

Alchemy 1221

Chapter 1221: Yu Ronron

"Yu Ming, did you get married?" Lady Xuan asked.

"When did you get married?" Tai Guan asked.

Even Huang Xinyi wanted to learn some more.

Alex was a figure that wasn't born so very often. His talent in not just Alchemy, but also in cultivation, in general, made him one of the greatest people they had ever met. Not to mention, the amount of Dao he had learned in front of them was enough to make them want to keep him as close to them as possible.

A friendly relationship was one thing, but if they could somehow make him join them, that would elevate each of their statuses to a whole another level. Their hope of reaching that status had just been rekindled, but if he was married, it was likely that he had settled somewhere already.

If that was the case, then they were too late. Which was why they needed to confirm with him before deciding on what to do next.

"Oh, no, I'm not married," Alex said.

Liz's eyes narrowed. "Then... you had a daughter without getting married?" she whispered. "With who?"

"No, no. I haven't met with any woman," Alex said. "She's just my daughter because... how do I explain this?"

Ronron and Graham chuckled at the side watching Alex struggle to explain exactly what was going on without going into a long-winded explanation of the situation.

"Is she adopted?" Lady Xuan asked.

"No, I'm her biological father," Alex said.

"How old is this lady?" Tai Guan asked.

"I'm 28, senior," Ronron quickly answered.

"28? Yu Ming, weren't you in the Northern Continent 28 years ago?" Tai Guan asked.

"28 years ago... that was around the time he entered the Saint realm, I believe," Lady Xuan said as she remembered the past. "Wait, when did you have the time to have a child? Were you hiding her?"

"She's the child of my clone," Alex explained. "Although, biologically I am the real father."

"You have a clone?"

"What clone?"

Everyone was very confused, but Alex didn't bother explaining at all.

"Seniors, please spend your time making the decision about the players. It's more important to me that we see them return than anything else," Alex said.

The elders grumbled a little and nodded before moving away to make a decision. With them away, Alex took Liz and the rest and went over to their boat before flying outside the arena.

Huang Xinyi quickly flew out of the arena.

"Yu Ming," he quickly called out. "The Blue Spring sect is close by, why don't we head over there for now? You can rest there while we can make our decision," the man said.

"Oh, that would be wonderful. Thank you, senior," Alex said and nodded toward the group.

Huang Xinyi smile and went back to the other elders to make tell them that they could go to his sect.

Both Ronron and Graham were quite confused by the various elders they had met.

"Father, why do they keep calling you Yu Ming?" she asked.

"Oh, because that's my name," Alex said. "Or was. It's the name I got when I first joined the game and used it successively to hide the fact that I was a player so almost everyone in this continent and the Western Continent knows me as Yu Ming. Very few know my actual name."

"Yeah, that's the same with me," Liz explained. "I go by Li Zhumei here. It's easier to mix with society if you have a name that matched their naming conventions."

"Ooh, should I get one too then?" Ronron asked.

"Uh... I don't think you need one," Alex said. "You were named after my master, so Ronron is already close enough."

"Oh," Ronron said. "What about my surname then?"

"Since you're my daughter, you should take mine. Call yourself Yu Ronron," Alex said.

"Yu Ronron," Ronron said to herself before giving a big smile and a thumbs up. "I like it, father."

"Aww, my little Grandniece is so cute," Liz said while pinching Ronron's cheeks.

"Grandaunt, you aren't any less pretty either," she said. "How are you so young looking? I heard you started cultivating late in your age."

Alex got close to Ronron and whispered into her ears, "Don't tell anyone, but your grandaunt has a Celestial-grade body as well."

"AHH! A celes—"

Alex covered her mouth before she could sound out the words. "I said don't tell anyone," he said.

Ronron nodded and Alex let go of her mouth. "Does my master know?" she asked.

"I don't think so," Alex said. "I didn't tell him, so he probably doesn't know. He thinks only I and her daughter have that body."

"Oh right, Aunt Hannah is grandaunt's daughter, isn't she?" Ronron said. "I only just made the connection."

"Right, Alex," Liz quickly spoke. "Any news on Hannah or Rob?"

Alex shook his head. "I have yet to go to the Eastern Continent, so I can't tell you anything about sister. As for uncle Rob, I can only say that he is not in the Southern Continent," he said.

"Are you sure?" Liz asked as her glint of hope she had started vanishing once again.

"I'm sure," Alex said.

"He's not here either," she said. "I'm worried about those two."

"I can't say anything about Uncle Rob, but I promise you I will find information on Sister Hannah soon," Alex said.

"Can you?" Liz asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "In about 3 years, I will be sending an expedition to the Eastern Continent with a few of my people. I will have them search around for sister Hannah."

"Oh, thank you," Liz said.

"Wait, you're sending an expedition to the Eastern Continent? Why?" Hao Ya was curious.

"The Azure Imperium has sent us a request to transfer a few of our alchemists so we can exchange knowledge and information. The leader of the Scale legion came by himself and told me it was the Dragon Emperor's idea," Alex said.

"The Dragon Emperor?" Hao Ya asked with a few thoughts floating in her head. "That's good."

"What is?" Alex asked, wondering what she had just thought of.

"I haven't been able to meet with the Dragon Emperor or anyone of worth in the Eastern Continent, so it is hard for me to gain access to the Teleportation formation to send everyone back."

"However, if I were to go along with the expedition group, I'm sure my chances would be much higher than me just randomly teleporting over there and hoping to get an audience," Hao Ya said.

"That is true," Alex said. "Then do you want to go on that expedition too?"

"Yes," Hao Ya said. "Make me a guard or something. Whatever works?"

"I'll see what we can do after all of this is over," Alex said.

Hao Ya nodded.

The group of elders flew over and brought out a bigger ship. "Yu Ming, why don't you all come over here so we can go together," Huang Xinyi spoke.

"Thank you, senior," Alex said and looked at his group. "Let's go."

Hao Ya and Pearl quickly flew off to the boat while Liz had to help her brother fly over.

"Can you fly on your own?" Alex asked Ronron.

"Let me try," Ronron said and slowly flew to the boat, faltering a few times before finally landing. Alex landed next to her as well.

Then, since everyone was there, the ship took off.

Chapter 1222: Matt

"So, Yu Ming. Can you tell us how you defeated Xue Kuangren?" the elders that were on the boat asked.

"Oh, it was quite simple actually," Alex said. "I did as he asked."

"You did... as he asked?" the people looked around curiously.

"Yes," Alex said. "He wanted me to make him a healing pill, so I did. Once he was healed, the lightning tribulation he had half done continued and the final two lightning strikes killed him."

"What?" the elders were surprised. "He wasn't done with his lightning tribulation? And here we thought he was arrogant and randomly started trying to break through once more."

"No, it was because I healed him," Alex said. "That was why I healed him in the first place."

"How did you heal him though?" one of the elders from the Heaven's Frost sect asked.

"Right, Saint pills shouldn't work on him or the many alchemists he had taken hostage would have healed him completely," the elder said.

"Of course," Alex said. "But I'm sure senior Tai here should have told you guys already that I don't make normal Saint pills, hasn't she?"

The elders looked around and nodded. They had heard of the pill cloud that had formed but beyond that, they knew nothing.

"Did you... improve your alchemy skills while you were inside?" the elders asked.

"Actually, I did," Alex said. "I wouldn't necessarily say my skills improved, but my knowledge about a few things definitely did, which quite helped me in making the pills I needed."

The elders were jubilant hearing this.

"Young man, do you want to return to the sect?" Lady Xuan asked. "The Frozen Heart sect welcomes you every time."

"What are you talking about?" Huang Xinyi said before turning around to Alex. "Come to our sect. You need beast cores if I remember correctly. We have a lot of those laying around."

"We can teach you everything we know about poison," the Nether Poison sect's leader spoke, trying to persuade Alex too. He knew he didn't have any connection with Alex, but he tried what he could.

"He's my disciple's nephew. If anywhere, he will come with us," Tai Guan said. "Isn't that right, Yu Ming?"

They all turned toward Alex to hear his answer.

