demons get a very powerful weapon to use during their breakthrough to immortality."

"And if that manages to get into their head when the lightning comes, they won't survive," Scarlet said.

"I understand," Alex said. He thought about his family and if he should be worried about them by any chance. However, almost all players had better talent than most mortals, so there was nothing for him to worry about.

"That was some fascinating information," Alex said. "Thank you."

"You are happy that I told you Immortality does not make you Immortal, huh?" Scarlet asked with a chuckle.

"I can imagine the shock one would feel when they learn about this information after they reach the immortal realm. I am actually very happy to have learned about it now," he said. "Thank you for telling me about this."

"Well, if you're happy then it's fine, I suppose," Scarlet said.

Then she looked to the side. "Oh, the beam is here. Do you want to leave the place? Or can you handle the heat?"

Chapter 1155: A Weird Feeling

Alex looked to his right and saw the brilliantly shining magma that was due to the concentrated light from the massive dome.

A fresh line of lava was left behind by the beam and it was now approaching them.

"You can leave if you want," Scarlet said.

"I should be fine with my dao, but... how hot can it get?" Alex asked.

"Very hot," Scarlet said. "Hot enough to melt most of the clothes you are wearing. Maybe even your body, down to its bones."

"Not even my Dao can stop it?" Alex asked with a surprised look on his face.

"Well, not normally," Scarlet said and suddenly started chuckling. "Don't worry, you'll be fine."

"Oh," Alex was taken aback. "You were joking?"

"No, I was telling the truth," she said. "The heat is definitely something that cannot be handled by someone like you. Even the Immortal me couldn't handle it, and I am a goddamn phoenix."

"Uhh, then shouldn't we move?" he asked.

"No, we have a way to handle the heat," she said. "Although, I should make sure it is still working."

She quickly spread her spiritual sense and checked something. "Okay, it's working fine," she said.

Alex didn't understand what was going on, but the beam was getting incredibly close to them. As it arrived right next to the massive piece of rock they were on, something happened that surprised Alex.

He couldn't tell what it was exactly, but there was a unique feeling about whatever was happening.

The rock they were on suddenly moved, placing itself a few meters to the side of the concentrated beam of sunlight. He expected an incredible amount of heat to hit him suddenly, but to his surprise, the heat was warm at best.

Before he could think of what was happening, the piece of rock suddenly started glowing. It was not just soaking in the heat, but also the light that was falling on it.

Then, it released all the sunlight inside the dome.

The sunlight spread far and wide, brightening the entire sanctuary.

"This is a Sunstone," Scarlet explained. "It can take in heat and light, and spread it out everywhere. It's usually used by regular people to place it on their home's roof so it can light up the room in the daytime. It is especially useful for underground, where sunlight can't get to so easily."

"But us phoenixes use it a little differently," She said. "We need the sun to improve our body, so we gather all the light from an area. But, that ends up causing the mess you see. So to rectify that problem, we use a massive piece of the sunstone to redistribute the light."

"That way, the plants, and animals inside can also get some sunlight, and not all is wasted... well, most of the time," she said.

Alex nodded as he heard that. He looked at the bright sanctuary where everything he could see was in the light.

"So this is the real Sunborn Sanctuary, huh?" he said. "Born of the sun, makes sense."

"It does," Scarlet said. "I didn't come up with that name though, it was my predecessor. So I can't really take credit."

She lay down on the stone and closed her eyes as she felt the gentle sunlight hit her. "Ah, I've missed this," she said with a small smile on her face.

Alex felt the sunlight too and it was quite hot if any normal person were there. However, to him, it felt warm. It prompted the question in him if his body really had anything to do with the sun since even this much sun wasn't doing anything to him.

'So it must really be about the yang then,' he thought.

Scarlet had gone completely quiet, so he was on his own. Now that he was finally done with being surprised by his situation, he started noticing the weird feeling he was having once again.

'What is this?' he wondered. His senses couldn't tell him anything. He looked towards Scarlet and nothing was wrong with her either.

"It feels so weird," he said softly, trying to figure out what was going on.

"What feels weird?" Scarlet asked without opening her eyes.

"I can't tell," he said. "I can only sense it. It feels like..."

He remembered a time when he had a similar experience, where he felt something he couldn't explain, and he later learned what exactly it was.

"Did something happen to the space around here?" Alex asked. But before Scarlet could even answer, he shook his head. "No, this is not space acting weird at all. It's something else."

Scarlet's eyes finally opened, and when they did, it was wide. "When exactly did you start feeling this?" she asked.

"Just now, when the platform moved into the beam," Alex said. "Does it have anything to do with the sun?"

Scarlet's eyes remained wide. "Let me know if it disappears okay?" she said and did something. The platform moved away from the beam of light, and with it, the feeling disappeared as well.

"Oh, it's gone," Alex said, a little surprised. "So it had to do with the sunlight then."

"No," Scarlet said. "What about now?"

The platform remained where it was, but the feeling returned once again.

"It's back," Alex said. "Wit, so it's not the sunlight?"

Scarlet's shock made it hard for her to speak at all. She simply couldn't believe that such a thing was happening at all.

"What's wrong?" Alex asked.

"Look, what do you see?" she said as she pointed toward the distance.

"Huh?" Alex turned around and saw that she was pointing at the waterfall that was far away. "I see the waterfall."

