

Alchemy 1181

Chapter 1181: Linlin

Alex took a deep breath and felt the Qi flow up out of his dantian, through a specific pathway that he had predetermined.

He held the Intent of what he wanted to do as he pulled it out and let it flow into the 45 swords that flew above him.

When they landed on the swords, the 45 swords suddenly started spinning with a great power added to them that was never there in the 2 months he had been practicing.

Alex's eyes went wide, but he didn't let the surprise ruin the moment. He let the sword fly and hit the large stone pillar in front of him.

The swords struck the pillar and the pillar flashed with bright light from the formation that was on it.

Saint Core 4th realm. Those words were written on the pillar after they took the attack from the swords.

The swords all clanged onto the floor as Alex realized that he had finally done it.

"Yes!" he shouted out loud in excitement. His shout made a girl turn towards him in surprise. She had been with Whisker, helping him tend the garden which he had just started to grow.

Alex let himself fall to the floor with a wide smile on his face. "I finally took my first step into improving a skill on my own," he thought.

He lay there recalling exactly what he had done and then spent a few more minutes trying to understand exactly why the swords had formed an array like the 21 Swords Array technique.

The specific understanding of what exactly had happened was too much for the current him, but he did feel like he glimpsed some knowledge that would be helpful later.

'I should go for another technique where I Control something, so I have something from the same beginning pathway to compare,' Alex thought.

Alex decided to learn a new sword skill that was of the absolute worst grade.

"Linlin!" Alex called out.

"Yes, your Majesty?" the girl who was in the garden answered.

She wore bright red and purple servant robes for the Royal family and had her hair tied in a bun. She wore no jewelry or ornaments and looked very simple and plain. However, that only made her beauty stand out even more.

The girl was named Lin Yunlin. She was a Saint from a small family that was the lord of a small city to the south of the Capital. She had been the prized possession of the Lin family, and after some small tests, was allowed to become Alex's personal maid.

Her work involved managing Alex's schedule and work and listening to his demands. She stayed with him from day to night and only left when there was nothing more for him to do.

She was, by the nature of her work, a replacement for the Elders who couldn't be around Alex all the time due to having works of their own.

"Request a skill where I have to control a sword or more at the same time," Alex said. "The worse the skill the better."

Linlin looked confused for a second. "I beg your pardon, your Majesty. Did you say you wanted a bad skill?" she asked.

Despite being way older than him, Linlin somehow still looked youthful and still in her late 20s.

"You heard me right," he said. "The worst skill. I will start practicing Alchemy now, so prepare it by the end of the day."

"Yes, your Majesty," the girl bowed and left.

Alex left for his Alchemy training. There wasn't much work to do these days as the elders did most of the low-level stuff, and reported back to him at the end of the day. As such, he had a lot of free time during the day.

After entering his Alchemy room, Alex started his 6-hour-long alchemy training where he tried to figure out the recipe that could be used to make the pill that could help with learning a Dao.

He had already figured out what he needed to do to achieve the result. He would have to make the Soul Elucidating Tulip's scent become more potent and help make it instantly put someone in a trance.

Now, he needed to learn how he could do it.

The Alchemy training involved him figuring out that very thing. He learned about more ingredients he had, simulated possible recipes using the ingredients, and tried making the pill itself.

He didn't even know where to start, so even after a month of trials, he was nowhere at all in terms of improvements.

Given how long the spiritual roots improvement pills had taken him, he doubted he could make the pill in just a year or two without some sort of miracle.

'I'm just going to have to continue working hard at it,' he thought.

After 6 hours, he walked out of the room and found Linlin standing by. "Here's the skill book you requested, your majesty," she said and handed over a small book.

Alex flipped through the book and closed his eyes for a second. "Wow, that's bad," he thought.

The girl looked at him weirdly for a second. "Did you learn it already?" she asked.

"Of course," Alex said. "There's not much in it to learn after all."

"But still..."

Alex walked away to test the skill and Linlin quickly followed him. "The elders have gathered in the throne room with their reports," she said.

"Oh, I suppose I can put off testing the skills for later then," he said and walked toward the throne room.

The elders stood to greet Alex as he walked through the hall and sat on the throne on the other side.

Then, they started reporting what was happening all around the continent.

"The army is in the final phase of their training," one of the elders said. "After a while, we should be able to start deploying them all around the continent."

"How soon do you think we can do that?" Alex asked.

"If no problem occurs, we can do it in less than a month. We should be able to do it within two months for sure," he said.

"Distribute them all equally," Alex said.

The elder nodded, but another elder stood up. "Your Majesty, I believe we need to put more on the eastern side."

"Hmm? Why the East?" Alex asked.

"For some reason, activities in the east have increased a lot. We're seeing more people from the Eastern continent come in. With the barrier no longer there to stop them from entering however they pleased, we now need to put our forces on the entire eastern front," the elder said.

Alex thought for a bit. "How much would you say the activities have increased?" he asked.

"If we used to get 20 people going in and out every year, we're now getting over 100 people doing so," the elder said. "And that is just the recorded number. Who knows how many more are there."

Alex frowned a bit. "I know the Eastern Continent is close but isn't there still enough distance for it to be a dangerous travel path? How are people coming in so easily?"

"With a high enough cultivation base and a strong enough Dao, travel isn't impossible," the elder said.

"So everyone coming have a strong cultivation base then," Alex said.

"That or they bring many artifacts with them to aid in their travels," the elder replied.

"Hmm, some of these people might end up having some malicious intentions. We should do as you say and put more on the eastern side," Alex said. "Put 15 of the 40 groups in the east. You may do with the rest as you see fit."

"Yes, your Majesty," the elder said.

Alex wondered if it were simply on his own, could he go to the Eastern continent? He most likely could with the concealment capabilities he had.

However, a King going to another Continent without their invitation or a prior arrangement wouldn't be taken lightly at all. After all, his actions now were the continent's actions.

As such, his going anywhere could be taken as an invasion if he weren't careful.

'Why is the only continent that I can go to the only one that is controlled by an emperor?' he wondered. If it were someplace like the Northern Continent, then he could have freely gone there without worrying about what his presence would mean.

'Sigh, I don't have time for these visits,' he thought. 'I need to focus on finding a way back to Pearl or back to the Western Continent.'

He sat around listening to a few more reports and after he heard it all, the meeting ended.

Alex left with Linlin to go back out into the backyard to practice a bit. It was evening time with the sun finally set in the sky.

He took out two swords and controlled them in the sky. He couldn't help but show an incredulous look at exactly how bad the technique he had learned previously was.

"How is my output worse than what I'm putting into the attack?" he thought as he looked at the result. He was actually happy at how bad it really was.

Because of this, when he finally did improve, the result would be obvious.

"Linlin, you may return now. I will be training for a while and will go to my chambers afterward," he said.

"Please do not leave the palace without letting me know, your Majesty," the girl said before bowing. "Good night."

Alex chuckled a bit after hearing her and shook his head. Then, he started focusing on the technique and practicing to improve it.

Chapter 1182: Emergency Guests

Alex opened his eyes after a night of cultivation. His cultivation base of Saint Foundation 5th realm showed some improvement after having broken through a couple of weeks ago.

He left the room and found Linlin waiting for him. He turned to leave for his morning practice, but before he could go, Linlin called out for him.

"Your Majesty, one moment please," she said.

Alex stopped and turned around. "What is it?" he asked.

"Are you going to practice today as well?" she asked.

"Of course," Alex said. "What else will I be doing?"

"Don't you want to take a day off to celebrate?" she asked. "Today's your 3 years anniversary of being a King after all."

Alex paused. "Do kings really celebrate something like that?" he asked.

"I... am not sure," the girl said. "But we celebrated the last two, so shouldn't we celebrate this year as well?"

"Forget about it," he said. "There's no point in celebrating such a thing. But... if people want to, let them. I won't stop anyone from celebrating Scarlet's coronation just because I don't want mine to be."