Alex simply smiled. "Well, let me start by clearing one thing. My name is not Yu Ming. It's just something I had to use because I didn't want people to know my real name."

"My real name is Alex, and I hope you can call me so from now on," he said.

"Oh," the elders were a little surprised, but not enough to see how that was relevant to their question.

"Secondly..."

Alex reached into his storage ring and pulled out something that finally caught the eyes of all the elders.

The gleaming, golden crown made them speechless as they watched it settle on top of Alex's head.

"I'm sorry I didn't tell you sooner, but I am actually the King of the Southern Continent, and as such, There is no way I can join any of your sects."

The elders as well as Liz remained stunned for an entire minute without anyone saying anything.

"You're joking, right?" Liz was the first to break the silence.

"No, I'm not," Alex said.

"He is the King," Graham said. "He became one about a decade ago, the after he found me, actually."

"H-how?" Tai Guan asked with a quivering voice.

Alex smiled, saying nothing else.

"My prophecy," Liz spoke. "The one with the crown, was that... this?" She looked at Alex's crown and was pretty sure that this was what it was.

"Maybe," Alex said. "It definitely was mine."

Liz's face remained blank. "So the prophecies do come true," she said.

Alex hesitated a bit to agree with her even though he knew 2 of the 6 divinations he had received had already come true.

After all, one of them was a divination about his death.

If all prophecies were true, then the one about his death was true as well, and he did not like that idea at all.

"What's this about prophecies, father?" Ronron asked. "How did you receive this prophecy?"

"There's a place in the east that can do it," Alex said.

"I don't suggest you do it," Hao Ya quickly said. "Divinations can be good, but they also can be bad. If you end up receiving bad divinations, it usually ruins your life because your perception of what you would be capable of in the future changes."

"Not to mention it's near impossible to find a seer that can do proper divinations," Hao Ya said.

"Did master say these things?" Ronron asked.

"Yes," Hao Ya said. "Unless the seer has a very good grasp of the Time Dao, it is a good idea to not trust their words."

"Time dao?" Alex asked. "Divination is related to the time dao?"

"Somewhat," Hao Ya said. "I'm not sure if it's fully related or not, but having a good grasp of time is certainly helpful if someone wants to see the future."

Alex turned toward his aunt. "You have learned the Time Dao right?" he asked.

"I have," Liz said. "Are you saying... I should learn how to do divinations?"

"That's your decision really," Alex said. "But it seems you have a choice that most wouldn't."

Liz thought about it for a few seconds and decided to leave the decision for the future.

The ship flew for an hour or two more before they arrived in the Blue Spring sect. Huang Xinyi called out a couple, who were there to escort Alex and the rest to their quarters while the elders made their decision.

Ma Tianxin and Ren Xiuyin stood outside where the ship landed as they were here to escort the guests. However, when they saw who the guest was, they couldn't hide their shock at all.

"B-brother Yu Ming?" Ma Tianxian looked at the boat with an open mouth.

"Brother Ma, Sister Xiuyin, how is it going?" Alex asked as he simply waved.

Huang Xinyi quickly went to the two couples and whispered something to them. Their shock only grew larger when they heard what Huang Xinyi had to say.

Ma Tianxin's posture grew stiff and he quickly bowed down. "Welcome, your Majesty," he quickly said.

"Aw, come on. You don't have to be like that," Alex said. "I already get that enough in the Southern Continent. You don't have to call me that as well."

"But... we have to," Ren Xiuyin said. "After all, you are—"

"Please, I insist," Alex said.

The couple looked at each other and nodded. "Okay, brother Yu," Ma Tianxin said.

"Oh, and please call me Alex, that's my real name," Alex said.

"Your real name?" Ma Tianxin looked quite surprised. "Alex... you're a player?"

Alex nodded.

"I am a player too," Ma Tianxin said.

"I know," Alex said with a smile. "You hadn't gotten rid of your speech pattern, so I recognized it quite easily."

"Oh," Ma Tianxin said. "I see. Alex, huh? Call me Matt, then."

"Oh, is that your real name as well?" Alex asked.

"It is," Ma Tianxin said. "Although, I suppose Ma Tianxin is more authentic now."

"Dear we shouldn't keep them outside for so long," Ren Xiuyin said and turned toward the group. "Please follow us, we will take you to a place where you can stay."

"Thank you," Alex said and the group walked away with the two couples. He noticed the speech between the two and was a little surprised.

"You two got married? He asked.

"Yes," Ma Tianxin said. "About 5 years ago."

"Congratulations," Alex said. "Any children?"

"No," Ma Tianxin said. "It's too early for us."

"I see," Alex said.

"Father, are you embarrassed you have a daughter?" Ronron asked.

"Fa-father?" Ma Tianxin quickly turned around. "That's your... daughter?"

"She is," Alex said. "Ronron, greet your seniors."

"Greetings, Uncle Ma, Aunt Ren," Ronron bowed a little.

"Your daughter is so pretty," Ren Xiuyin said.

"She is, isn't she?" Alex asked while patting Ronron's head.

The group was taken to a rather fancy room Alex wondered if he would have been brought here had he not been a King. 'The title sure does come with a lot of benefits,' he thought.

The group settled down and the two couples left. Hao Ya was taken away as well to speak with the elders regarding the mass teleportation of players.

Alex and his family were left alone, so they caught up on things. They talked about what they had been doing all this time, where they had been, and such.

Liz was more than happy to see not just her nephew that she had found and lost, but also her brother. If now she found her husband and daughter, she wouldn't want anything else from life.

A few hours later, Hao Ya entered the room with a gloomy look and walked directly toward Alex.

"Can you come with me?" she asked.

"What's the matter?" Alex asked.

"There's a slight problem that I need your help with," she said and walked away.

Alex followed her to a room full of people with status so high that had he not been a king, he would have to bow in front of everyone.

The figures gathered here were sect leaders, ancestors, and strong individuals with a lot of say in the happenings of the Northern Continent.

And all of them were gathered in the room to talk about sending the players back to where they had come from.

And from what Alex could see, they hadn't come to a conclusion at all.

Chapter 1223: An Exchange

"Elders, seniors, have you come to a decision yet?" Alex asked as he walked into the room with Hao Ya.

He walked up to an empty chair in the room and sat down with Hao Ya sitting next to him.

"Who is this?" one of the people asked seeing Alex come in so nonchalantly.

"This is Yu Ming... er, Alex. He is the one that freed us from Xue Kuangren," one of the elders explained.

"Oh, it's him?" a few of them looked at him curiously.

Alex looked around, waiting for someone to answer first.

"We have," Lady Xuan said. "We told this young lady that we cannot agree to this request at all."

Alex was a little surprised, but not very much. He had expected some obstacles to the task after all.

'Of course, it won't be as easy,' he thought. "May I ask why you refused?"

"Accepting your request is no different than slicing off our arm with our own swords," Lady Xuan explained. "The people that you say come from the Central continent have mixed themselves very well with our normal lives."

"They are part of the infrastructure that runs the Northern Continent. They are some of the best members a sect or guild has trained in the last 5 decades. Letting someone like that simply return back home after we've put so much in raising them, that's simply a loss that we can't bear."

Alex nodded.

His elders had told him the same when he had given the order too. They had been worried that people who had been given so much would be simply sent away without any reward for training them.

However, Alex was certain of one thing.

"I can promise you, anyone who has made anything with their life here will not want to stay back home at all," Alex said. "I'm sure sister Hao here is explained to you, but everyone who wants to return can return a year later. The ones you care about the most, those will return for sure."

"Not all of them though, isn't that right?" one of the men asked. He wore a robe that didn't belong to any of the 5 ancient sects, so Alex wasn't sure who he represented.

Still, he answered. "You are not wrong, senior. It is true that no matter how much of a life they have made here, some would still want to stay back in the Central continent. But, don't you think it's good to give them the choice? If you want someone to stay with you, don't you want their full loyalty?"

"If somehow tomorrow they find out that you were the reason the person was denied of the opportunity to return back to their home, not even given a choice to go back to their family they must have been missing for the past 5 decades, would they still be loyal to whatever sect or group it is that you run?" Alex asked.