"No, look closely," Scarlet said.

Alex nodded and focused even more. After looking for just 2 seconds, he realized what was going on.

"Wait... what?" he asked, completely confused as the waterfall wasn't moving at all. "Why is the waterfall not moving?"

"It is moving," Scarlet said. "It's just that we are moving way faster than it is, so it looks stationary to us."

"Moving way faster than..." Alex seemed to have realized something as well, so he quickly turned back around. "Wait, are you saying that we are in a time dilation?"

"Yes," Scarlet said. "The outside world is effectively frozen for us because of a formation I activated. When I get rid of it—"

The feeling disappeared from Alex.

"The outside world moves again," she finished.

Alex looked back at the waterfall that was flowing normally now. There was no more time difference, and there was no more feeling.

"Are you saying that what I am feeling... was time?" he asked.

"I believe so," Scarlet said. She activated the formation once more and the feeling returned. "You can feel it too, then. Just like me."

"I... can," Alex said, very surprised. The platform went back into the sun where the sunlight slowed down enough for it to just be warm, instead of blisteringly hot. It only now made sense to him why that was the case at all.

"But... how?" he asked. "Didn't you say someone couldn't sense time aura unless they were born with the talent?"

"I did," Scarlet said. "Without the talent, you could try for thousands upon thousands of years, and still not figure it out. If you can sense it then that means you have the talent for it. Congratulations."

Alex did not feel happy at all, only confused. "I wasn't," he said. "I definitely wasn't born with the talent to sense time being messed around with. I have been to many places such as this, and this is the only time I have ever sensed it."

"Really?" Scarlet asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I can think of 4 separate instances where I spent a lot of time in places with slowed down time. One of them was even the result of a time dao application."

"Then... I don't know," Scarlet said. "Maybe it was something you could always do, but only just got the ability for it?"

"That doesn't sound right," he said. "I don't think I've done anything unique lately to warrant a sudden ability to sense time itself."

"Yeah, well, I don't know what else to say," she said. "If you weren't always able to do it, then something changed in between back then and now, which gave you the ability. Can you think of any such instances?"

"Hmm... let's see," Alex thought. His last experience with time aura had to be on the Ancestral battlefield. After that, he was captured by the old madman.

'Did the madman do something? No,' he thought. After the fight, he crashed into the Qi wall surrounding the Central continent, which he didn't find to be possible to teach him either.

"Then..." his eyes widened as he realized something. "I bonded with you."

"What?" Scarlet asked.

"I bonded with you, and you have the ability to sense time. So, maybe by association, I have the ability to sense time as well?" he asked.

"That's... how could that be possible?" Scarlet asked.

"Maybe it can," Alex said. "I have a strong physical body because Pearl can cultivate and that somehow cultivates my body. Whisker has a cultivation base all because I cultivate. Maybe in that way, because I am bonded to you, I now have your ability to sense time."

"That... I've never heard of something like that being possible at all," Scarlet said. "Sharing abilities between bonds is not a concept I'm knowledgeable about at all."

"Really?" Alex asked. "Can others not do that?"

"No," she said. "As far as I know, you're the only one who can do that."

Chapter 1156: Purple

Alex and Scarlet discussed for a bit to figure out just exactly how he had become able to sense Time aura at all. They came up with a few reasonings, but none of them held any ground at all.

It was not because he had a family member that could do it. It was not because he had entered the void where time and space were amalgamated into something indescribable.

And it was definitely not because Alex had suddenly learned a new skill overnight.

So, whether it made any sense or not, Scarlet had to accept that she was the reason Alex could now sense Time.

"I didn't imagine I would be able to do such a thing so soon," he said. "I expected to have to wait many, many years before I could do such a thing."

"I wouldn't have expected you to ever be able to do it at all," she said.

"Hehe, I can now sense both Time and Space," Alex said while unable to hide his giddiness at the news.

"Don't get too happy so suddenly," Scarlet said. "Just because you can sense time, doesn't mean you can use it so easily. Sensing it is only the beginning. You will have to learn a whole lot more about it before you can do anything."

Alex nodded. "That I understand," he said. "It took me over 2 decades to be able to sense and use Space aura, and that was with the help of the Space stone. I assume Time aura will take much longer than that."

"You are underestimating just how long it will take," Scarlet said. "Time and Space maybe talked together, but don't mistake them to be similar. They are worlds apart."

"I suppose," Alex said with a thoughtful look. "Oh right, is there something like a Time stone, just like a space stone?"

"There's no such thing," Scarlet said. "Space is far more prevalent than Time. If you want to learn more about time, you will have to spend some time around places with dense time aura."

"How dense are we speaking?" Alex asked.

"Dense enough to affect time on its own," Scarlet said.

"Maybe the Ancient Battlefield can help me," Alex thought. "But it will be a while before I return there."

"Are we done?" Scarlet asked. "Because I would very much love to bathe in this sunlight please."

"Oh, sure. I have things of my own to do as well," Alex said and turned to leave. However, before going out, he stopped. "Is it safe to just jump out? My body won't tear itself apart because of the time difference inside and outside, right?"

"Huh? No," Scarlet said. "Your body naturally changes speed when you go out of a time field. You don't have to worry about one body part moving faster than the other."