Linlin smiled. "Thank you, your Majesty."

She went on to prepare for whatever celebration she thought best while Alex went to the backyard to train.

As soon as he went to the backyard, he found that someone else was already there.

"Oh, father. What are you doing awake this early in the morning?" Alex asked.

"Oh, hey son," Graham said as he stopped practicing the sword skill Alex had given him. "I broke through last night, so I came here to practice a bit to help stabilize myself."

"Oh, congratulations father," Alex said while he sensed his father's cultivation base. "You entered Meridian Tempering realm. That's fantastic."

"Hehe, it's alright," Graham said.

Alex nodded and watched and checked his father's cultivation base again. 'Nothing's wrong with it,' he thought. 'It's stable enough.'

He still wasn't sure what was wrong with his father's cultivation base. As far as he was aware, there was nothing wrong with his body to cause him to have such a slow cultivation speed despite the many fabulous pills and formations.

However, there had to be a reason why it was happening. However, since he couldn't learn what it was, he was forced to have his father slug through cultivation.

"Do you want to test your skills on me?" Alex asked.

"Can I?" Graham asked excitedly and controlled the sword in front of him. The sword flew in the air and started moving in certain ways that were not natural at all.

That was the skill behind the sword which Alex had read himself to improve it. He pulled out his own sword and blocked his father's sword.

He stayed on the defensive while his father used every skill in his arsenal. They stopped finally when Alex decided that he should be training.

"I will stay around with Whisker then," Graham said and left the area.

Once his father was gone, Alex fully trained his skills while trying new ways to do the same thing.

By now, he had learned a few things that were helpful in understanding how he could use any techniques.

There was a surprising complexity that came with stronger skills that Alex hadn't connected the dots of until now. The stronger a skill was, the longer it had to travel in his meridians.

There were millions of tiny pathways inside the human body where the Qi could flow. There were major meridians that the Qi could go straight through and it would come out weak.

However, if the Qi traveled through the smaller meridians, taking its time to come out, then somehow it became stronger.

Also, bringing out Qi from both sides of the dantian was much better than bringing it out from just one side. As it turned out, the symmetry of one's meridians affected the strength of the skills as well.

Alex had learned 3 new common grade skills and had upgraded all of them to at least Heaven grade. He still had to find ways to improve it further, but that would take even more time.

For now, he was focusing on the other types of skills. Since he knew a bit about skills that controlled stuff, he wanted to learn about skills that created stuff.

He had many such skills, so it was easy to find any that he wanted to improve. There were many that he had learned that he wanted to improve, but only two would be the easiest since they were the worst.

The first one was something he named 'Golden Fist Strike'. It was when he covered his fist in metal Qi and punched someone. At the moment of impact, the physical damage would hit the person first, and then the Qi would explode, dealing secondary damage after the first.

He stopped using this technique after Shen Jing had told him how bad they were due to his lack of understanding of how techniques worked.

His second skill, which he also stopped using due to Shen Jing, was the skill where he used his Fire and Yang Qi to create a small sun.

Now that he was starting to understand a little more about techniques, he planned on improving the two.

He spent the next 3 hours using the various meridians in his body to improve the 'Golden Fist Strike' technique. Since it was a different beginning pathway, he needed some time to adjust to the new pathways to understand what should go where.

Even after 3 hours, there were barely any signs of progress at all. However, that was to be expected. After all, there was no way he could learn something in a single day.

'I should stop,' he thought. He decided to proceed with his pills training. He was getting somewhere with his research on his Dao pill. While he felt like there was still a way to go, he had figured out a majority of the ingredients he would be needing.

'Just a year more,' he thought. 'I should be able to do it in a year.'

Alex walked away from the open area where he was training and walked into the flower garden that Whisker was responsible for.

While many flowers grew here, Alex found it more appropriate to call it an Alchemy garden, as all plants that grew here, were slightly rare ingredients.

"Oh, this flower blossomed quite well," Alex said as he squatted next to a flower. "You didn't even need my help this time around."

Whisker gave a happy smile when he heard the compliment.

Alex checked the flower and it was growing healthily. If it weren't healthy, or if it was finding some difficulty while growing, Alex could easily find out the problem and treat it. He could also easily speed up its growth or help the plants overcome their growth obstacles.

However, Whisker didn't have the Dao of Plant Growth, and even then he had created such an amazing garden.

"Do you want something? Some seeds maybe?" Alex asked.

"Can we go to the big garden again?" Whisker asked.

"The Forbidden Orchard?" Alex asked. "I'm afraid you will have to wait for a year more."

"Your Majesty!" Linlin came running into the garden.

Alex was surprised to see Linlin running in the palace at all. No matter how important something was, she always found the time to be graceful. However, she wasn't being so at the moment.

"Is something wrong?" Alex asked worriedly. "Is someone hurt?"

The girl arrived in front of Alex and quickly shook his head. "No one is hurt," she said before pointing toward the palace. "You have guests."

Alex sighed in relief. "Don't run like that then," he said. "I nearly thought there was some sort of emergency."

"It is sort of an emergency, your Majesty," the girl said. "You... you have guests waiting for you."

Alex frowned a little. "What sort of guests make you say that?" he asked. "Who exactly is here for it to be an emergency?"

"The guests who have come to see you right now... are from the eastern continent," the girl said. "They are members of the Azure Imperium."

"What?" Alex's eyes went wide. "What are the Azure Imperium people doing in the southern Continent?"

He remembered a time some 7 years ago when he saw the group last time as well. 'What are they doing here?' he wondered, just as he did all those years ago.

"Fine, let's go meet them," Alex said and walked into the palace.

Linlin quickly followed him and brought out his royal robes before putting them on him as he walked. Alex wore the robes and brought out his crown before putting it on his head.

The door to the throne room opened and everyone in the room stood up to greet him.

Alex walked over to the throne and sat down. "I hear we have guests from the Eastern Continent," he said as he looked at the men in the center of the throne room.

Each one was stronger than the next, with each having a cultivation base in the upper Saint Soul realm. Not only that, the leader with a thick beard and mustache seemed to have a Saint Transformation realm cultivation base as well.

He wore green and blue robes with white linings all around him, the same as everyone else.

"Greetings, King of the Southern Continent," the man moved toward Alex and bowed. The rest of his group bowed as well.

"Mhmm," Alex nodded. "And who might you all be?"

"I am Long Jianyu, commander of the Scale Legion of the Azure Imperium," the man spoke. "I have come today under the orders of the Dragon Emperor to request something from you, King Alex."

Chapter 1183: Trip

Alex observed the man that called himself Long Jianyu, commander of the Scale Legion of the Azure Imperium. His Demon Eyes showed exactly how strong the individual in front of him was.

'That's quite the strong Wood energy,' Alex thought. He looked at the few people around him and each one of them was strong as well.

"Please tell me what it is that the Dragon Emperor requests of someone like me who only just became a ruler," Alex said.

Long Jianyu bowed and spoke, "His Majesty has heard of your achievements in the field of Alchemy. So, he wishes to set up a small trip for your alchemists where they can exchange knowledge with our own Alchemists."

"Oh," Alex gave a surprised look. He hadn't expected such a request. "Does his Majesty really wish for our Alchemists to visit the Eastern Continent? From what I know, the Alchemy in the Eastern Continent is much better than ours."

"Ahem, that might have been the case in the past, your Majesty," Long Jianyu quickly spoke. "However, after you have started spreading your knowledge, the Southern Continent's Alchemy knowledge has improved a lot as well. I dare say it is now comparable to the Alchemy in the Eastern Continent."

Alex raised an eyebrow and nodded. "So, this trip. Do you have any specifics regarding it?" he asked.

"Uh, yes," Long Jianyu quickly spoke. "We hope to bring at least 10 different Saint Alchemists and 40 different True Alchemists on this journey. The exchange itself will probably last for 10 years, so it will be a long trip."