The man's face darkened a bit. "Are you saying you are going to spread around the word that we denied them an opportunity to return?" the man asked. "I see that as a threat boy, and I don't do well against threats."

Alex gave the man a plain smile. "It was more of an advice and a small plea to show some humanity, but you can see it as a threat if that's what you want to see it as. I don't deny anyone the opportunity to make a choice for themselves," he said.

The man's face darkened and he was about to retort when Tia Guan cut him off. "The problem isn't that we don't want to do it," the woman said. "It's that we would be at a loss if we do so. However, if there was a way to minimize the loss, then we could be persuaded to do so."

"I see," Alex said as he got a little thoughtful. He scratched his chin for a moment as the rest of them watched him carefully.

"Use your authority as a King maybe?" Hao Ya suggested with her spiritual sense.

Alex nearly chuckled when he heard that. "On a foreign land that's not my own?" he asked. "I may be a recently crowned king, but even I know what a king can and cannot do."

He then turned around to Lady Xuan and spoke. "Lady Xuan, since I was once a part of your sect, it isn't an understatement to say that you are the one I trust and respect the most."

The woman was a little surprised and grateful to hear that.

"So, I would like you to do me the honor of testing this pill," he said as he pulled out a random pill and tossed it toward her.

The woman hurriedly caught the pill and looked at it. She saw the light green pill with an earthy aroma as well as a few random lightning strike-shaped lines across it.

She curiously brought out a pill tester that she carried around and put the pill inside the vessel.

Everyone around her looked at the pill tester with burning curiosity as well. After all, they knew Alex was an alchemist that had been taken away by Xue Kuangren, so he must've been quite the amazing one.

Lady Xuan was sure she knew how good he was since he had made pills for her for an entire year. She was curious to see how much he had evolved

Tai Guan and Bai Qiyi were the only ones there that had remotely any idea of what he was capable of in that room.

However, when the pill tester showed the number 100, even they couldn't help but let their jaw drop to the floor.

The entire room went dead silent for a few seconds as even Hao Ya couldn't hide her amazement.

"100... this is a pill with 100% harmony," Lady Xuan spoke softly. "H-how is it possible?"

"Is it fake?" someone asked.

"How could it fake my pill tester?" Lady Xuan asked, shutting up the person. "Y-Yu Ming... er... Alex, are you giving us this pill in exchange for letting the players go home?"

"We don't accept it," a person quickly spoke. "A single pill isn't worth so many talented individuals."

Alex smiled. "Of course not," he said. "I was only showing you what my pills are capable of. That one is a healing pill that I give to you in thanks for letting me stay in the sect for a year back then."

"I request that you don't use it haphazardly as it holds the powers to even possibly heal an Immortal himself," he said.

The woman's hand quivered seeing the naked pill in her hand that had probably lost value just because she had touched it. She quickly put out a pill bottle and put it inside and immediately hid it in her storage bag.

"If that is not what you are offering, then what is?" one of the elders asked.

Alex reached into his storage bag and pulled out 3 different recipes.

"I have 3 pill recipes here, all of which hold the potential to reach 100% harmony," he said. "This is what I'm offering to you."

He threw out the first recipe that fell into the hands of Huang Xinyi. He slowly read through the recipe and his eyes went wide.

"Is this... real?" he asked.

"Absolutely," Alex said. "I have no reason to lie here."

"What does it say?" one of the elders asked.

"This..." Huang Xinyi looked at the other and said, "This is a recipe for a pill that can help improve a person's Water Spiritual root."

"WHAT?"

The entire crowd spoke at almost the same time. They looked back at Alex to see if it was true or not. Seeing Alex's relaxed expression, they could only trust that it was real.

Alex then tossed the second pill recipe to Tai Guan, who quickly caught it and read it.

"Th-this one improves Earth Spiritual root," the woman said with a shocked expression. She couldn't believe that there could possibly be a pill out there that could do such a thing.

Hao Ya was looking around shocked as she couldn't believe Alex had recipes for such pills. How come he had never told her or even given her any of these?

Finally, Alex tossed the last recipe over to Lady Xuan.

Lady Xuan, who had just had to test a 100% harmony pill couldn't imagine what wonders the talisman in her hands held. She slowly let her spiritual sense sink into the talisman and read what was written.

Her shock came so abruptly that she stood up from her seat in shock. "This... this can't be," she shouted.

"It is," Alex said.

"B-But how?" she asked.

The others got curious now.

"What is it? Another Spiritual Root improving pill? Just tell us which one it is for. Fire, Metal, or Wood?" the group asked.

"It's... not a pill for spiritual roots," Lady Xuan said slowly. "It's... a pill to help you learn Dao."

"Huh?" the group was surprised... and confused.

"Help us learn a dao?"

Lady Xuan looked at the pill. "The main component of this pill... is the Soul Elucidating Tulips," she said.

Alex nodded. "That recipe took me a decade to come up with," he said. "It uses the Soul Elucidating Tulips to create a pill that puts you in a similar trance to the one you would fall into in the Dao mountain."

"Except, unlike the Dao mountain, it won't come around only once a year," Alex said.

The group watched not in shock, but horror this time around at what had come across them. It scared them that there could be a pill out there with this much potential and they hadn't even heard about it.

"Not only that," Alex explained. "Depending on how well the pill you've made is, you can have pills that are more effective than the pond at the top of the Dao Mountain itself."

"I give you all these three recipes in exchange for accepting our request," Alex said. "How does that sound?"

Chapter 1224: Another Request

Everyone in the room was lost in their own thoughts, daydreaming of a time when they had multiple Dao learned thanks to the pill recipe they had received.

"So," Alex spoke to grab their attention again. "Do you guys accept the exchange or not?"

"We..." Tai Guan wanted to speak, but she couldn't speak on behalf of others. She turned towards her fellow Saint Soul realm cultivators and hoped they were of the same mind as she was.

Lady Xuan was fully on board from the look on her face, but she needed to hear someone else speak as well.

"Should I leave so you can discuss?" Alex asked the group.

"We do need to discuss this," the few elders spoke. "Can you two please leave for the moment?"

"Sure," Alex said and stood up to leave.

Hao Ya quickly grabbed his arm and stopped him. "What about your recipe?" she asked. "You need to take it back for now, don't you?"

"Take it back? No, there's no need," Alex said as he looked toward the elders that had it. "I'm sure the seniors will all come to a wise conclusion so they can make use of the recipe."

He turned around without looking at the elders and walked away with Hao Ya following behind him. However, before he went past the door, he stopped and turned around.

"I'm afraid we've already wasted the entire day on this, so in order to hurry it all up, please come to a decision in the next 10 minutes," Alex said. "If you don't, I will have to ask someone with more authority than you to make the decision for you."

"What is that supposed to mean?" one of the seniors asked with a gloomy look on their face.

"You damn boy, did you threaten us once again?" the man that had bickered with Alex previously spoke. "We don't even know if these damn pills of yours work or not yet. Do you then dare tell us to make a decision in just 10 minutes?"

"I do," Alex said. "You shouldn't be talking with me, but with each other."

The man crossed his arm. "I refuse," he said. "You can take your damn pills back."

Alex narrowed his eyes as he looked at him. He then stared at the rest of the people in the room. "Is that everyone's decision?" he asked.

"NO!" everyone shouted almost immediately.

Alex turned around to the man and smiled, "I hope you learn how little your words hold weight in this room. I'll be back in 10 minutes then."

He turned around and left the room, closing the door behind him.

Hao Ya was very curious about everything. "Why did you leave the pill recipes inside? If you sold them pills instead of recipes, you could have gotten the same result I believe, and you could have made money in the future too," she said.

"I could," Alex said. "But I don't have any particular need for money, really. Besides, the Northern Continent is quite behind the Southern and Eastern Continent due to the False Immortal, and I don't think it would be fair to try and leech off of their situation."

"Besides, these seniors helped me a lot when I wasn't very influential yet, so I am trying to pay them back for it," Alex said.