"Oh, good," Alex said and flew away from the glowing rock. He landed some distance away from the lava and turned around to look at Scarlet.

From his perspective, the concentrated beam of light was hitting her with very high intensity, but he knew what it was like inside, so he knew she had nothing to worry about.

'I must be stuck in her sight for hours, even though I only stayed here for a minute or two,' he thought. Then, he finally turned around and left the dome.

The door opened for him when he reached the gate and he went back outside, to the backyard of the palace.

He looked to the side. "Right, pills," he thought when he saw the swine again. It had already been half a day since he had returned, so he should be getting started anytime now.

He walked back into the palace and went to check on his father. When he arrived, he found a few maids outside of his father's guest room.

"Senior has finished his meal and has told us to tell you that he is going to sleep for now," the woman said.

"I see," Alex said. "You guys don't have to stay around here. You can go do other more important tasks too."

"Taking care of the guests is one of our most important tasks," the maid said.

"Ah, is that so? Um... let him know where to find me once he wakes up, okay?" Alex said and left the area.

He walked back towards his own room, and on the way, he walked past the throne room where the elders were gathered and seemed to be working with a lot of other servants.

He popped inside the throne room and looked around. "What's going on?" he asked.

Liang Shufen, who had seen him walk in, answered. "Preparation, for tomorrow," she said.

"For tomorrow? What's tomorrow?" he asked.

She looked at him weirdly for a second before shaking her head. "Coronation, of course," she said.

Alex was surprised for a second. "Why?" he asked. "Isn't she already the—"

Before he could speak fully, she placed her hands in front of her mouth before shushing him.

"Don't tell anyone about that," she said quickly using his spiritual sense.

"What's... going on?" he asked.

"We are making it look like Lady Phoenix is actually the descendant of our previous phoenix lord. We're making the people believe that she is a new phoenix and not an old one that died and came back

weaker. This helps her a lot as people are more accepting of a new ruler than an old one that abandoned them," Liang Shufen said.

"Ah, I see," Alex nodded as he finally understood. "She knows about it, right?"

"Yes," Liang Shufen said. "We're preparing this room as this is where she will be crowned the ruler of the continent."

Alex nodded as well and looked around the room as he took in the changes. They were changing old seats, and curtains and such. The servants were taking it all outside one by one.

As he looked, he noticed two things that made him think for a bit.

"Where's the crown?" he asked.

"Brother Huang and Sister Ren took it to clean it for tomorrow," Liang Shufen said.

"I see," Alex said. "Well, I will let you continue working then. I have some pills of my own to make as well."

"Sure," she said. "But don't spend too much time on it though. You probably want to see the coronation happen as well, right?"

"I mean, I'm not really looking forward to it, if I have to be honest," Alex said. "It's just a formality anyway, but I guess I can be there. I'll try not to miss it."

"Do whatever you want to do," Liang Shufen said and Alex left.

As he walked out, his mind wandered back to the 2nd thing that he had seen in the room, which was a bit surprising for him.

The curtains had been changed behind the throne and it was once again in red and purple colors, the color of the Vermilion Bird.

When Alex had come here over 3 years ago, he had wondered what purple and red meant. He could understand that Red meant Fire, or it just referred to the color Vermilion, but purple was something he couldn't get a grasp on in terms of the element.

However, after today, he had new information that helped him formulate an understanding of the color, that he would have otherwise not known before.

"Time," he thought to himself. "Purple means time."

It made sense since the Phoenixes were able to sense time aura as well as given the fact that the Void was an amalgamation of silver and purple, representing space and time.

"That's one mystery solved," he thought as he returned back to his room.

As soon as he was back, he went straight to his bed and lay down on it. The soft bed embraced him as he let it take all the fatigue away.

'Such a long day,' he thought to himself remembering everything from the Void to getting out of the Sanctum to finding his father in the Sunless land to finding that Scarlet was actually the immortal phoenix that was sent here to rule over the people.

"No, I can't just rest right now," he thought as he got back up. There was so much for him to do after all.

The first thing he did was assess the damage he had received from his fight today. He checked on Whisker and Whisker was still dead.

'He's got plenty of Qi this time around,' Alex thought. 'Should take no more than a day to return.'

Then, he called out the Blood God's Manual. The manual appeared in front of him, coming out from wherever it hid in his body.

The manual opened to the 4th page and Alex looked inside. As soon as he did, he couldn't help but sigh.

"So many died," he thought with a sad look on his face. He had sacrificed his blood beasts to soak up the attacks that were thrown down at the people he was saving, and while that was a noble cause for their death, he was still slightly mad that he had to do it.

"Over 80 of them died, huh?" he thought. "I should get some more in the future."

When he thought about that, the sadness lessened a bit. There were many beasts out there in the ocean, just waiting for him to retrieve their cores and make better blood beasts.

"I should improve my blood even more as well," he thought. He then closed his books and pulled out the Sun's Womb.

It was time to make some pills.

Chapter 1157: A Short Alchemy Session

Alex sat back in front of the furnace where the Sun's Womb was and thought about the pill he had to make.

He was going to have to make some antidote pills for the toxins in the people he had brought back, but that wasn't going to solve all their problems.

The toxin was one thing, and the source was another.