"10 years," Alex spoke. "That's quite long. Surely you don't expect them to waste their precious time like this. What do our Alchemists get from this?"

"We are prepared to provide a vast amount of treasure and resources. We promise to give them the best of treatments and will fulfill any of their needs for the time they remain in the Eastern Continent," the man quickly said.

Alex thought for a bit. The exchange itself wasn't that bad an idea, but he needed these alchemists right now. He couldn't afford to let go of them since the royal army desperately needed many pills themselves.

"There's one more thing," Long Jianyu spoke up. "His Majesty hopes that you, King Alex, can make it into the trip as well."

Alex showed no expression for the moment, but his heart beat fast. There it was, the invitation to the Eastern Continent, just as he had hoped for. He was ready to accept the request, but he had to think a bit more.

A few elders came to him to discuss a few things, and Alex took the time to thoroughly think it all through.

Finally, he came to a conclusion.

"I'm sorry," he said. "Unfortunately, we require the alchemists right now more than we can afford to let them go. They have only started learning from me too, so I need to keep them here with me."

"Oh," Long Jianyu said with a disappointed look. "Could I maybe ask your Majesty to reconsider?"

"There's nothing to reconsider. As you most likely know, I took up this crown merely 3 years ago. I still have many things to do on this continent, and many things to learn. Just like me, my Alchemists have still space to improve a lot as well. They cannot afford to leave right now as their learning is in the most important phase."

Long Jinayu waited for Alex to continue, but Alex didn't say anything. "I see," he said. "That's a shame then. I will relay this information to his Majesty."

"How about 10 years later?" Alex suddenly asked.

"I beg your pardon, your Majesty?" Long Jianyu said.

"10 years. Could you perhaps wait 10 years so I can teach my Alchemists to become even better? At the same time, I should finally be free to leave as I wish as well. Would that be alright with his Majesty?" Alex asked.

Long Jianyu gave a small smile. "While I cannot presume what his Majesty's answer will be, I do believe he will accept it," he said. "I shall return and relay these messages right away."

"You may do so," Alex said.

The group got ready to leave.

"However," Alex spoke, making the soldiers stop in their path. They quickly turned around towards Alex.

"Is something wrong, your Majesty?" Long Jianyu asked.

"No, nothing is wrong," Alex said. "Since you are already here, I was hoping you could give me some answer instead."

"Answers, your Majesty?" Long Jianyu asked. "What sort of answers?"

"For example, What are you doing here?" Alex asked.

"Here? As in the palace?" Long Jianyu asked, looking confused as he had just explained everything.

"No, the Southern Continent," Alex said.

"We came to deliver the message, your Majesty," Long Jianyu quickly said.

"Is that so?" Alex asked. "Did your Emperor request this from you a decade ago when your soldiers came to the Southern Continent too? Woah, the Dragon Emperor must be a fantastic seer to have seen so far into the future."

Long Jianyu's face twitched a bit and he tried to hide it with a smile. "Of course not, your Majesty. We had our reasons for coming here before," he said.

"What reasons?" Alex asked.

"Umm... they are quite private reasons, your Majesty. I hope you won—"

"Are you saying you won't tell me what you're doing on my own land?" Alex asked. His face held a small smile, but within that smile hid an intent that only Long Jianyu could feel.

Long Jianyu was strong, and as such didn't feel much fear from Alex at all. However, Alex was a king and he couldn't fight a king. If he did, the Phoenix would most likely come and kill him.

"Not only did the soldiers from another continent come here, but they also won't even tell us what they are here for. I must say I do not feel safe in such a situation. I must ask for an answer immediately, lest you force me to feed you a Truthseeking pill for my own safety," Alex said.

The elders around him stood up and all looked toward the man in the center. Long Jianyu might have been strong, but he couldn't possibly fight 10 Saint Transformation realm cultivators at once.

He needed to de-escalate the situation somehow.

"I will answer, your Majesty," he quickly said. "We were here looking for some people who ran away."

Alex's eyes widened. "Runaways?" he asked. "May I know who?"

"I'm sorry, but I cannot tell you who we are looking for," the man said. "The individuals' identities are quite confidential to the empire. Please understand."

"Alright," Alex said. "Did you find them?"

"No, we did not, your Majesty," Long Jianyu said. "In fact, we might have been wrong about their arrival here. They may have instead gone to the Northern Continent."

"I see," Alex said. "Will you be searching for them still?"

"No, we are done searching. We've spent the last decade searching, so there is no point anymore," the man said.

Alex nodded. "In that case, you may leave."

Long Jianyu and the rest bowed one last time and greeted them all farewell as they left the throne room.

Chapter 1184: Immortal Grade Skills

Someone from the Eastern Continent returned a few months later to deliver the news that the Dragon Emperor would be happy to receive both the Alchemists and Alex 10 years later.

With the date set for 10 years in the future, Alex spent some of the time he had teaching the alchemists.

The rest still went into improving his techniques or trying to make the new pills.

He continued with both of them, along with his cultivation base, and before he knew it, another 6 years had passed.

The continent improved a lot in these past 6 years. In fact, since he had taken up the throne nearly a decade ago, the Southern Continent had found a newfound strength that wasn't there before at all.

With all the improvement he had done through his alchemy teachings, his royal alchemists were now easily making pills in the Immortal grade.

In fact, most of them easily crossed 80%, some even reaching 90%. However, they still found it hard to fill the final gap.

Alex had given them everything technique and knowledge he could, including the Pill-Splitting Qi, but these people were still not capable of overcoming the final hurdle.

The lack of Fire dao as well as the lack of perfect ingredients caused these people to not have the pills reach their full potential. However, even without them, they were still the best pills the world had ever seen.

The two best Alchemists, right behind Alex, were Harry and Jai Heiyun. Harry was still in the Alchemy Association, but Alex had called him over a few times to teach him along with his alchemists. As for Jai Heiyun, she was simply spectacular as an alchemist. If he were not here, she would definitely have been the best of the entire continent.

As such, Alex had decided to put her as the head of the Royal Alchemists, making her the Senior Royal Alchemist that everyone looked up to.

In the years after its setup, both the royal institutes and the royal army had more people joining them every year. By now, Alex didn't even know how many people there were in each of them.

He simply let the others bother about the statistics of it all.

The only thing he really cared about was that the institutes he had set up were now started to pay back for themselves, and were in fact even profiting in some cases.

Scarlet had improved a lot in the years as well. She had completely fixed her cultivation base as it no longer held signs of having rushed through. Alex's pills had helped her a lot, which she appreciated.

Starting last year, she had finally started focusing on improving her cultivation base, rather than just fixing it.

Very soon, she would break through to the Saint Transformation 2nd realm, and then the 3rd and more.

It was much slower than Alex had hoped her cultivation speed would be, but he stayed quiet and let her take her time.

Since she was the only one who could possibly take him all the way to the Western Continent, he did not wish to force her to speed up her cultivation speed at the risk of going through Qi Deviation.

Alex sometimes wondered if he should just ask for one of those ships from the Dragon Emperor that would help him ride throughout the world without being caught by any beasts in the ocean.

There wasn't much improvement in the years aside from that. He had reached Saint Foundation 8th realm, his father had reached Mind Tempering 8th realm, and Whisker was on the verge of becoming a Saint.

None of these results felt noteworthy in Alex's eyes. Especially his father's results were the worst ones.

Thankfully, Alex had forced his father to stop focusing on Qi cultivation for now and start to cultivate his body.

He would regularly train his body by getting beat up to the verge of death, and healing it with the Phoenix fire Scarlet specifically left for him. Using that, Graham had managed to reach all the way to the Saint Soul realm in terms of physical strength.

Even Scarlet was surprised when she realized how strong Alex's father had become. There was no doubt in anyone's mind now that Graham had some special constitution that helped with body cultivation, but at the loss of Qi cultivation instead.