"Is... that so?" Hao Ya asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I would've given them the recipe even if I were just visiting. In a way, I'm profiting right now from the recipes as I'm gaining something in return for it, which I was not hoping for."

"Do you really care about these people that much?" Hao Ya asked.

"Not... care, exactly. More like grateful," Alex said. "Think of it as I'm repaying them for everything they have done for me."

"I see," Hao Ya said. "Then I won't say anything."

They waited outside for a while before the door opened on its own before the 10 minutes had passed.

Alex walked in and smiled. "Have you all come to a decision?" he asked.

"We have decided to agree to your request, if you agree to one more of our requests as well," Lady Xuan spoke up.

"Oh? On top of the pill recipes?" Alex asked. "Are you sure?"

"I know we're asking more than we deserve, but this feels like the time to do so," lady Xuan said.

"Is that so? Then please say what it is," Alex said. "If it's feasible, I shall accept it."

Lady Xuan looked briefly at everyone around her and nodded before looking back at Alex. "We are hoping that you will teach our alchemists a few things about alchemy so that they can improve from your knowledge," she said.

She immediately bowed in front of Alex. "Please, this is a request from all of us," she said.

The other elders and seniors also got up and bowed toward Alex.

Alex looked at all of the, including the man that had talked back to him before. It seemed that they had talked some sense into him and he was now following in the other's footsteps.

Alex waited a while before answering, making them think that it was a rather hard decision.

"Gather everyone you can from all over the Northern Continent who wants to leave. At the same time, gather your alchemists as well. You will have a week to do so, and on the final day of the week, I shall hold an Alchemy conference here for whoever will want to listen to me."

"Does that work for you?" he asked.

"Yes!" the elders quickly nodded. "Thank you."

"Alright, I will be returning now. Please get to work immediately," he said and turned to leave.

"What were you going to do if we had refused?" Huang Xinyi asked. He had been curious ever since Alex had said so.

Alex turned back and smiled at him. "I'm sure you know who I mean when I say someone with more authority than you," he said, waved them goodbye, and walked away.

"Dear god," lady Xuan couldn't help but say. "That kid was going to ask the Ruler to make the decision for us, wasn't he?"

"Do you think he knows the ruler?" Tai Guan asked.

"Who knows," Huang Xinyi said. "He's not someone we can judge through our normal understanding of the world. It is possible that he has already met the ruler."

"He was coming from the Land of Xue when we first met him. It's not impossible," Lady Xuan said.

"Phew! It's a good thing we could even bargain the alchemy lesson. Thankfully he wasn't offended at all," Tai Guan said.

The man that had argued with Alex came up to the group. "Seniors, I still don't understand why we have to be so respectful to that little brat. Did you see how disrespectful he was? He didn't even greet anyone after walking in."

"And yet you let him walk all over you," the man said.

"He did, and we didn't stop him," lady Xuan said. "Is that not enough of an answer for you?"

The man couldn't help but show a tinge of fear when he heard that but he still couldn't understand. "Why though? Neither he nor that girl was any strong at all."

"He doesn't need strength," Huang Xinyi said. "If you had offended him enough and he had wanted to kill you today, we would have aided him in the matter. Do you understand? If you do, go back and relay the information that needs to be relayed."

The group immediately disbanded as everyone went their own way to spread the news that the players had a chance to go visit their homes.

Chapter 1225: Father

Alex went outside with his family the next day to roam the city since Ronron had never been to one outside of the Central Continent.

She played in the snow for a bit before letting the group go to the city.

She was like a child in a candy shop, curiously looking at every single shop and trying to buy whatever she could get her hands on.

"Father, I want that," she pointed at a small plate armor that was hanging outside one of the shops.

"Do you even know if that is good?" Alex asked her.

"No, but it looks pretty," Ronron said.

"It is, isn't it," Liz asked. "Let me buy my grandniece that armor."

"Really, grandaunt? Thank you!" Ronron jumped up and down excitedly.

"You shouldn't buy stuff just because they look pretty. You need to buy them because they are useful," Alex told her.

"So what?" Ronron said. "I'm a princess, aren't I? Shouldn't princesses look pretty?"

"That..." Alex couldn't find a retort. "Then let's find you stuff that is both pretty and useful."

"Oh, right. Let's search for those," Ronron said.

They went around the city buying various things, but Ronron didn't really find anything that she liked that was both pretty and useful.

The city simply didn't have such a thing ready to sell at all.

"What do we do now?" Ronron asked. "Do we go to a different city?"

"We can," Alex said. "I want to go meet senior Luhei today anyway, so we can try and see if there are cities along the way that sell what you would like."

"Okay," Ronron said excitedly. "But are you sure those cities will have what we are looking for?"

"We can only tell after looking through them, can't we?" Alex asked.

"If you really want useful items, you can't bother with these normal shops, little girl," Liz said. "You actually need to go visit an auction. They sell the best of the best items there."

"Auction?" Ronron's eyes shined when she heard that word. "Father! Can we go to an Auction please?"

"Auction?" Alex looked around. "They don't take place whenever. There is usually a time and a place for these things."

"Please, please, please!" Ronron nearly begged him.

"Come on. You have to do it now," Liz said from the side.

"Sigh, alright. Let me ask the sect master to check if there are any auctions taking place today or tomorrow," Alex said.

"Thank you!" Ronron nearly jumped over them in excitement.

The group turned to go back to the Blue Spring sect. Ronron walked ahead with Graham looking at the many shops again, while Liz followed behind them with Alex.

"Having a daughter isn't easy, is it?" she asked.

"I don't know, aunt," Alex said. "I can't say for sure since I didn't raise her."

"Trust me, it is," Liz said. "Hannah was a pain to take care of for the longest time, especially with Rob busy at his job all day. It's a miracle she came out as good as she did."

Alex smiled at her aunt.

"Are you going to have her call you Dad soon?" Liz asked.

"Dad? She calls me father, isn't that good enough?" Alex asked.

"Father is super stiff. It makes it seem like the two of you aren't close at all," Liz said.

"That's not false though. It feels wrong to even call myself her father. I feel like I don't deserve it at all," Alex said.

"You can't blame yourself for that," Liz said. "You didn't know about her until you met her, right? It's not your fault."

Alex nodded. "But her calling me Father isn't bad, is it? I call Father, Father," he said.

"Yeah, I don't know where brother and sister Helen went wrong, but they should have changed your speech pattern long ago. It's probably because your grandpa wanted us to refer to him as Father too, so it stuck with brother," Liz said.

"I see," Alex thought. "I will have a talk with her about it soon. For now, I will let her just call me Father. It helps distinguish which one of us she is referring to."

"Sure, you do you," Liz said. "Where's Pearl, by the way? Inside his beast space?"

"Yes," Alex nodded. "He finished cultivating early in the morning, so I let him rest inside the beast space. It helps him quite a lot."

"Poor kid," Liz said. "You must do whatever you can to fix his problems, okay?"

"I will," Alex said with a soft smile. "Oh right, I've been meaning to ask you about some things, aunt Liz. Have you talked with your master?"

"My master? About what?" Liz asked.

"About leaving the Blazing Earth sect," Alex said. "Leaving the Northern continent and come live with us in the Southern Continent."

Liz stopped in her footsteps. "Right..." she said softly as he eyes wandered around a bit. "I hadn't given it much thought at all."

"Are you unsure if you want to leave or not?" Alex asked.

"I'm sure I want to leave," Liz quickly said. "Or at least I think I am, but I don't know. As I said, I didn't really give it any thought."

"You must come with us, Aunt Liz," Alex said.

"But..." Liz felt a little sad. Not only would she have to leave the people she had gotten so close to, she also felt like she was betraying the trust and help all those people had given her which had brought her to where she was.

"I should talk with my master," she said softly.

"Please do," Alex said. "I don't want them to cause any problem when it is time for us to leave."

They all finally returned back to the Blue Spring sect, and with Ronron's constant insistence, Alex found the sect leader and got him to find out if there was any auction being held around the continent.

"I'll send you someone with that information very soon," Huang Xinyi said and left.

An hour later, Ma Tianxin arrived at his door with the talisman that contained said information.