His pills could get rid of the toxicity in their body, but it could not get rid of the red dust that had gotten into them. And there was no way leaving a large amount of minuscule rock and metal particles was in any way a good thing at all.

He had to think of a way to remove those somehow as well.

'But how can I do it?' he wondered. He couldn't make pills that could just destroy the lead powder, so he had to think of another way.

"Maybe someone has some ideas?" he thought. He wasn't the only one that had to be working on helping them after all, so he could try and get other more experienced doctors to help him.

'Yeah, I should think about it later,' he thought and focused on the task at hand.

He needed to make around 80 or so antidote pills, given that he had healed many of the others already.

'That will take some time,' he thought, but he wasn't in any hurry. He took out what ingredients he had and started working on it.

Alex hadn't cultivated yet, but he had eaten a pill to restore his Qi. That Qi wouldn't be as good as the Qi he would gather from cultivation, but that was only in the context of battles and breakthroughs.

For alchemy, he could use any sort of Qi as long as it didn't mess with the pills and allowed him to control the energy and powder inside.

The Sun's Womb was hot, so he started putting in the ingredients one by one. He did not bother improving the ingredients to become their best self as he wasn't going for pill veins at all.

He simply needed good ingredients that could achieve a Heaven-grade or maybe even an Immortal-grade pill. As long as he could acquire that, the people could get rid of their toxins.

The ingredients he was using were quite expensive, and if he hadn't found them in the Forbidden Orchard, he would be losing about a million spirit stones worth of ingredients.

When turned into a heaven-grade pill, the antidote would go on to cost around 10 to 15 thousand True spirit stones. While that wasn't necessarily high for purchasing just a few times, if one had to do it month after month, buying up to 200 different pills each time, he could see why the Kang Family would resort to not using workers that required the help.

It did not make their actions justifiable, but it did explain why they did what they did, no matter how horrible it was.

His ingredients went into the cauldron in batches, with about 4 of the same ingredients going in at once as he wanted to make 4 different pills at once.

The Sun's Womb was large enough to handle the amount, and even fatigued, Alex had enough of his mental faculties to not make any unnecessary mistakes.

He was getting done with the first pill when he noticed that the energy in the cauldron was quite high but not as much as he would want it to be. It was enough for a Heaven grade, even a high Heaven grade at that, but it wouldn't reach anywhere close to an Immortal grade.

However, he really wanted an Immortal grade if he was so goddamn close to it already. It was a difference between 70% and 75%, and it was just numbered at the end of the day, but for some reason the alchemist in him really wanted the pills to reach the next grade.

'Sigh, so stupid,' he thought to himself and pulled out something from his storage and looked at it for a moment.

It was a small, white mushroom that he never really got the chance to use as often as he would like to.

The World Defying Mushrooms were capable of replicating any energy they came into contact with, so Alex was going to use them to increase the amount of energy that was in the cauldron.

The mushroom went into the cauldron, and after coming into contact with the heat for a bit, slowly started diffusing its energy into the cauldron.

The energy mixed into the energy of the cauldron, changing into it and not even 5 second later, Alex had an additional portion of energy that would not be there unless he was using really good ingredients.

With this much energy, even after not using proper techniques to form each individual pill, he would end up with very highly sought-after pills.

He continued for a bit longer and the pills came out, each over 75%, just as he expected.

'Damn, these mushrooms definitely are something,' Alex thought as he put the pills into a ceramic bottle. 'I should go and check if more of it is open soon. I wonder if they'll let me in.'

From what he understood, it should be anytime now that the Forbidden Orchard was open again. While he hadn't had the time to keep track of how often the pollen explosion was happening in the City of Many flowers, he could guarantee that the orchard would open any day.

If his luck were so bad, it might even have opened and closed already.

"3 years isn't nearly enough to grow something like this, most likely," he thought. "I should give it some more time."

Once everything was ready, he went on to make more of the pills.

He made 4 pills at once each time around and just 3 hours later, he had a bit more than 50 pills ready. He felt not so good continuing, but he wanted to keep going since there were 30 or so more to go.

He was in the midst of another batch of pills when his father knocked on the door. "Alex, are you inside?" he asked.

Alex opened the door and his father walked in. Graham saw his son sitting in front of the fire, and for a split second wondered if he was healing himself in the Phoenix fire.

However, there were no such colors to the flame, so he could only be confused as to what he was doing.

"3 more minutes, father," Alex said and concentrated on the pill. He was mentally fatigued enough by now that he didn't believe he could hold a conversation while making 4 pills at once, so he had to prioritize the pills.

After he was done with the pills, he finally took the cauldron off the heat and put it into his storage ring.

He turned around to his father. "How are you feeling?" he asked. "Are you well rested?"

"I am," Graham said. "What were you doing just now? Were those pills?"

"Yes, I was making pills for your friends," Alex said.

"You can make pills? How does that work?" Graham asked, very curious about it all.

Alex smiled. "Come on, sit down. I will explain everything to you."

Chapter 1158: Preparations

Alex and Graham talked for hours and hours, long after the sun went down and the night took over the land.

Alex did most of the talking as he was the one that had to explain to his father not just about what cultivation was, but also the inner details of everything that a cultivator would need to know about.

Alex knew he was overloading his father's mind with information, but his father kept asking him questions and he kept explaining. By the end, Graham had already forgotten over 80% of the information he had learned from his son, but Alex didn't find it a waste at all.