Alex stood in front of the stone pillar with closed eyes as he prepared his attack. A golden fist covered his own fist and he punched.

The fist landed on the stone pillar, and then the fist exploded into bright light.

Saint Core 9th realm.

Alex nodded to himself when he saw the level his Golden Fist Strike had reached in the past years. It was now comparable to an Immortal grade skill, although Alex didn't know how to improve it to Divine or even Celestial grade.

That probably took a lot of time, so he didn't even bother, and moved on to other techniques.

His sun now burned hot and bright, but he wasn't yet sure just how he could use it. He had created the sun to aid his Flickering Shadows technique, but it had been a while since he had to use that technique, as his normal teleportation Dao was much better.

'There will come a time when the sun will be helpful,' he believed in himself.

Alex had gone on to improve most of the techniques he had, while also improving the new ones he had learned.

The Twin Sword's Flight, Swirling Water Defense, and the Static Slash, along with almost all of the rest of his skills had improved to Immortal rank in terms of strength.

He had personally found different pathways, complicated ones, for each of his techniques, and had thus managed to make them stronger.

The time it took to do so got smaller and smaller with time as he gained more and more information from all the changes he had made to the technique.

He was now so experienced in improving techniques, that if he got a Common grade technique right now, he could make it to reach Immortal grade in a single month, maybe even less if the technique happens to do something similar to his other techniques.

He had learned so much already that there weren't many ways he could learn more about it, other than trying to turn the skills into Divine grade or higher. However, that would take a long time.

"God, how do I know so much and have yet to learn its dao?" Alex wondered. "Am I missing something?"

He had tried gaining the dao a couple of times, even trying to fall asleep to the scent of the Soul Elucidating Tulips, but it didn't work. The tulips were nowhere near as potent as the small pool of water at the top of Dao Mountain.

'I definitely need the pill,' Alex thought. Thankfully, he was very close to figuring out that too.

If everything went well, he was certain that he would be able to figure out the pill recipe within the month, if not within the week.

At that point, he would've done everything he had set out to do after he had become the King of the Southern Continent.

Chapter 1185: The Pill

Alex felt confident that this was it. He had tried so many different recipes and so many different ingredients, but none of them felt as good as the current one he was making.

After a dozen minutes or so of making the pill, Alex was done with it.

He brought out the pill and ate it without any hesitation. Since the pill did nothing to harm his dantian or meridians, he showed no fear of what else it could do.

Since he already knew it was a pill that affected one's mind, he had no reason to worry about the rest of his body.

Alex closed his eyes and let the pill affect him. As he let it do its thing, he slowly felt his head grow heavy and drowsy, as if he wanted to sleep right away.

However, instead of falling asleep, he simply just fell into a trance. He didn't realize that he had fallen into a trance and let his mind freely wander about the many things it had to think about.

He was suddenly woken up by loud banging on his door.

Alex slowly opened his eyes, confused for a second as to where he was. 'My alchemy room? What was I doing... right, the pill.' He started remembering bits and pieces from when he had made his pills.

The doors were banged on once more, pulling Alex's attention toward it from the pills. "Who is it?" he asked.

"Your Majesty, are you alright?" a voice spoke.

"Elder Yao?" Alex felt confused. "Is that you?"

"Your Majesty, please open the door," the old woman sounded desperate.

Alex quickly stood up and opened the door to find Linlin and many of the elders outside his door, confusing him even more. "Is... everything alright?" he asked.

"That's what we should be asking you, your Majesty," the elders said. "Are you alright? Are you hurt? Is your cultivation base alright?"

"My cultivation base?" Alex looked at them weirdly. "It's fine. Why wouldn't it be fine?"

The elders were the ones confused this time around. "Then, did you break through? I can't sense any change," Yao Ning said.

"I didn't break through," Alex said. "What is going on with you people? Just say what you want directly."

"You failed to comprehend a Dao," a voice spoke from the hallway. Scarlet walked up to his room as well, and everyone moved to make way for her.

Alex was surprised when he heard that. "I... failed to comprehend a Dao?" he asked.

Scarlet nodded. "These people are mistaking the worldly laws dropping for you breaking through," she said. "What happened? Was your comprehension not enough?"

"Comprehension? I don't know," Alex said. "I didn't even realize I was learning a dao at all. I just ate my new pill and... Ah, I must've fallen into a trance."

The crowd looked at him with surprised faces.

"You can all return without worrying. I'll see you in the throne room in the evening," Alex said.

"Your Majesty," Linlin spoke. "It's midnight right now."

"What?" Alex looked at them with a surprised look on his face. "Did... did I fall in a trance for 12 hours?"

They all nodded. "It was around evening time that the worldly laws descended and only left a couple of minutes ago," Scarlet said.

"I see," Alex said. 'I was learning a Dao? How come I didn't realize it at all?'

"Your Majesty," one of the elders called out. "Did you say... you made a pill?"

Alex smiled. "Yes, I made a pill to help you all learn Dao," he said. "It won't help you comprehend dao, but it will help you fall into a trance which will make it very easy for you to proceed from there. I will improve it in the next 2 days and then start making a bunch of it. Once I'm done, I will hand over the recipe to Jai Heiyun, and she can start making them for the rest."

"Your Majesty!" the elders smiled the biggest they had in a while as they bowed many times over.

"Alright, alright. Go back. I'm sorry for disturbing you all at midnight," Alex said, sending them away.

Scarlet stayed behind and walked into the room. "What Dao was it?" she asked. "It felt profound, way more profound than any Fire dao I've learned."

"I think it's the Dao of Technique," Alex said. "I don't know what else it could be if not it."

"Ah, the one you've been obsessed with recently," Scarlet said. "I can't believe you actually brought the Worldly laws down for it. That's one complicated Dao, you know?"

"Is that so?" Alex said. "You don't know it, do you?"

"I could never begin to try and learn that dao. One has to either be very talented, very dedicated or have a large amount of free time on their hand, which I never did," Scarlet said.

"I see," Alex said. "Well, I'll make sure to give you the best pills so you can learn the True Fire Dao sometime soon."

"I wish," Scarlet said. "Rest for now and focus on that pill. I will take care of the rest of the stuff for the next week."

Alex nodded and watched Scarlet leave. Once she was gone, he closed his eyes and sat in front of the furnace as he tried to remember what he was thinking when he had fallen in the trance.

A few pieces of information came floating back to him, a few thoughts he most likely had when he was in a trance. 'I was definitely thinking about the Dao of techniques,' he thought. 'And from the sound of it, I was close to learning it too. Did I make a mistake somewhere, or...'

A thought came to Alex. "Was the pill I made perhaps not potent enough?" he thought. "Did I wake up a bit too early? Thinking back on it, what percentage was the pill's harmony even?"

He had been in so much of a hurry that he hadn't cared about the little things that he should have.

"Whatever, I will focus on improving the recipe for now," he thought. He stopped thinking about the pill and Dao and started cultivating for the rest of the night.

He woke up late in the morning, but that did not stop him from immediately starting on the pill. With the ingredients and recipe practically carved into his brain, he easily improved the recipe after a couple of tries.

The perfect recipe was written down on a talisman 2 days later as Alex finally finished refining it to its highest potential.

Once he was done, he rested for a while longer to restore his cultivation base. Once his cultivation base was back, he wasted no time and started making pills one by one.

That day, lightning struck the palace over a hundred times. The people in the city would look toward the palace every time the lightning struck, but instead of being scared, they would smile.

'His Majesty is making another perfect pill,' they would think everything the lightning struck the palace.

The elders and the rest waited for the lightning bolts to stop dropping. The moment it stopped, they all excitedly waited for their King to come out.

After all, he had finally finished making the pill that would help them learn some precious Dao.

Chapter 1186: New Dao

"Alchemist Jai, how have you been?" Alex asked as he watched Jai Heiyu walk into the room.