"Here is the information you requested," Ma Tianxin handed over the talisman.

"Thank you," Alex said as he took the talisman. "How are your preparations going?"

"Uhh... well enough," Ma Tianxin said. "It took a bit to convince father-in-law to let Xiuyin come with me, but I've succeeded in that, so we should be leaving together when the time comes."

"Great," Alex said and sent him away.

Alex returned to the room with the excited Ronron urgently asking him to look through the information.

Alex chuckled a bit and read through the talisman.

The talisman consisted of information about every single auction that was going to be held within the next 24 hours.

Alex looked through the list and judged which one would have the best items based on the cities they were in. Not only that, but he also had to judge it based on if the city was on the way to senior Luhei or not.

"Oh, there's this auction opening," he said out loud. It wasn't on the way, but it was certainly one of the best for sure.

"A little detour won't hurt us," he thought.

"Where are we going, father?" Ronron asked.

Alex looked at her and answered. "We're going to Silvermoon city."

Chapter 1226: Returning to Silvermoon City

Alex and the group left the Blue Spring sect in the afternoon and made their way Southwest.

The Silvermoon city was on the way, and beyond it was the Blazing Earth sect where Liz had to go to speak with her master.

They could have taken a simple teleportation formation to go to any city they wanted to, but because the auction was going to start tomorrow, Alex had decided to take it slow.

He didn't want to stay in the city for too long at all, and on top of that, he wanted to show the scenery of the Northern Continent to his father and his daughter.

"Wow, it's snowing," Ronron said as she looked at the overcast sky with heavy snowfall. There was a small barrier around the boat they were in, so the snow couldn't get in at all, but they still saw it clearly with how slow the boat was moving.

They watched the scenery change from one full of ice and snow, to one that had less of it. Then when they arrived at Silvermoon city, there was almost no snow at all.

The five of them got off and looked around the city.

"It's a big city," Graham said as he looked around. "Not as big as your capital, but still quite big."

"The entire city used to be a single sect, belonging to something called the Snow Immortal sect," Alex explained. "The sect was destroyed over 8 thousand years ago and their land became the Silvermoon city."

"You guys go in," Hao Ya said. "I will need to leave and go to the Teleportation formation. Make sure it can send everyone back and all."

"Are you sure you don't want to stay?" Alex asked.

"I rested the entire day yesterday," Hao Ya said. "I need to work now."

"Actually, let me come along with you," Liz said. "I should go back and speak to my master as soon as possible."

Alex nodded. "Father, do you want to go to the auction?" he asked.

"No, not particularly," Graham said. "I'm just following you guys."

"Then you should go with aunt," he said. "After I'm done here, I will take Ronron to meet senior Luhei and come find you in the Blazing Earth sect. That sect has Body Cultivators, so you might end up having something in common with the people there."

"Oh, is that so?" Graham said. "Then I will go with Liz. Make sure you guys don't get caught up somewhere."

"We won't," Alex said.

"Goodbye Grandpa, grandaunt, sister Hao," Ronron quickly waved them goodbye.

The three of them left on their own, leaving behind Ronron and Alex to go into the city alone.

As soon as Alex went into the city, he found something was different about it all.

"Wow, there are so many people," he thought to himself. "How are there so many?"

"Did they all come for the auction?" Ronron asked.

"I don't know," Alex said. "Maybe? It can't be that these are all players that want to go back though."

"Who cares? Let's just go to the auction, father," Ronron said.

"The auction is tomorrow morning at 10," Alex said. "We still have some 9 hours before that."

"Uhh... what do we do then?" Ronron asked.

"Do you feel tired?" Alex asked.

"Not particularly," Ronron said. "I am a cultivator too, you know. I can go on for days without resting at all."

"Hmm, then do you want to go around the city and see what they have?" Alex asked.

"Ooh, can we?" Ronron got excited. "Let's go, father."

Alex smiled. "Let's go then."

The two of them went around the city touring it all. There were various things in the city that Ronron liked, so Alex bought her everything she laid her eyes on.

Alex also went into all of the alchemy stores, confusing Ronron quite a bit.

"Why are we going to the Alchemy stores? Do you want to buy some pills?" she asked with a confused expression. After all, her father was supposed to be someone that was one of the best at making pills himself.

"No, I'm not looking to make a pill. I'm searching for some ingredients, but it's hard to find because of how sought after it is," Alex said.

"What ingredient?" Ronron asked.

"It's called a Blood Revitalizing Ginger," Alex said. "It's used to make a True Rejuvenating pill, which is what I want to make."

"True Rejuvenating pill? What does that do?" Ronron asked.

"It can improve someone's longevity by quite a few years, depending on how strong they are. It's not very effective for someone in the True realm or even the common realm, but for someone that is a mortal, the pill can improve their lives by nearly a thousand years."

"A THOUSAND YEARS?!" Ronron's eyes went wide.

"Uhuh," Alex said.

"A-and you're making these for..."

"Obviously for your parents, who else?" Alex said.

Ronron slowly started tearing up when she heard that.

"Hey, you don't have to cry," Alex said as he quickly wiped her tears.

Ronron quickly hugged him in the middle of the shop, surprising Alex. "Thank you, father."

Alex smiled and stroked her head for a bit. "Alright, you can stop now. You'll make my clothes wet," he said.

"Hehe," Ronron chuckled and moved away from him. She wiped her tears while Alex went on searching for the ingredients.

They went around a few shops, but nowhere did they find the ingredients.

"Hmm, they might have to wait a year or so," Alex said. "I know there are a lot back in the Southern Continent, so I can use the ones there to make it."

"I don't think there is a hurry right now, father," Ronron said.

The sun was starting to come up from the east by the time the two of them had gone through all the shops in the city.

"Do you want something to eat? You haven't tasted what this world's food is like, have you?" Alex asked.

"Of course not," Ronron said. "Are we going to a restaurant?"

"Yes," Alex said and took her to a restaurant close by.

He wanted a separate place for himself and his daughter on some of the private upper floors of the restaurant, but to his surprise, there wasn't any place available on the upper floors at all.

"I'm sorry, senior. You will have to wait if you insist on using the upper floors. Otherwise, we do have a table open right here," the young man said.

"What do you think?" Alex turned around to Ronron. "You can make the choice."

Ronron got a little close to Alex. "Do the upper floors get better food?" she asked.

"No, senior. The food is all the same, everywhere. We do not discriminate amongst our customers," the young man answered quickly.

"Oh, then we should just sit right here, father," Ronron said.

"Alright, take us to the table," Alex said.

The young man took the two of them to the table where they looked through the menu.

"By the way, do you know why there are so many people in this city?" Alex asked.

"Oh, that's because everyone in the Ancient Battlefield was called out abruptly so that the players or whatever can return to their place," the young man said. "It only happened today, so the city is filled to the brim."

"I see," Alex said. "Thank you for answering."

Then, he let Ronron order what she wanted to eat and waited for the food to arrive.

Chapter 1227: To the Auction

"I want this meat dish, and this soup, and this uhh... whatever this is, and this dessert, and ooh also this drink. Does this have alcohol? I'm bad with alcohol. But maybe I should try it, so this drink too. And these side dishes, and this meat bun, 2 of them."

Ronron excitedly ordered everything she could get her eyes on the menu. She wasn't very good at reading the demon language just yet, so she had to order based on what little she could understand from the menu she was presented.

The waiter hurriedly wrote down everything she was asking for with sweat dripping down his forehead. He had never seen someone order so much food with only 2 people eating.

"Make everything double so my father can eat too," she said.

"Double?!" the waiter looked at her as if she was crazy.

Alex rubbed his forehead as the foot was in fact too much. It wasn't like they were having a feast or anything. This was supposed to be a breakfast.

"Can you even eat all that? You will get stuffed," he told her.

"Does it matter? I will just destroy the food in my body if it's too much to make room for more," she said.

Alex sighed in the end. "Bring what she said. You can take your time and do it one at a time. We will probably be here for a while," he told the waiter.

The waiter nodded and quickly left.