The time they were spending was precious father-son time that Alex had lost after becoming a cultivator. Now that he was finally getting it, even if he spent it doing the most mundane task, he would still find the time spent worth it.

"So, I can be a cultivator too, right?" Graham asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Well... there's not always a guarantee, so it is better if we test it."

He had no spiritual root testing formations on him, so he asked a few of the palace servants to help him find one that could work on regular mortals.

Not even 5 minutes later, a servant was outside his door with the formation plate and Alex brought it in.

"Place your palm on the plate. It will send some Qi into your body. You might feel some tingling or maybe even some pain, try not to avoid it or force it away. Accept it all, and it will be fine," Alex said.

Graham nodded and did as Alex said. The Qi moved into his body, and the most he felt was a cool sensation going throughout his body. There was no pain or tingling as Alex mentioned.

A minute later, the Qi came back out of his body and the formation started lightning up, showing exactly what Spiritual root Graham had.

"These colors... they are the elements you told me about?" Graham asked.

"Yes," Alex said.

"Why are there only 5?" he asked.

"That's how it usually is," Alex said. "Not everyone has all 7. As far as I know, Yin and Yang are the most notoriously hard-to-find Spiritual roots and very few people have it."

"So what do I have?" Graham asked.

"Look here, you see how the Brown and Green are so strong? That means your Earth and Wood spiritual roots are quite strong. It's impossible to say how good they are exactly, but you can judge them based on their differences from the other colors."

"Next you have your Water root, which is slightly worse, but not that bad. Finally, your Fire and Metal roots are frankly... trash. I have a way to fix the Fire root, but Metal... I will have to find a way," Alex said.

"So... can I cultivate?" Graham asked.

"Huh? Oh yes. Absolutely. As long as you have a single one of these colors, you are able to cultivate," Alex said. "That is one of the reasons why the players I tell you about can't cultivate. Those clones weren't given a proper spiritual root, only ending up with regular meridians that couldn't go through Meridian Tempering realm."

"I see," Graham said. "This spiritual root, it's a physical thing in our body right?"

"Yes, it's around your navel area," Alex said.

"Then, can you transplant it into other people to donate to them so they can cultivate it?" Graham asked.

"Uhh..." Alex was stumped by the question. "Actually, I do not know the answer to that. I would normally say no, but the world is still full of so many mysteries that it is possible that such a thing is possible."

"I can confidently say that it is not something you can do in this world. Maybe in the Immortal realms," Alex said.

Graham didn't say anything as he kept watching the colors on the plate that was starting to vanish.

"So, what should I do now? I need a technique right?" Graham asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I don't have a good one on me. I'll try finding one for you after the event tomorrow. Quite a few big shots should be gathered, so I could ask them to help me find the best cultivation techniques for you."

"I would have given you my own, but you don't have a yin or yang spiritual root."

Graham shook his head. "There is no need for you to hurry about all of this. Take your time. You do say it will be a while before I can see your mother again, so I feel like I have all the time in the world to prepare for it," he said.

"I'll do the best I can," Alex said. "By the way, you don't remember what the system wrote for your information, do you?"

"I barely even remember what the system looked like, let alone remember what it said," Graham said.

"Sigh, it would be so much easier if we just knew what your body constitution was called. We could ask Scarlet or Godslayer about it," Alex said softly. "No matter, I will run some tests on my own."

Graham didn't understand what he meant really, so he just nodded.

"You don't remember any specific reason why your body got strong, right?" Alex asked.

"No," Graham said. "Even back home, I was quite strong. Not to this level, but I was strong. People were surprised that I looked like a bodybuilder without ever going to the gym. I would tell people it's because I worked on the farm, but the truth was I was made to work after my father found out I was strong."

"It's definitely your body's constitution's work then. It must improve your physical strength drastically quicker than other people," Alex said. "Whatever, I will learn it all once I run the tests. You'll have to have cultivation for that though, so I should get you to do that as quickly as possible as well."

"As I said, you can take your time," Graham said.

Alex sighed. "I know, but I still want to make you cultivate quickly. I'm worried that because of your age, the more we delay, the worse it is. Although, your body cultivation definitely should help you a lot, so maybe I'm worrying for nothing."

"You definitely are worrying way too much about way too many things at once," Graham said. "Start with the little steps. What's the first thing you need to do? Find me a cultivation technique so I can get started, right? Until you can do it, you should calm down."

"Yeah, I will have to find you that fi-- Wait, no. There's something else you can do. I nearly forgot," Alex thought as he fished into his storage ring and brought out a black and white fruit, which he showed his father.

"What's this? An alchemy ingredient?" Graham asked.

"No," Alex said. "This is a Divine Devil fruit. It's something that can make you go through mortal cleansing, which is very good for someone that wants to cultivate."

As he explained that, he wondered if he should give one to Scarlet as well. Maybe Whisker would love it too. He had 4 Divine Devil fruits, so he had to be careful how he used it.

"Oh," Graham said. "Why is good?"

"A mortal's body is full of filth and waste that gets accumulated in their body over time. When they start cultivating, those filths interfere with the movement of Qi in your body," Alex explained. "If you eat that fruit, the energy in it will basically push all of that filth out of your body in one go, making you as clean as a newborn baby."