"Your Majesty," the girl quickly bowed. "I have been doing very good, thanks to your grace."

"I'm happy to hear that," Alex said. "Come sit, I have something to say to you."

The girl quickly walked up to the empty chair in front of Alex and sat down. "Your Majesty, you could've called me to the palace. You didn't have to come here at all."

"It's alright, I've been holed up in that place for a long time, so I needed some fresh air," Alex said. "Besides, I wanted to come and see how my favorite alchemists were doing."

Jai Heiyun gave a bashful smile and nodded. "We've all been doing great, your Majesty," she said. "Speaking of great, what is happening in the palace, your majesty? It feels like someone is breaking through each day there."

"Haha, it does, doesn't it?" Alex asked. "Actually, that's why I'm here."

Alex brought out a talisman and handed it over to Jai Heiyun. The girl took the talisman and read it.

"Soul Trancing pills? That's the first time I've ever heard of a pill like this," she said.

"I would hope so," Alex said. "I only just came up with it a week ago."

"Oh, you came up with this recipe, your Majesty? It must've been hard," the girl said. "I don't think I've ever interacted with 3 of the ingredients on this list."

Alex nodded. "It was hard. That's a culmination of 9 years of work right there," he said.

"9 years?" the girl looked surprised, as she should be. "And you are just handing it over to me, your majesty?"

"What else should I do with it then? Keep it locked up so only I can benefit from it?" Alex asked.

The girl was sure that was the correct thing to do, but she didn't say it out loud. She wasn't a King, so she didn't understand what would be going on through the head of someone like that.

"What does it do exactly?" the girl asked. "This Soul Trancing pill."

"It puts you into a trance where you become the closest you will ever be to learning a Dao," Alex said. "That's what you have been sensing in the palace for the last week. Centuries of understanding amplified by a single day of comprehension, making everyone learn Dao one after another."

"Woah," the girl said. "This is such an amazing pill. I can't believe you are going to give it away to just anyone."

"Just anyone?" Alex asked. "I'm giving it to you, Senior Royal Alchemist. You will learn that recipe and teach 10 of your fellow Alchemists. Then, you will make the Soul Trancing pills for everyone in the army. That's nearly a thousand pills for each person, so you better prepare."

"I won't disappoint you, your Majesty," the girl said quickly.

"I don't doubt it," Alex said. "Right, how's the technique coming along? Have they learned it yet?"

Jai Heiyun shook her head. "It's simply too complicated for everyone to learn it, your Majesty. Even though it's nearly been a decade since we were handed the Pill Splitting Qi technique, there are still more than half of us that can't use it properly while making pills at all."

"Not to mention the fact that using double the amount of ingredients messes up so much of the recipe that it's impossible for many to even do it properly without the Dao of Heat," Jai Heiyun said while

sighing a little. "But don't worry, your Majesty. I will only have the best of the best work on this pill. I will promise to only make pills over 90% in harmony."

Alex smiled at her determination. "Keep working hard, miss Jai," he said. "I will be returning now."

"Returning? So soon, your Majesty?" the girl asked.

"I have to," Alex said. "Actually, the truth is that I haven't eaten that pill yet as I wanted to let the others have a go at it first. However, it looks like things are dying down, so I want to eat the pill myself too."

"I see," Jai Heiyun said. "Then I wish you a successful Dao comprehension, your Majesty."

Alex smiled and stood up. "Work hard, as you will be representing our Alchemists in the Eastern Continent in 3 years," he said. "Goodbye."

Alex left the Alchemy Institute and returned back to the palace where all the elders were coming out closed cultivation after learning a Dao or two one after another.

They all greeted Alex as he walked in, explaining to him what Dao they learned.

Dao of Cold, Dao of Metal, Dao of Stagnation, Dao of Heaviness, Dao of Water, Dao of Wind, Dao of Mist, and maybe more Daos that he hadn't even heard of before, he was now hearing that the elders had learned them.

He congratulated the elders and went to the backyard. He brought out his sword and started training his techniques. He wanted to feel what was going on in his body when he used the technique. He wanted to feel the pathway his Qi took, and understand why that was the correct one.

He used many different attacks, and many different techniques, and it all felt the same. He had done it all a thousand times, so he knew what he would feel and what he knew.

So, after making sure that he knew everything he needed to know, Alex quickly sat on the ground and took out a 6-veined Soul Trancing pill which he ate without stopping.

He felt the pill release its energy inside his stomach and soon enough he was starting to feel drowsy once again. He tried to keep his wits even when tranced, but that wasn't possible at all.

He was too much in a trance to be able to do anything.

Alex had no way of knowing what he would think when he took the pill, which was why he had bothered training so much beforehand. He hoped that this would help him get his mind on track, and it did.

He started thinking about the different skills, their Qi, their pathway, and the intent behind them.

The world stirred a bit as the worldly laws moved a little. It was faint enough at first that no one noticed, but as time went on, it started becoming more and more obvious.

Scarlet felt the profoundness of the Dao Alex was learning and shook her head. 'This kid really is something,' she thought.

The elders sensed the worldly laws as well and wondered who was trying to comprehend a Dao.

There were still many in the palace that could do so.

The Worldly laws hovered in the sky for a couple of hours, and by that time everyone was aware that it was Alex who was trying to comprehend it. They made no sound and left him alone to comprehend the dao on his own.

Alex subconsciously started learning aspects of the Dao that he had previously not even imagined would be part of it. There were little things that he had simply looked over or didn't think were as important, which he was now realizing were actually very important.

He slowly learned bit by bit, comprehending again what he had thought he had already comprehended, and comprehending even more new things.

The elders and the rest were left stumped as they watched the Worldly laws hover in the air for 2 whole days without moving a bit. Even Scarlet was agitated as to whether Alex was going to learn it this time around or not.

However, after half a day more, she got the answer.

The world seemed to darken in the eyes of many Saints as they sensed a strong wave of Worldly laws descending onto the land. They had never sensed something this strong, so they were left wide-eyed and open-mouthed as they watched the descent fall on the Palace.

"Who could've learned that?"

"It must've been her Majesty."

"Yes, I can't imagine who else could learn something like that."

Not many people even guessed Alex could have learned such a strong dao.

The worldly laws remained on the ground for a couple of minutes longer before leaving away. When they were gone, Alex finally opened his eyes.

He was now fully conscious, and in his head was an understanding of techniques that he hadn't before.

"I... did it?" he thought. He hadn't realized what he had done during the trance. It was like someone else took over for him when he was in the trance.

"Haha, I succeeded. I didn't fail this time around," Alex said happily.

"Congratulations," Scarlet said as she walked out of the dome. "I was worried you would fail this time around too, but it seems my worry was for nothing."

"Thank you," Alex said excitedly.

The elders came to the backyard as well and started congratulating Alex. This had been a one-of-a-kind event for them as they hadn't felt a dao this strong ever. "What sort of Dao did you learn, your Majesty?" they asked.

"It's..." Alex paused. He tried to find words to explain what he had learned, but it was so complex that his words wouldn't be enough at all. "In Essence, the Dao helps me improve techniques and modify them as I want to their fullest capability."

The elders were surprised, but not as much as they would've been had he learned a dao that helped with fighting. He shook his head.

"I wish to test the Dao. Please leave me alone for a bit," Alex said.

The group nodded and left. Once alone, Alex started testing out what his new Dao helped him do.

Chapter 1187: Skill Improvement

The Iron Fist Punch skill was a Heaven grade skill, which in the last decade Alex had managed to improve to the Immortal grade. Doing so, the technique's strength had improved by a tiny amount, enough to be noticeable. However, in the last hour, Alex had used his new Dao to improve the technique even further, finding better ways to use it.

He spent the last few hours looking into himself to see the movement of his Qi. The improvement itself came surprisingly easy to him now. He knew what sort of path his skills needed to take to be improved. In addition, the world helped him follow the right path too, by aiding him in the movement of Qi through his body.