Ronron looked around as she waited and watched the crowd in awe. Seeing how the cultivators went about their day was quite interesting for her.

"Father, weren't you popular here before?" she asked. "Aunt Liz said that you were so popular that you had to spend weeks here going to visit different people because they wanted to become friends with you."

"I was, why?" Alex asked.

"How many years ago was it?" she asked.

"Uhh... about 30 years ago, I would say," Alex said as he thought. "Maybe a little less than that."

"Is that enough time for people to forget you here?" she asked. "Aren't cultivators supposed to live forever and remember everything? Then how come no one is surprised to see you at all?"

"Ah, well 2 reasons mainly," Alex said. "First of all, when I was becoming popular here, I wore a mask to hide my face. So they know me more by the mask than my face."

"And secondly... can you tell how strong I am right now?" he asked.

Ronron gave a confused look and looked at him. "How am I supposed to tell? You are way stronger than me so I have no idea," she said.

"Well, the same would happen to the others all well," Alex said. "Because my cultivation base is currently concealed so well that barely anyone can even tell that I am a Saint realm cultivator."

"Oh," Ronron wasn't expecting that answer at all. "Can you teach me that technique?"

"Sure," Alex said. "I have many techniques to teach you, which I will after I return from the Western Continent."

"Thank you, father," Ronron nearly shouted out loud.

The food arrived one after another and the two of them took their time eating it. The food was delicious but not enough to be surprised by it for Alex, but to Ronron, this was the best thing she had eaten since she was born.

The flavor of the meat, the sweetness of the dessert, the blissful pain the wine left behind on her throat, all of it was an experience that she enjoyed way more than she would have thought she would.

The dishes came one after another and the two of them ate them like there was no tomorrow. Alex even brought out Pearl and Whisker to let them try the food a bit before sending them back.

It was only 2 hours later did the two of them finally finish eating everything.

"Urghh... I shouldn't have ordered so much," Ronron said as she slumped on her chair.

"Come on, get up. you're fine," Alex said.

"No, I really ate too much, father. I can't move," she said in a lethargic manner.

"Okay, then burn your food," Alex said. "You said you would do that right?"

"But it was so good. I don't want to get rid of it," Ronron said.

Alex chuckled a bit. "Then do you want me to carry you on my back?" he asked.

She suddenly got up. "Of course not," she said with a small pout on her face. "Fine, I'm burning it."

She closed her eyes and the food inside of her was destroyed by the Qi as nothing remained at all.

She opened her eyes and took a deep breath afterward. "Alright, let's leave."

Alex finally got up and went on to pay for the food. Their total came up to around 10 thousand spirit stones, which surprised both of them quite a bit.

Ronron was surprised at how expensive it was, and Alex was surprised at how cheap it was. He quickly paid for the food and left.

Ronron walked behind him, getting out of the restaurant and walking in the direction of the Auction house that was supposed to open up in a little more than an hour from now.

The auction house wasn't very far away, however, and it would only take them about 20 minutes to get there at best.

"Hmm?" Alex made a soft sound.

"Hm? What's wrong, father?" Ronron asked.

"Nothing," Alex said. "Just a bunch of people following us."

"Following us? Why?" she asked.

"Because we spent quite a bit of money," Alex said.

"Should we tell the police? Err... no, what do they have here? Guards?" Ronron asked.

"There should be some sort of patrol group formed from the disciples of the 5 major sects. But that won't be necessary at all," Alex said.

The ones following were weaklings after all.

* * * * *

The group of 3 young men silently followed the two people up front.

"That girl must be a spoiled brat, asking for so much money from the man," one of them said.

"Look at him, that's probably her brother. He does whatever she says, no wonder she is spoiled," another one said.

"Are you sure we can loot them?" the third one asked. "The girl was weak, but I can't tell how strong the man is."

"Do you think he would need to eat if he was strong? Besides, strong men wouldn't get their food in the lower floors. I bet he is just acting strong because of the money. What we need to be careful about is if they have any guards. Don't be seen okay?" the first man said.

"Look," the second man pointed. "That's the auction house. Damn it, are they going to spend it all in the auction house? What if the items they buy are useless?"

"Doesn't matter, we can sell those items back," the first man said. "Alright, let's enter the auction house ourselves too."

* * * * *

Alex and Ronron arrived at the auction house that had quite a line waiting for it to open. He could sense quite a few strong individuals, all of whom seem to be ready for it to open as well.

'The Ancient Battlefield was opened yesterday, so everyone must have come out,' he thought. 'It might not be so easy to buy things cheaply if they all decide to bet on the stuff.'

Ultimately, it would all boil down to who had more money in the end, so Alex wasn't worried at all. After all, who here possibly walked around with a few dozen million spirit stones in their storage bag?

He walked up to one of the people from the auction house to get himself a seat inside.

"Hi, is it too late to join the auction?" Alex asked.

"You cannot put up any items for the auction anymore, but you can join it if your intention is to only purchase and not sell," the person said.

"Oh, yes that's what I wanted. Can I have a VIP room?" Alex asked.

"Sorry, senior, all VIP rooms have already been booked. We only have seats in the main hall and that too at the back. Unfortunately, you have arrived too late to reserve any good seats," the person said.

"Ah, I see. My bad," Alex said. "Can we have two of those seats then?"

"Of course," the person said and brought out two metal tickets with numbers on it. "These will be your chairs."

Alex paid the small fee for entering the auction house and took the tickets. He went back to where Ronron was and showed her the ticket.

"I got us a seat at the back. We were late to get the good seats," he said.

"Will that put us at a disadvantage?" Ronron asked curiously.

"Not really. It's all the same," Alex said. "It's just that people like to stay at the front to see what is being sold more clearly. You won't be able to use your spiritual sense on the items, so you are left with your normal eyesight."

"I have good eyesight," Ronron said proudly. "They are so good that my master says I can see Wood aura and Spatial aura with my two eyes later on if I can get to a high enough cultivation realm."

"Oh, is that so?" Alex asked. 'That sounds like a weaker version of Demon eyes though. Maybe I should teach everyone the Demon eyes too. It will be a pain to make that paste though.'

The two of them stayed there for a bit more time before the auction let them all get in. Alex and Ronron went to find their seats toward the back of the hall and once they were settled, they waited for the auction to begin.

Chapter 1228: Ronron's First Auction Experience

Even while she was on one of the last few rows of the auction hall, Ronron's excitement was nowhere near low at all. She was like a child that constantly moved around her seat, looking at everything she was witnessing for the first time with an air of innocence that was hard to come by.

Seeing her like that only improved Alex's mood and soon enough he started smiling too.

It took a while for the auction to start at which time the hall was finally fully filled. Once everyone was there, the curtains at the front opened up, allowing everyone to know that the auction had begun.

A woman in a bright red dress walked out from behind the stage and started introducing herself to the audience. Once she was done with the formalities, the first item was brought out to be auctioned off.

"How does it work? Do I tell them I want to buy it or..." Ronron asked.

"Do you not know how an auction works?" Alex asked. "You should have seen some back home, right?"

"I probably did, but I don't really remember how it all works. I've been training with my master for the past decade, so I'm a little lost on the modern life too," she said.

"I see," Alex said. "You must've lost a lot of friends too then."

"Eh, not really. I always knew there was nothing for me after high school, so I never really made any friends at all. I did have some, but none were close enough to use the word lost for them" she said.

"I see," Alex said. "Well, the auction is quite simple. In a moment, the woman up there will tell you the starting price of the item. Then everyone will start bidding on it with a number that's higher than the starting price. Each bid must be higher than the last one by a set amount of spirit stones, which the woman will tell you."

"So I can't just increase my bid by 1?" Ronron asked.

Alex shook his head. "That's not allowed. They might even kick you out for disturbing the auction if you do that," he said. "Also, you can't increase it by a random arbitrary number. While not against the rules of the auction, it's better if you keep your bid on a nice-sounding number."

"I see," Ronron said excitedly.

The first item on the auction was a simple defensive talisman that could stop a single Saint Condensation realm cultivator's attack. It was quite a good item for anyone in the True realm who was used to being in conflict with Saint realm cultivators.