"Ooh, sounds nice," Graham said. "Get rid of all my body's filth, huh? So it can get rid of the lead dust too?"

"Yes, it can get rid of ever--" Alex paused, and then his eyes went wide. "Holy shit! Why didn't I think of that?"

"Think of what?" Graham was surprised as well when he saw his son surprised.

"The dust, I can push it out of your body," he said. "I can push it out of everyone's bodies."

"I'm not following," Graham said. "Are you talking about my friends?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I am making pills to treat the toxins in their body, but I was wondering how I could get the dust itself out of their body. I finally have an idea now."

"I see," Graham said. "So you're going to feed them all this fruit?"

"What? No! I only have 4 of them," Alex said, actually horrified that his father was putting up such a proposition. "There are people who have lived for thousands of years that have only heard of these fruits in fairy tales. I cannot just hand it out to a bunch of tribal people who will under all circumstances just go back to body cultivating around phoenix fire."

Graham was a little surprised that Alex was saying something that sounded so selfish, but the number quickly put things into perspective.

"Then why would you say you finally know how to treat them?" he asked.

"Well, that's because over 3 decades ago, I had somehow managed to make a pill that could easily make someone sweat out profusely from their body."

"If I make those people eat that pill, I can force out the lead dust from their body while treating their toxins as well. That way, I can completely heal them all."

"Oh," Graham said excitedly. "That sounds amazing."

After his father left to let him rest, Alex spent the rest of the night cultivating. He finally felt the fatigue he had built up slowly fade away overnight as he gathered Qi through his cultivation.

He felt some of the Qi disappear from his body as it went to Whisker. Judging by the rate of his Qi being taken in, Whisker would have his body by the morning.

Alex switched to cultivating the Undying physique sometime before dawn and that helped Whisker's body form even faster.

Once Whisker was finally back, he moved on to cultivating his Demon Eyes. He knew that it would take him a long time to reach the next stage of the Demon Eyes, but he really wanted to reach there as fast as he could.

Once he was done cultivating, he left his room and went to go find his father. His father had woken up long ago and was sitting in his room, not knowing what to do the entire time.

At least in the tribes and even in the Sunless lands, there was always something to do. He could carry some water back for others, wash his clothes, or simply stay around the Scared flames to heal.

But in the palace, he could do no such thing. With a word, clean water and clothes would arrive on his doorstep in minutes. He was going to start cultivating soon, so there was no point in sitting by a Phoenix flame. There wasn't even any there, to begin with.

He lay in his bed, thinking about his future now that he was free, and all he could do was smile as he understood that he was now a free man with a future in front of him.

All the anger and grudge he had built up over the year had been somehow all expunged in a single day by none other than his own son.

He heard a knock on the door and got up quickly.

"Father, it's me," Alex spoke.

"Come in," Graham spoke from inside.

Alex walked in, wearing a rather dashing set of robes that did not look like it would be comfortable to be in.

"What are you wearing?" his father asked looking at the robes that had all the colors for the sacred flames.

"They gave me this to wear," he said. "Apparently I have to dress nicely for the ceremonies. They asked me to give this to you too."

"For the Phoenix's crowning?" Graham asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Everyone from the continent is going to be here, and given who I am, many will want to talk to me. So, the elders made me dress nicely."

"Well... I don't think I'm the best judge for that," Graham said as he shook his head. "I value comfort more than aesthetics after all."

"Me too," Alex said. "But these are surprisingly nice too. Too open around the sleeves for me to want to fight in, but walking around in them is not so bad."

"Alright, give me mine. I'll get dressed too."

Graham dressed up quickly and walked out into the hall with Alex. He looked around at the rushing people that zoomed past him and Alex.

"Everyone seems to be busy," he said. "They must really hold this event in high regard."

"The continent and its 20-something billion people are getting a new ruler in their eyes. I would assume such an event is taken in high regard," Alex said.

He walked through the hallways until he came out on the hall that led to the outside of the palace.

Massive formations were shining brightly outside that made all sorts of different barriers outside the palace.

There was a large, open space prepared with a stage in the center.

"I thought the event was going to happen inside the palace. Is it not?" Graham asked.

"It is," Alex said. "The outside is so Scarlet can address the people after she's been crowned. Many people will have come from everywhere, so not letting them see her wouldn't be the best choice for her."

"I see," Graham said.

Someone coughed behind the two of them, grabbing their attention. Alex turned around and met the eyes of an older man with a strong cultivation base.

"Forgive me if I'm mistaken, but... are you the Alchemist Alex?" the old man asked.

"That is me," Alex said as he looked at the man closely. "Is senior Ren Niechen"

"Oh? Alchemist Alex knows of me?" the old man acted surprised. "I am indeed Ren Niechen. I am surprised you knew about me."

"Who wouldn't know about the Ren family patriarch," Alex said. "How may I help you, senior?"

"I—" the man paused when he looked to the side and saw Graham. He puzzled for a bit before realizing it. "Ah! Is this not the person who you were looking for, Alchemist Alex? You found him?"

"Yes, senior," Alex said. "This is my father, Graham."

"Graham..." the man spoke the name softly and understood that he was a player too. "You have raised a fantastic child, brother Graham. You must be very proud."