That way, Alex had been able to improve his technique very quickly, compared to taking months at a time before.

He used the new technique finally and was surprised to find that it did not improve as well as he would've hoped it to.

He was disappointed by the fact that his skill had actually not improved much at all. The improvement was so small that it wouldn't have mattered had he not improved it in the first place.

The worse part of it all was that Alex knew that this was the best he could do. This was the best the world could do for him. For the Iron Fist Punch, this was the best technique could be.

Alex was disappointed at first, but the disappointment slowly faded away as he understood the truth.

Skills couldn't be infinitely improved. They could be degraded to the point where they were pretty much useless, but when it came to improving, there was a steep plateau the skills hit once they became sufficiently improved.

The strength of a skill depended primarily on 3 different things.

The first one was the quality of Qi used to use the skill. This was perhaps the most important aspect of skill as even the trashiest of trash skills could do something good if used with a sufficiently strong Qi.

The second was the amount of Qi. This wasn't as important as after a certain amount of Qi, the skill didn't become any stronger at all.

Finally, it was the efficiency of the pathway for the technique. The more efficient the pathway was, the better it was for the technique. Efficient didn't necessarily mean the fastest way, just the one where the Qi lost the least strength while flowing out.

There was a limit to how efficient something could be after reaching the peak.

That was what had happened to his Iron Fist Punch. After upgrading it to just past Immortal grade, it had become the most efficient it had been and could no longer be improved.

If he really wanted to improve this technique in any way, the only method he had was to change the technique entirely, and that was not what he wanted to do at all.

"I will have to see what I can improve and how much," he thought. "I really might have to change the techniques to do entirely different things if I want them to become stronger."

Fortunately, Dao of Technique aided him in that as well. Even without trying it out, Alex knew that by using this new Dao he could change the techniques in any way he wanted.

Although, he wasn't certain if he could do it in a short amount of time at all. He would have to experiment some more.

"What should I improve next? Maybe the Palm of the S—" Alex stopped speaking as his head turned in a certain direction. "What was that?"

He felt a fluctuation in space that caught his attention. He couldn't tell if the fluctuations were strong and far away, or moderate but very close.

His spiritual sense rolled in that direction, pushing to the best it could, but he couldn't see anything. His spiritual sense couldn't even cross halfway through the dome, and the fluctuations definitely came from beyond it.

"Linlin, something is happening on the other side of the Dome. Can you take an elder and go immediately?" he asked the girl that was waiting on him in the garden.

"Yes, your Majesty," Linlin obeyed immediately.

Alex went back to the palace as he didn't feel like working on his techniques at the moment. He wanted to first know that everything was alright before trying it all out.

Besides, it was already late in the afternoon, so he couldn't just sit around doing nothing. He went to the throne room and waited for more information to come in.

He waited a few minutes before someone rushed in.

"Linlin, what's going on?" he asked.

"Your majesty, so-someone came to the capital through the Teleportation formation," the girl said.

"What's so surprising about that? Everyone comes in through the teleportation formations," Alex said.

"No no no no no," the girl quickly shook her head. "The big one. The one nobody uses."

Alex's eyes narrowed as he realized what she was talking about. "The Intercontinental Teleportation formation?" Alex asked as he quickly stood up.

Linlin nodded aggressively. "Someone came through that," she said. "She says... she says she wants to speak with her Majesty."

"Scarlet? Why? Did you ask?" Alex questioned.

Linlin shook her head. "She won't tell us at all," she said. "The elders are very suspicious of her so they are holding her for now."

Alex frowned a little. "Where did she come from? Did the Dragon emperor send her by any chance?" he asked.

"That... that's the suspicious part, your Majesty," Linlin said while holding a confused look on her face. "She says she's from the Central continent."

"The Central continent?" Alex felt his heart beat faster when he thought of the possibility. He rushed out of the palace before Linlin could even answer him and flew in the direction of the formations.

He flew over the dome and very quickly saw the 10 elders flying toward him while surrounding a single person in the middle.

Alex saw the girl they were keeping. She was tall and slender and wore a jade-green robe. Her silky black hair flowed in the wind. As for her face, it held a frown on it.

Alex looked at the face and realized it was the same.

He flew quickly and soon enough the elders noticed. They all stopped and greeted him as he appeared. The girl's eyes perked up a little when she heard them greet Alex as 'his Majesty'.

Alex arrived in front of them, but he didn't greet the elders back at all. His focus right now was on the girl in front of him. The girl he had seen such a long time ago. The girl who he had waited to see once again in many years.

The girl whose face he so clearly remembered.

"Sister Hao Ya, it's you, right?" Alex asked.

The girl's face went through many different emotions and she couldn't believe someone actually recognized her. "How do you know who I am?" the girl asked while looking closely at Alex. She felt she had seen him before somewhere.

"It's you!" she shouted. "You're the one that broke the game, aren't you?"

Chapter 1188: Request

The elders watched the two with confused faces. "Your Majesty, do you know her by any chance?"

"Your Majesty?" Hao Ya looked back at Alex with a shocked look of her own. "What's... going on?"

"Please leave her, she's not someone suspicious," Alex said.

"But your Majesty, she says she came from the Central Continent," one of the elders said. "She's clearly lying."

Alex looked at the girl and wondered why she was openly revealing that information. Was it perhaps...

"Sister Hao, I hear you were looking for Scarlet. Unfortunately, she isn't available right now, but if I may be of any help, please tell me," Alex said.

"Why did they call you Your Majesty?" Hao Ya asked.

"What else would we call him?" one of the elders asked. "He is the King of the Southern Continent, appointed by her Majesty herself."

Hao Ya's eyes went wide. "So, you are the King instead of the Phoenix?" she asked. "Then please help me."

"Let's go back to the palace so we can talk," Alex said and left with the group. The elders looked surprised and confused the whole way through and Hao Ya stared at Alex's back, wondering how he could have gotten here.

As for Alex, he had way too many emotions going through him at the moment. His mind wandered into multitudes of possibilities, each of which he had to reel in so as not to disappoint himself.

They all arrived at the palace and Alex quickly made his way to the throne room. As soon as they all entered, Alex turned toward the elders.

"Please leave us alone for a bit," he said.

"But your majesty, you ca—"

"It's an order. Everyone, please leave," Alex said.

The elders looked worried, but they had no choice since their king had given them a direct order. "We'll be right outside if you need us, your Majesty."

Alex nodded and watched them walk out. After the door closed, he turned toward the girl who had been staring at him this entire time. "It's good to see you, sister Hao. How have you been?" he asked with a gentle smile on his face.

Hao Ya didn't speak for a while as she continued staring at his face. "You look so young," she said. "Unlike your other body."

Alex perked up when he heard that. "My other body? You mean my clone?" he asked.

"How do you know he's a clone?" Hao Ya asked. "That's not supposed to be something you know about."

"I figured it out a while ago," Alex said.

Hao Ya nodded. "I see. Well, Your clone is an old man now. I saw him a few months ago, which is why its so weird seeing you so young," she said. "Damn, I did not expect to see you here at all. What the hell are you even doing here? Didn't I tell you to stay in the Wes—"

Hao Ya quickly stopped her mouth from speaking any further and quickly bowed. "My apologies, your Majesty. I did not see my place and became rude to you," she said.

"No, no, no. It's alright. I don't mind," Alex said. "It's refreshing when I hear someone not be respectful to me for one. Please don't bow toward me."

Hao Ya slowly looked back up. "Are you sure? I can't afford to make anyone angry," she said.

Alex chuckled a little. "I'm not angry," he said.

"Sigh, thank god," she said. "I would've been in deep trouble if you somehow refused to help me."

"Help you with what exactly, if I may ask?" Alex asked curiously.

Hao Ya took a deep breath. "I need your help in sending back all the players that want to go back home," she said. "I need you to gather everyone that wishes to return."