Especially for people that frequently went to the Ancient Battlefield where one couldn't tell just what sort of enemy one would meet inside.

"You don't need this one right?" Alex asked.

"No, master has given me way better artifacts," Ronron said softly.

"Good, you can learn how the auction takes place then," Alex said and waited for the bidding to start.

As soon as the woman allowed for it, the people all around the hall started bidding one after another, even speaking on top of each other.

Ronron's eyes widened in surprise at the chaos that had been created in the room in just a matter of seconds. She was surprised that the cultivators weren't as orderly as they appeared beforehand.

The order came to the hall a few seconds later when the early bids died down and the bids started becoming higher and higher in amount.

"You don't have to hurry to bid. You can let others go for a bit before you put your own bid up," Alex explained to her.

"Do we just say the number? Is there no system to bid systematically?" Ronron asked.

"No, whoever has more money here places their bids and wins. That's what an auction is," Alex said.

The talisman was quickly sold and the second item was brought forth.

The second item was a pink robe made with many different frills on it, and many different glittering jewels that made it ever so fascinating.

Alex didn't even have to look at Ronron to know that she was going to bid on this thing. Given how early in the auction this was, he knew it wasn't anything good, but since his daughter wanted to bid on it, he wouldn't say anything.

"The bidding starts at 80 True Spirit stones, and each bid must be a True spirit stone or more than the last one. Begin."

Ronron joined in on the bidding despite Alex's teaching and started shouting one number after another.

Each time she heard a different number, she would shout a number that was higher than that.

Soon enough, the bidding came to around 120 and the competition lessened. Even so, there were still a few people that were bidding on it.

One by one, the bidding increased slowly but surely.

Ronron started frowning a little. "They aren't giving up at all," she said.

"Do you want to give up?" Alex asked.

"No, look how pretty that is. It's so much better than what I'm wearing," she said with a pout.

"Then show them that you mean it," Alex said.

"Huh? How?" she asked.

"Increase the bid by a large number. Instead of increasing it by 1, increase it by 5," Alex explained.

"Oh, I can do that?" Ronron was surprised.

"Quickly, if that woman up there counts to 3, you won't get to bid anymore," Alex told her.

"Oh," Ronron quickly turned around. "145."

"146," another voice shouted.

"147," another voice followed behind that."

"155," Ronron shouted.

The voices hesitated a bit. One of them bid 156, but Ronron quickly retaliated with 160. Realizing that no clothes, however pretty, could be worth that much, the voices stopped bidding, and 3 gavel hits later, Ronron became the proud owner of a pretty pink dress.

"I can't wait to see it," she said and looked around the room for someone to bring the dress to her.

Alex chuckled a little. "You won't get anything right now. You'll get it all once the auction is over and you pay them the money for everything you bought," he said.

"Oh," she said, a little disappointed. "You sure do know a lot about auctions, father. You must have been to a lot of them."

"I have," Alex said. "I especially had to go to many different ones in the Luminance Empire because I had to find a near-impossible to find ginseng so I could regrow an arm I had lost."

"Woah," Ronron was surprised. "No wonder you're so experienced about auctions. Did you learn it all from that experience?"

"No, someone had to teach me how it all worked at the start," Alex said.

"Oh? Who?" Ronron asked.

"The person you are named after," Alex said, reminiscing a bit about the past. "Ma Rong, my first master."

Ronron became silent for a bit. "Papa used to say the same when I was younger," she said.

"Of course," Alex said. "The memories I have of her are the ones your father made. Sometimes, I wonder if I should get angry that he robbed away my time with her. But then I realize that all the experiences and memories are still with me, so it's all the same regardless."

"You must miss her a lot," Ronron said.

Alex nodded. "Every time I think of a recipe or make a pill, I see her face in my mind. Outside of my own family, she is probably the one I love the most."

He quickly shook his head and smiled a little. "I got a little sentimental there, didn't I? I'm sorry," he said.

"No, no, it's alright," Ronron said. "It's actually quite good to see that you have that sort of side too."

"Haha, of course, I do," Alex said. "Did you think I was an emotionless monster or what?"

"No, no, that's not what I meant," Ronron quickly said. "It's just that master said that cultivators are used to death and pain, so a lot of them grow callous to this sort of stuff and don't feel anything anymore."

"I can't say he's wrong, but he's not right either," Alex said. "Cultivators do feel stuff when the ones in pain are their loved ones. Sure some become heartless, but that's not true for all of them."

"I see," Ronron said.

The auction continued with more and more items being auctioned off. Ronron managed to get her hands on every single one of the items she wanted to buy.

Whether it was formations, more dresses, special cultivation books, or anything. Even if she didn't need it herself, but thought someone else would like it, she bought it.

Thankfully, they were still in the first half of the auction, so nothing could be considered expensive to Alex.

Alex wasn't particularly excited about anything and waited for the second half to begin. However, just when he thought it was getting boring, the woman walked out with a tray, on top of which was a single item he immediately recognized.

"Ronron," he said softly.

"Hmm?" Ronron turned around.

He looked into her eyes and said, "You have to get this."

"Huh?" Ronron turned around to see what it was and was confused for a moment. However, the confusion quickly vanished when the woman introduced the item.

"Here we have the final item on display before we move onto Saint rank items," she said as she showed off the small ginger piece on the tray.

"This is the Blood Revitalizing Ginger."

Chapter 1229: Greed

"Wait... isn't this one that papa and mama need?" Ronron asked seriously.

"Yes, this is it," Alex said. "If you can't get it now, I won't have to wait a year to find it when I return to the Southern Continent."

"I'll do my best, father," Ronron said with a resolute look.

The woman explained a few more things about the item in front of her to explain what it did so more people would be interested in the item.

The amount of Blood Revitalizing Ginger there was on the tray was enough to make at least 5 different pills and could improve 5 different True realm cultivator's lives by a couple of hundred years.

Once the woman was done explaining, she started the bidding.

Immediately, many people threw out numbers that quickly reached double the base price of the item in the auction. The auction hall wanted them to pay 300 True spirit stones for the item because of how rare and valuable it was, and it crossed 600 in less than a minute.

During all this time, Ronron waited without betting as she let the others bring the price high first.

After it all slowed down a bit, she bid her own amount. 820 True spirit stones.

Immediately, her call was outbid by someone else, who was then outbid a second later. Ronron looked in the direction of the voices with a stern look.

"Father, should we explain to them why we want it? They might let it go for us," she said to Alex.

"Hmm... I don't know," Alex said. "Threats are not allowed at all in the auction house, but maybe trying to persuade them could be allowed."

"Are you not sure?" Ronron asked.

"Each auction house has its own rule, and I haven't been to this one in over 30 years, so I'm not really sure," Alex said.

"Oh, then I won't say anything," Ronron said and went on bidding.

The bids slowed down around 1000 true spirit stones and came to a staggering halt at around 1200 true spirit stones.

However, there was someone in the VIP room who kept bidding against Ronron no matter how much she bid. She even used the tactic Alex taught her, to increase her bid by a large amount, but that didn't help at all.

The bidding continued for nearly 2 more minutes as the bid reached over 1500 True spirit stones, over 5 times the base price.

"Young lady," a voice came from the VIP rooms. "Would you please consider backing down from this bid? I would love to buy this."

Ronron was surprised to hear someone speak, and someone old at that. Her heart faltered for a bit, wondering what she did.

Bidding for the item was good, but if it was very important to someone else then...

"Do you care about a random person more or your parents?" Alex asked.

"Of course, I care about my parents," Ronron said quickly. "But... that person..."

"This is what it means to be callous and heartless in the cultivation world. You are out for yourself. You help others when you can and that's fine, but when you have to choose between them and yourself, you always choose yourself."

"After all, the main driving factor for a cultivator is his greed. A greed to live all the years you can, greed to own everything, greed to become stronger than everyone. If you want to become a cultivator, show some greed," Alex said.

Ronron was a little shocked to hear the words, but she quickly nodded. "Greed, huh? I'll be greedy then."

"1600 True spirit stones," he announced her bid.