"I sure am," Graham said. While that was the truth, he was still confused by the remark from the old man. 'Proud for what exactly?'

He wondered if Alex was being praised for the strength he showed the other day. Maybe he was considered a talented cultivator by all. He had surely made it sound that way.

"Oh right," the old man remembered. "Alchemist Alex, do you happen to know when you can start making pills? This old man has been waiting for you to sell your pills for years now. After using your pill, I just can't find myself using the other pills. They are all nothing but garbage in my eyes."

"Don't call other people's hard work garbage, you senile old fart," someone spoke from the side as they came towards the group.

"If I'm a senile old fart, then you are a living corpse," the old man retorted.

"Hehe, look at him going mad just because of a few words. It sure is easy to get into your skin," the man said.

This man was old as well, just about the same age as the Ren family patriarch, and had a similar cultivation base as well.

"Junior Alex greets senior Fang Chuangki," Alex bowed a little.

"I'm honored that you know my name, Alchemist Alex," the man said.

Alex sighed internally. These old people really liked acting like this whenever they were recognized. Being the sect leader of the Cloud Fire sect, it was obvious Alex would recognize him.

He had remembered most of the people from all the different big sects and families, especially the ones that had looked him up in the Insight Pavilion.

Alex knew this man was here to ask him for his pills too. But before he could answer, someone else joined in.

It was a middle-aged man with a thick beard and a relatively low cultivation base. He greeted the other two seniors first and then Alex.

"Huang Daisheng greets Alchemist Alex," the man said.

'Huang...' Alex thought. "Are you the new Huang family head?"

"That is indeed I," the man said. "I know what happened back then with the previous family head wasn't the best, and would like to request you to forgive our family for the actions of a stupid man."

Alex crossed his arms. "Even if I do forgive your family, my oath still remains. You will never get a pill from me," he said.

"That is a curse I am willing to bear so long as Alchemist Alex doesn't hold a grudge against us," the man said.

"I have none," he said. "Senior Huang took care of my grudge on my behalf. You can rest assured I will not come after you or your family."

"Thank you," the man said and stepped away.

The two old men watched him leave for a few seconds, before immediately going back to asking him about the pills.

"I plan on making them soon," he said. "I can neither guarantee the time, nor the amount I will be making, but I will do it within the next 3 months."

"Oh!" the two old men were very happy. "We will be looking forward to the next pill then, Alchemist Alex."

Alex smiled and watched as the two walked away, quarreling with themselves once again. It looked like they were used to it and neither took the other one's words as an offense."

Alex and Graham left the place to visit more of the area that was prepared for everyone to come into. He met with a lot more important people.

Most of them wanted to learn about when he would be making his next set of pills, but some were genuinely just happy to meet him.

Alex continued walking around and saw a group of people walk in through the barrier checkpoint on one side.

"Oh, leader," Alex said when he saw the Alchemy Association leader walk into the room. Along with him were Harry and a few other alchemists. A little further behind them was the Flowerhall sect's leader.

"Young man, congratulations on finding your father," the man said as soon as he saw Alex. The others greeted and congratulated him as well.

Alex thanked them and introduced his father to them as well.

"It's been so long since you were away," the leader said before getting closer to whisper. "Dark Phoenix isn't a problem anymore, right?"

"No, no," Alex said. "No problem."

"Great!" the leader said. "Does that mean you'll be returning to the association?"

"Uhh... yeah," Alex said. "I have some small tasks here at the palace, but once I'm done, I can return. We can even restart our quad-annual pill-selling events again."

Chapter 1160: The Coronation

Alex was approached by even more people before the ceremony had started. The high-profile individuals who either remembered him or were reminded of him came to speak to him all the time.

It had reached to a point where Alex just wanted to go invisible and not have to meet anyone else.

However, he wasn't the only one suffering from these sorts of problems. Everyone from the Alchemy Association was.

They were all getting recognized left and right as well, albeit not as much as Alex himself.

Harry was surprisingly quite popular as well now. He seemed to have been doing quite well for himself.

"Sounds like life has been good for you for the past few years," Alex said to Harry.

"Haha, yeah," Harry said while softly scratching his head. "Because of what you taught me, my skills have improved by not a small amount. The pills I make have become so much better and they sell like no one else can do what I can."

"Congrats," Alex said. "You deserve it."

"Thanks," Harry said. "Although, the biggest factor for my success is actually you not being able to make pills. But since you are going to return, I'm probably going to go back into the shadows soon."

"Stop underestimating yourself," Alex told him. "You have learned as much as you can, and you practice just as hard as anyone else. You are so focused on your craft that you didn't even bother going to the Sanctum, did you?"

Harry shook his head.

"So, don't worry about me returning, and just do what you do. You'll still sell just the same and people will continue speaking your name just the name," Alex said.

"Of course," Harry said chuckling a bit. "I am not going to get demotivated into not making pills just because you are coming back. In fact, I see that as an opportunity to compare myself to you, and maybe even learn something from you."

Alex gave a small smile when he heard that.

The Association leader was talking with Alex's father and was surprised at just how little he knew about everything. Even if nothing, he had assumed Alex's father to have some knowledge of Alchemy, which he had transferred over to Alex while he was young.

However, as it turned out, that was perhaps the farthest from the truth. The man didn't even understand the concept of Alchemy properly.