Alex had been waiting to hear something exactly like that, but even then he nearly stumbled due to the shock. "Are you ready to take us all back? Is the Creator ready to bring us back?" he asked.

"Are you looking forward to returning?" Hao Ya couldn't help but be surprised. "Why would you want to return, when you are a King and can have a much better life here?"

"Because my brother is in that continent," Alex said.

"Your brother?" Hao Ya looked to the side with a thoughtful look. "I don't remember hearing about junior sister having an Uncle. Do you really have a brother?"

"Sorry, my bonded beast. He's like a brother to me," Alex said.

"Wait, is that the White Cat?" Hao Ya asked.

"Yes, how do you know?" Alex asked.

"I think I remember hearing about it not too long ago," Hao Ya said. "He's a special case since he managed to get in through the Qi barrier somehow."

"How is he? Is he fine? Is he hurt?" Alex asked, sounding very desperate.

Hao Ya smiled and shook her head. "He's fine, from what I hear. Sorry, I was in the Northern Continent for most of the last decade, so I only know bits and pieces as to what is going on with the cat, but I do believe he's with your clone right now."

Alex felt weird hearing that Pearl was with his other body. He couldn't help but smile, however, since he knew that Pearl hadn't been alone this whole time. A sense of relief passed over him that had been gnawing at him for the past decade and a half.

"So, you will help me, right?" Hao Ya asked.

"Of course, sister Hao," Alex said. "I will help you with everything I can. Please tell me exactly what you need."

"I just need your help in spreading the news around that the players can return back if they want to," she said. "Not everyone will want to, and that's alright."

Alex nodded. "I will relay the message overnight and bring them all here somehow. It will take a few days certainly, so I hope you will stick around," he said.

"Yes, I will," Hao Ya said. "This is the first continent we are helping, so I need to be here from start to end to make sure nothing goes wrong."

"Oh, you haven't done it anywhere else?" Alex asked.

Hao Ya shook her head. "I only just found the last bits of resources from the Northern Continent a few years ago. Damn sects didn't want to let me go through their treasury so I could search for it," she said.

"But you managed to get it in the end?" Alex asked.

"Of course," Hao Ya said. "I had to show off a few artifacts, and that did the job." She looked rather proud when she said that.

Alex glanced at her cultivation base and was surprised at how strong she was. 'Saint Soul 6th realm. She was Saint Core when I last saw her, wasn't she?' he thought.

"You came here telling people that you were from the Central continent. Are you not worried that someone nefarious might want to go and disrupt the peace for the mortals?" Alex asked.

"And who would dare?" Hao Ya asked. "The whole world might come and they still wouldn't dare. Not while my master is around."

Alex smiled. "I'm getting more and more curious about this master of yours," he said. "I hope I will get a chance to meet the creator when I return."

Chapter 1189: The Order

Alex was a little bummed that Hao Ya didn't want to talk about her master at all. Until she got permission from him, she wouldn't say anything about him to Alex at all.

As for his Clone, she didn't seem to know much about him, so Alex didn't bother asking anymore. He would meet him and Pearl when he returned.

"Don't worry about Master," Hao Ya said. "He's too interested in your body constitution to not give you the time of the day. Besides, there are other reasons why he will have to let you see him."

"Other reasons? Like what?" Alex asked.

Hao Ya was about to answer but stopped. Instead, she put on a smug smile on her face. "What's the hurry? Just sit around, everything will be clear in time," she said. "Now, tell me what you are doing here when I made it very clear last time that you had to wait around in the Western Continent. What would we do if you had died?"

"We? Does your master care if we live or die?" Alex asked.

"Of course he does," Hao Ya said. "The reason he sent you all out here in the first place is that—"

She stopped herself from speaking anymore. "Nevermind," she said as she shook her head.

Alex's eyes narrowed. "He made us play the game for some reason?" he asked. "What reason?"

"Nevermind, I said. He will tell you if he thinks you deserve to know the answer," she said while crossing her arm. She sneaked some glances toward Alex who kept looking at her. "Have... have you learned any Dao?"

"Yes, some," Alex said.

"Good, you might be of some help in the end, after all," she said.

"You're not going to tell me what you mean by that, are you?" Alex asked.

"Ask my master those questions when you meet him. I am not going to answer any of your questions regarding him," Hao Ya said.

Alex sighed in the end and gave up. "Fine, let me go give the orders. We should have people gathered by the end of the week," he said.

He left the room and found the elders waiting outside the room.

"Your majesty, are you alright?"

"Are you hurt?"

"Did she do anything to you?"

They asked questions in a barrage that Alex quickly ignored. "I have a new task for you all, an emergency task," he said.

He explained the scenario and exactly what was happening. The elders were shocked to hear that they had to gather hundreds of thousands of players from all around the continent so they could go back home.

It wasn't just the mainland either. People had to go over to the Wasteland as well and bring them back.

"Deploy the army for this task. It has to be of ultimate priority at the moment," Alex said.

The elders understood the seriousness of the situation and nodded. However, they acted as if they were hesitating for some reason. "What's going on? Just speak your mind," Alex said.

One of the elders spoke to break the awkwardness. "Will you be returning as well, your Majesty?" the elder asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "But only temporarily."

"Can you really go back just temporarily?" the elder asked. "Isn't your home... far away?" they asked while pointing to the sky.

Alex couldn't help but chuckle a bit. "No, that's just a misconception you all came up with on your own," he said. "My home is where the lady inside came from."

"The lady? But she says she came from the Central Continent," the elders said.

"That's right," Alex said. "I come from the Central continent. It's a little hard to explain right now, so I will do it later. Follow my orders for now."

"Yes, Your Majesty," they all spoke at once and left.

"Linlin, please prepare a room for our guest," Alex said to the girl.

"Yes, your Majesty," she said and left.

Alex returned back to the throne room and found Hao Ya looking all around. "Since you have a week or so to spare, I hope you can stay around. Last time you left the moment you got what you want, so I didn't get to ask a lot of questions."

"What do you want to learn about? I don't know much since I've been focusing on fixing the formations you broke," she said.

"I will ask the relevant questions to the creator himself as it looks like he might have more answers than you," Alex said. "For now, I just want to learn about what's going on back in the Central continent. It's been over 40 years since I left home. I was just wondering if things have stayed the same or if it has changed drastically."

Hao Ya sighed for a moment and spoke, "Things have changed, but not to the point where it is unrecognizable. Due to what you did, well we can't blame you really, it was your clone after all. Either way, due to what happened, normal development halted entirely for a couple of years as people suddenly lost all sense of motivation regarding anything."

"Schools and colleges had to shut down for months. People didn't show up to work. Etc, etc. It was surreal for the first year after the game's ending. But, people soon got back on their feet and the world started moving."

"There were other problems, primarily master's fault, that caused the world to slow down for some other reason, but 40 years later, the problems have all but disappeared," Hao Ya said.

"I see," Alex said. "Hearing about it just doesn't help at all when I know I will see it in a week. Oh right, when I do go, I can come back, right?"

"Yes," Hao Ya said. "But the formations won't work that many times due to the lack of resources. We will give everyone a chance to try and live their life back in their home for a year or so, and if they don't like it, they can return. That's what they deserve anyway."

Alex nodded. "Right, anything we need to be careful about? These people are strong. What if they cause trouble after returning?" he asked.

"Hmm, we should ask everyone to vent away their Qi before returning," Hao Ya said. "Although, there is nothing we can do about people with strong bodies, and will just have to hope that they don't cause any trouble."

Alex nodded as he heard that. "Trust that people won't abuse their powers," he said as he sighed. "That's going to be hard."

"That's the only choice we have anyway," Hao Ya said. "The peop—"

Hao Ya quickly turned around as a small metal ball flew out from her robes. The metal ball expanded into four segments that flew around her, creating a barrier that protected her completely.