Alex smiled.

"Young girl, are you really not going to let this old man have what he wants?" the man in the VIP room spoke again.

"Sir," Ronron spoke. "You are in the VIP room, so you must be rich, right?"

"Somewhat, yes," the old man's voice came.

"Then please stop wasting both of our time and just bid. This is an auction, the one with more money wins here," she told the man.

The man remained silent for a moment and finally spoke.

"1700 True spirit stones."

Ronron's eyes widened a bit. She turned to her father with a panicked look. After all, the man had just increased the price by an entire 100 True Spirit stones.

Alex nodded slightly, telling her to not back down.

"1800 True spirit stones."

The crowd gasped a little in surprise, mostly because by now they had checked who it was that was making the bid and had realized that it was a girl who had only recently stepped in the True realms.

And somehow she was making bids that involved hundreds and hundreds of True Spirit stones at once.

"1900 True spirit stones."

"2000 True spirit stones."

The bid went back and forth for a bit.

"3500 True Spirit stones," Ronron said after a few bids, directly jumping way high with the price of the ingredients.

Alex shook his head internally, but he didn't let Ronron notice anything. 3500 for a True rank ingredient was stupid by any imagination of the word.

People would laugh at someone if they heard the person had done such a thing. However, since it was his own daughter and since the ingredient was something they needed, he didn't stop her.

The man in the VIP room did stop, however, since he realized how much of a waste this would be if he kept going.

In the end, the ginger was won over by Ronron who cheered excitedly.

"Now, we'll be moving on to the 2nd half of our auction," the woman said and left the stage.

Once she left, quite a few people in the hall started leaving the auction too. Ronron looked around half-curious and half-worried.

"What's happening?" she asked Alex.

"We're moving onto Saint-ranked items," Alex said.

"So?" Ronron asked.

"So, it's going to get very, very expensive now," he said. "The auction before this was simply child's play to what's coming in terms of price. Most of these people won't be able to buy any of it, so they are leaving instead."

"Oh..." Ronron thought. "I see."

A much more beautiful woman came from behind the stage with a clear Saint realm cultivation base erupting from her. She started introducing herself and restarted the auction once again.

She explained whatever was needed as the first item was slowly brought out.

"This is it," Alex said. "They should have quite the items on this half, so you should bid more frequently."

"Really? That woman said everything is going to cost over 10,000 True spirit stones though," Ronron said.

Alex chuckled and shook his head. "I told you it's going to get expensive. I'll let you know if I'm running out of money. Just bid on what you like, except for pills. You don't need to bid on pills," he said.

"Of course," Ronron said. "I'm not stupid."

The woman introduced the first item of the second half of the auction.

"Here we have a skill book for our first item," she said. "It's a skill called Golden Spears of Heaven, which allows a person to create 4 illusory spears with metal energy and control it as they see fit."

Alex didn't even hesitate as he leaned over and whispered, "buy it."

Chapter 1230: Expensive

Ronron was a little surprised that Alex wanted to buy a technique that sounded so simple. "Do you not have many offensive techniques, father? If you don't, I can ask master to lend you some," she said.

"No, I have enough," Alex said. "I just want this because I believe I want to try something with it."

"Hmm, okay," Ronron said.

The bidding started and everyone started saying out loud their bid.

Alex sat there thinking about what he was going to do. His plan was simple for the most part. He was going to take the Golden Spears of Heaven and somehow mix it with the Iron fist technique of his that he used so much.

With the Dao of techniques, he could start to mix and merge many techniques together so long as they were compatible. He wasn't yet sure how effective techniques of multiple elements would be, but since both of these two techniques were Metal related, he was sure he could achieve it.

He could have simply used his control over Metal energy to formulate a technique of his own that did the same thing, but that would require him quite a few days of time to improve it to the same level as this technique would provide him.

While the Dao helped him improve the techniques faster, he was certain that it would still take him weeks if not months to take the technique to its peak, and that was time that Alex didn't want to bother with.

The bidding had started with 25 thousand True spirit stones which had certainly surprised Ronron quite a bit. That was an amount that she had never even seen, and yet there were people out here that were bidding on it like it was nothing.

Soon, the amount reached over 50 thousand and it kept going. It only stopped once it reached 65 thousand true spirit stones, which Ronron got.

She looked around at the hall where people were looking at her with weird expressions on their faces.

"Are we spending too much money by any chance?" Ronron asked. "That was more than I spent in the entire first half."

Alex shrugged. "Not really," he said. "This is what I used to make for selling a single pill in the southern continent. And that was before I became a King. No matter how much I spend, it won't be much at all."

He could imagine right now what sort of expression she would make if she ever figured out how much he had to pay to keep the Royal army well maintained for just a month.

A few more items went by, of which Ronron managed to get about half them, and that was only because the others were something she did not want at all.

Something else was brought out, the first weapon for the 2nd half of the auction, which was a bow made up of the Starforged Tungsten.

Alex saw that item and made a peculiar face. 'Right, I should get some of those metals,' he thought.

Ronron saw the bow and wondered if she should get it or not. "That looks quite nice," she said. "Should I get it?"

Alex looked at her and asked, "Do you know how to use a bow?"

"Not... really, but I don't know how to use any weapons really, so I have nothing to lose. Also, I do have a skill that lets me make arrows," she said. "So it could be useful."

"Hmm... buy it then," Alex said. "It's made from a good metal. Although not much of it is used in it, it still can help you quite a bit. If nothing, you can use the bow as a training weapon."

Ronron nodded. "Okay," she said and waited for the woman to stop explaining so much about the bow. Once the explanations were over, the bidding started at 60 thousand true spirit stones.

Ronron tried her best to outbid everyone while not going overboard with the amount. In the end, she managed to get the bow for 110 thousand true spirit stones.

This was the first item that she had managed to get without the price basically doubling.

The next few items were some talismans and pills which she stood out. There were quite a few of them, and each one was sold for a preposterous price which continued surprising Ronron quite a bit.

"Then next item is a set of 10 pills that can be taken in advance to counter any poison, venom, or toxins that you might get afflicted with later. It is a very good defensive pill to take if you are going somewhere dangerous."

"Since the pill recipe is private, you can only get these pills right here, so make sure to get them," the woman spoke.

She mentioned the harmony level of all 10 pills and then gave the base price for all 10 pills at once.

240 thousand True spirit stones.

As soon as she allowed it, the bidding war started with quite the frenzy.

Ronron looked around with surprise as no one showed this sort of reaction when the previous items were being sold.

"What is up with the reaction, father?" she asked.

"It's a rare pill that one cannot just make, so everyone is very agitated to get their hands on it," Alex said.

"Is it a rare pill because it's a secret recipe?" Ronron asked.

Alex nodded. "Someone, maybe even a player, must have been holding onto some pill recipes for a while now. Since Alchemy was effectively banned previously, they couldn't really make the pills, but now that it's being spread around with full force, people are coming out from hiding and selling all sorts of pills."

"This must be one of the better pills, which is why everyone is so excited about it," Alex said.

"I see," Ronron said. "I wonder what they would do if they knew you could make this pill just like that."

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

Ronron gave a confused look. "What's so confusing about what I said?" she asked.

"I can't make that pill," he said.

"Huh? You can't?" Ronron asked. "But... aren't you like really good at alchemy?"

"Just because I'm good at alchemy doesn't mean that I know every single recipe out there. I would have to try for years to be able to make a pill that can do the same thing as that," he said.

"Huh? Then... isn't this an amazing pill?" Ronron asked.

"Of course, it is," Alex said. "Every single antidote pill I have is just that, an antidote. It is always something you take after you have been inflicted with the poison. There is not a single pill I have that can protect you from one."

"I see," Ronron said. "If you are inflicted with some strong poison that kills you in no time, this sort of pill would come quite in handy."

"It will," Alex said. "Which is why I'm very curious about its recipe right now."

"What do we do? Do we go searching for the person who put these pills up for auction?" Ronron asked.

"No need for that," Alex said. "I am capable of finding a recipe from a pill alone. All you have to do now is buy those pills."