They were all talking when a commotion grabbed their attention. Alex turned around to see the people part ways to let the 10 elders walk outside.

"Everyone," Yao Ning addressed the people that stood there. "The coronation is about to start. Anyone who has a Saint Soul cultivation base or higher, or was invited to view the coronation, you may now come to the Palace hall."

The people who heard the announcement happily started walking away from their friends and families to go into the palace.

"We should go too," Alex said. "Are you going in leader?"

The Association leader nodded. "I have been invited indeed, so I should go. You lot stay around," he said.

Alex, Graham, and the association leader walked into the Palace afterward.

There were servants standing in the hallways, directing everyone to the Throne room. The Throne room had been prepared the entire day for this occasion, and somehow even this felt cramped.

Alex found a small empty place towards the wall on the left. Even after they sat, the people kept pouring into the room and not long after, it was all filled up completely.

Even the elders sighed when they realized that there were just so many more people than they had realized. This small throne room wasn't going to be enough at all.

Still, they decided to go with it. Since the ceremony would take no more than 10 minutes at best, these people could stay cramped for that long.

There was someone other than the 10 elders officiating today's ceremony. He was an ancestor from some other big sect that had only come out from closed cultivation after reaching the Saint Transformation realm.

The elders considered themselves servants to their lord, so they all would want to crown her. However, they couldn't decide who amongst themselves should have the honors, so they had given this new individual the opportunity to be the one.

Everyone waited for a few minutes, talking to themselves. But when the doors opened again, they all quietened down.

The phoenix's majestic aura spread through the room the moment she appeared outside the door. People were awed in amazement and Alex was surprised that Scarlet was actually putting on a show at all.

She was purposefully exaggerating her aura, and it was working. Everyone watched her with reverence in their eyes and followed her every moment as she walked through the door and made her way to the altar at the end of the room.

The people moved to the sides and allowed Scarlet to move to the front. When she did, they started bowing toward her as she walked in between them.

Scarlet walked halfway through to the altar at the end when she stopped suddenly. Her actions confused everyone and even the 10 elders weren't sure what she was doing.

Scarlet's spiritual sense spread through the room suddenly, and it landed on Alex a moment later.

Her head turned towards him and after he saw her gaze, she moved her head in a gesture.

Alex was confused by the gesture. 'What?' he mouthed.

Scarlet gestured once more, but Alex didn't understand again.

"I'm saying walk with me," Scarlet spoke directly into his mind this time around.

"Oh..." Alex said and paused, unsure if he should do it. As far as he knew, the two of them were supposed to hide their connection for a while longer, so that the people wouldn't be offended by having a ruler that was actually someone else's apparent servant.

"Come!" Scarlet spoke out loud this time around, and Alex couldn't stop any longer. He teleported out of the crowd and appeared next to her, surprising everyone who hadn't noticed who she was talking to.

Most people noticed immediately who it was, although that didn't lessen their confusion at all.

"Are you sure this is right?" Alex asked softly.

"You and I are bonded in spirit. You are no different from a family to me now. If my family won't be at the altar when I get crowned, won't that be sad?" she asked.

Alex was surprised she thought that way, given how little time they had actually spent with each other. "Fine, let's go," he said.

The two of them walked through the narrow opening in the hall and arrived at the altar that was prepared for this very ceremony, right in front of the throne.

Alex walked to the side and let Scarlet stand in front of all, proudly.

The old man that was officiating the ceremony walked up front and started addressing the crowd.

"Brothers and Sisters, friends and families. We are gathered today on the most important occasion of the past 5 millennia. As we all know, the Southern Continent was ruled by the phoenixes for long before our records say."

The man started talking and he did not stop. He spoke of the past about the continent and the phoenixes' roles in them. He talked about how for so long they had not been in the presence of one, and how they were now going to return back to the days when another phoenix would rule them.

Everyone in the crowd had already thought of this on their own. No one wanted the old man to reiterate everything they had thought of back to them. However, no one had the right, nor the courage to tell the old man to move it quickly.

So, the old man spoke for the next 5 minutes, and they all listened to him without a single word.

"Today, we shall receive a new ruler. Please, bring out the crown."

A few of the elders walked to the front, holding a large cushion of sorts with a large crown on top. It was surprisingly large, to the point Alex wondered if it was even the same crown he had seen before.

However, he understood that the crown must have been made with metal compounding, allowing for it to change in shape easily, without losing any durability at all.

It was most like made that way to accommodate any head on top of which it would lay.

The elders brought it out in front of the old man who took the large crown in his hand without actually touching it. He was slightly surprised at how heavy it was, but he didn't let it show.

He turned around and looked at Scarlet who stood proudly behind him.

"O' Great Phoenix. Forever shine your brightness in this world and thwart away the darkness that may plague it. You are the holy one and you alone are divine."

He held out the crown higher towards Scarlet, who dropped her head a little to let the man reach it.

The man slowly moved the crown and placed it on top of Scarlet's head.

"With the power vested in me by the people of this continent, I now pronounce you, Feng Nuanhuo, Ruler of the Southern Continent."

Scarlet raised her head up high and stared in front of her and saw everyone bow at the waist. She alone stood up high and was reminded of the day when she had witnessed it once more.

She had once again become the Ruler of the Southern Continent.