"You have good senses, little girl," a voice spoke from outside the throne room.

Hao Ya seemed ready to fight, but Alex moved in front of her and gestured for her to calm down.

"Scarlet, you're scaring her," Alex said.

Scarlet peaked her head through the door and then her body entered the room. Hao Ya looked at the Phoenix that had entered the room with wide eyes for a moment before quickly realizing who she was.

She put aside the defensive artifact and bowed at the waist. "It is an honor to meet you, Immortal Phoenix," she said.

"You may rise," Scarlet said.

Hao Ya hesitated for a split second before she stopped bowing. She looked at the Phoenix with clear questions in her eyes. Most burning of which was definitely why the Immortal Phoenix did not feel immortal to her senses.

Hao Ya could tell that the Phoenix had a Saint realm cultivation base and that confused her greatly.

Scarlet's eyes moved from the girl to the defensive artifact that she had just put away. "That's not a normal treasure that one such as you should have," she said. "Who are you, girl?"

"I am Hao Ya, Immortal Phoenix. I come from the Central Continent in hope of requesting you to help gather the ones you know as players, so we can send them all back home," Hao Ya said. "Please hear my request and grant it to me, Immortal Phoenix."

"The players?" Scarlet's eyes shined.

"She's the creator's disciple," Alex explained. "She's here to send us all back home. As such, I will be leaving for some time too. Can you take over until I come back?"

"Take over? Did you forget that you are taking over for me?" Scarlet asked. "Also, no. I won't be ruling."

Alex frowned a little. "Why? What's wrong?" he asked.

"What's wrong? Obviously, I want to visit this Creator too. It can't be only you that wants to meet him, right?" she asked.

"Oh, so you will be going with us too?" Alex asked with a weird look on his face. "What do we do about the continent then?"

"Those 10 can take over it," Scarlet said. "They handle it all already anyhow."

Alex nodded. "Sure, we can do that," he said. He turned to Hao Ya who still found herself unable to react to the situation and asked, "Your master wouldn't mind if Scarlet here comes with us, right?"

"Scarlet... is that... NO! No, I... I don't think he'll mind," she said.

"Great," Alex said. "You must be tired right now. I'm sorry I'm taking so much of your time. My assistant should have prepared a room for you. Please go and rest. We can talk about everything else later."

Hao Ya hastily agreed and bowed her way out of the room before being taken away to her room to rest. Today had been more eventful for her than she had imagined it would be.

Chapter 1190: Leaving

In just a day, the Southern Continent was engulfed in the raging fire that was the news of players finally getting to return back to where they came from.

It wasn't just the players that were happy with the news, but also people that were not players. After all, it was clear that players were vastly more talented than regular people, these regular people wanted nothing more than to not have to see the players again.

Of course, the truly successful players didn't even give going back a thought. They had already lived the majority of their life here and had friends and families that they would've wanted to get rid of just so they could go back to a life that they didn't even remember that well.

There were others, however, who were more than happy to learn that they could go back. They rushed through the continent, with the help of the Royal army, to reach the capital as soon as they could.

In just 3 days, over 120 thousand individuals were gathered in the Sunborn Sanctuary, and the number was steadily growing.

In 4 days, it reached 140 thousand, and in 5 days, it reached 150 thousand. That seemed to be as many people as were going to come. Still, Alex decided to wait 2 more days as he initially planned for it all to take an entire week.

"Just over 150 thousand," Hao Ya said softly. "The people who came to the Southern Continent should have numbered over 600 thousand. Now, there's less than a fourth of it."

"Is that bad by any chance?" Alex asked.

"No, I was just making an observation," Hao Ya said. "Although that does makes one wonder just how many refused to come back... and just how many can no longer come back."

Alex spent the remaining 2 days doing something he thought was worth it. He had to use up one of the spirit veins he was planning on taking back to the Western continent, but it was for good reason, so he didn't feel any guilt.

He only wished that the work he had done wasn't at waste at all.

In the remaining 2 days, a few people had still come, but the number didn't increase by much. However, the excitement and nervousness in the air grew with every moment.

Soon, the time to leave was arriving, so everyone gathered around the Intercontinental Teleportation formation.

The formation itself was large enough to handle about 20 thousand people at once, so they would have to do multiple teleportations to send everyone away.

If not for the royal army that was keeping peace right now, people would've already stormed the formation to go away immediately.

"You guys decided to go?" Alex asked Jai Heiyun and Harry who were sticking together. Thanks to being one of the best alchemists on the continent, the two had managed to form a friendship that even Alex couldn't have thought about.

"Just to check," Harry said. "We have no plan on staying."

"You are absolutely sure we can return, right your Majesty?" Jai Heiyun asked. "I only want to visit my home, I don't want to be stuck there."

"No, we will return," Alex said. "I'm confident. You don't have to worry."

"I can't believe I'm actually going back," Harry said. "I wonder if anyone is still around. I wonder how things have changed."

Alex thought the same himself. He left to prepare a few more things and returned to Scarlet who was with his father.

"Father, I'm glad you agreed to go visit home," Alex asked.

"Yes," Graham said. "Even though your mother isn't back there, I still want to visit. If nothing, I want to visit my parent's graves one last time."

Alex nodded. "We should go then," he said.

Scarlet stood tall next to them as she looked toward Hao Ya who was flying in the sky with some sort of artifact.

"That young lady has a lot of precious artifacts," she said. "Her master is no normal person."

Alex looked at Hao Ya as well and couldn't help but wonder once more about the creator. 'Just a little longer,' he thought.

After Hao Ya was done with whatever test she was doing, she put the artifacts away and started speaking.

"I will now explain something that you will all have to very carefully listen to," she said.

Alex was curious about what she wanted to talk about as well, so he let her speak.

"First of all, the place you are returning to, your home, is actually the Central Continent. That is where you were from, and that is where you will now go," she explained.

The crowd became a mess of questions and confusion. The noise they were making made it almost impossible to discern what they were talking about.

"QUIET!" Scarlet spoke in a booming voice, quelling every question and inquiry in a single second.

Hao Ya bowed toward Scarlet and started speaking again. She explained where the players came from, she explained that quite a bit of time had passed.

She prepared them to be disappointed and she prepared them to not be emotional in any way. She prepared them to be civil about everything and not hurt the mortals in any way. She prepared them to arrive just about anywhere and have to find their own way around the land.

Most of all, she prepared them to never try to leave the place while they were there. After all, the Qi barrier around their homeland was so strong that it would easily destroy anyone that tried to leave.

Once she said everything she needed to say, she moved away from the teleportation formation and said something into Alex's mind.

Alex nodded and ordered the royal army to slowly let people in. One by one, people walked onto the platform from the crowd, slowly filling the Teleportation formation.

Once they were all there, Alex ordered the elders to activate the formation.

The formation whizzed for a few seconds, which was enough time for Alex to get pessimistic about the whole thing 3 times over.

However, when the space actually fluctuated strongly, Alex smiled as he understood that the formation was working. The teleportation had now started.

A second later, the 20 thousand different people on top of the formation disappeared at once, teleported to the Central Continent.

Once they were gone, they waited for about 10 minutes before letting another 20 thousand people get onto the formation. Once they were there, they teleported away too.

Chunk by chunk, the people in the crowd disappeared, sent back to their homes. After most of them were gone, with about 12 thousand people remaining, Alex and the rest finally boarded the formation.

He stood next to his father and Scarlet and took a deep breath. Hao Ya came to stand next to him as well.

"Thank you," she said in a small voice.

"You don't have to thank me," Alex said. "I did it for myself anyway."

Scarlet gestured for the elders to start the formation.

"You must be looking forward to meeting your Clone and daughter," Hao Ya said.

The teleportation powers amped up as space fluctuated to take them away. Even as they were taken away, Alex couldn't help but give a surprised look toward Hao Ya.

"I have a daughter?"