

Alchemy 1241

Chapter 1241: Direct Disciple

Alex took out the Blood Revitalizing Ginger and cut it up into 5 different pieces. He then used his Supreme Elemental Accord skill to put energy into the ginger to ready it up for when he was going to have to make the pill.

After the ginseng, he spent some time focusing on the other ingredients and once everything was done, he took out Memory and proceeded with making the True Rejuvenating pills.

The True Rejuvenating pill recipe was one of the many True rank pill recipes he had improved while he was still in the Western Continent. So, it was quite easy for him to make the pill that reached 100% without any effort.

However, when he did reach 100%, something weird happened inside the cauldron. The pills that had reached 100% harmony simply dissipated some of their energy to reach a lower level.

Alex sighed when he saw that happen. He had known about this for a long time, over a decade in fact, however, each time it happened, he couldn't help but sigh at the waste.

The truth of the matter was that True rank pills could not reach 100%, let alone have pill veins.

Alex had tried it with many different pills, both Common and True rank, but none seemed to stay in 100% at all. The pill clouds never formed for these pills at all and instead they simply lost a bit of energy.

There was no information in his mind as to why this was, only that he wasn't doing anything wrong. This was all natural.

"I should ask the senior about this too," he thought.

After finishing the pills, he stored them and spent a few minutes organizing his thoughts on what he was going to do now.

He wanted to spend some time trying to improve or change some of his techniques, but that would take quite a time, so he couldn't do that here.

"Sigh, why did I have to learn the dao right before I was going to leave?" he thought to himself. "I can't even make use of the Dao yet."

He shook his head and left the room. He only had a few days here, so he was going to spend it with his family.

Alex went and met with his family. After some time, he decided to go and check out the Forever Isles, which were a set of islands to the south of the Northern Continent.

The group went from island to island, checking out the scenery of the islands and the ocean. No one predicted the amount of shock Ronron would've felt when she saw the oceans.

She knew about them, hearing about them from her master. However, seeing the real thing was still the most incredible thing she had ever seen.

"How... just how is there so much water? And how deep does this go?" she couldn't help but ask.

"If master isn't wrong, then the ocean is at least a dozen kilometers deep," Hao Ya answered.

"Woah, is that so?" Even Alex was surprised. He knew it was deep, but not that deep. Due to his fear of the beasts that lurked on the sea floor, he had never actually tried to scan the ocean at all.

So, hearing the number came as quite a surprise to him as well.

After going from island to island the entire day, the group finally came to the end of the Forever Isles.

Alex pointed to the south in surprise and spoke, "Look, that's the Central Continent. It's about the same distance away as the Southern Continent huh?" he thought.

"Huh? Where?" everyone tried to look in the direction that Alex pointed to, but there was nothing they could see there at all.

"Can't you see?" he asked. "It's..."

He paused for a second. "Nevermind, your eyes aren't good enough to see those things yet," he said. "I will try and see if I can improve them. I will have to make a paste for that."

The others only nodded to Alex's words, not really understanding what he was talking about.

They returned back to the Blazing Earth sect a while later, just in time for Alex's massive alchemy lesson. The venue had been prepared outside of the Blazing Earth sect due to its closeness with the Teleportation formation, as well as the fact that Alex had been staying there for a while.

"You're back," Lady Xuan spoke from a group of elders that had been waiting for him restlessly. They were worried he wasn't going to make it in time, but he had.

"Is everything ready?" Alex asked.

"Yes, everyone had already arrived, and we can start the lesson in 2 hours," Tai Guan said.

Alex nodded. He thought for a bit and asked, "do they know who is giving the lesson?"

"Yes," Lady Xaun said. "We've mentioned that you are a player and have quite the knowledge of Alchemy."

"Do they know my name too? And what I look like?" Alex asked.

"We've mentioned your name, but we have mentioned nothing about what you look like. Should we?" someone asked.

"No, I would like to remain faceless if possible," Alex said. "I don't like the idea of being stopped by everyone wherever I go if they know who I am."

He brought out the white mask and wore it. "I shall give my lesson while wearing this," he said. "Let's go prepare for it."

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Ronron clung to Hao Ya's arm as they walked around the many tents that had been prepared around the desolate landscape in preparation for everyone going back to their home.

"Even though we are apprentice sisters, we don't really get to spend some time together, do we?" she asked Hao Ya.

Hao Ya smiled. "Of course, I'm busy with master's tasks and you are busy cultivating. It's a miracle that you are even here at all," she said.

"Master gives you a lot of work, doesn't he?" Ronron asked. "You should complain. I will stand by you if you do."

Hao Ya nearly laughed out loud. "Stop it. It's my responsibility as his disciple to help him with his tasks," she said.

"Well, I am his disciple too, but he never really gives me any tasks," Ronron said. "He most likely won't give me any even after I get strong, will he?"

"You know how it is," Hao Ya said. "You are too important for master to send out on errands. Besides, I don't think he sees you as a disciple even though he treats you as one."

Ronron nodded her head. "I'm going to stop being his disciple soon, aren't I?" she asked.

"If all goes well, yes," Hao Ya said. "If master can go back to his master with you, then you will become a direct disciple of the Sky God. At that point, you will outrank master too. That's probably why he treats you so well too because he knows it's all bound to happen."

Ronron nodded. "Sky God, huh? I wonder what sort of person she is," she thought.

"Alright, stop thinking about all of that," Hao Ya said. "Look around and check the people. I can't recognize this half-sister of yours, can I?"

"Oh, right," Ronron said and started focusing on the people around her. She went around the camps with Hao Ya before coming across a group of people in which there was the little girl that she had been looking for.

Fan Yanshi looked at the two girls that had appeared before him. "Oh, aren't you brother Yu Ming's daughter?" he asked with a blank expression on his face. "What are you doing here?"

"Hello, senior. Are you doing alright?" Ronron asked before turning around to the little girl next to him. "Hello, Lilin, do you remember me?"

The little girl stepped behind her father, hiding from the two girls.

"I'm sorry, she's been seeing new faces these past couple of days, so she's a little afraid," Fan Yanshi said. "Anyway, where is brother Yu Ming?"

"Father is busy," Ronron said.

"Oh, then what are you doing here?" Fan Yanshi asked.

Ronron didn't know how to explain what she had to explain. Seeing her hesitate, Hao Ya took the lead.

"Your wife, her name was Emily, right?" she asked.

Fan Yanshi's eyes widened in shock before retreating a bit in fear. "How... do you know?" he asked.

"Do you know why you are so bad at cultivation?" Hao Ya asked. "Why you were born with such a bad body? I'm sorry to break it to you, but you are a clone of the Original you that has already died."

"What?" Fan Yanshi looked in shock.

"That's the truth," Hao Ya said. "I will be explaining this all to everyone in a few hours, but just know that both you and your wife were clones of the real people that died."

"What are you talking about?" Fan Yanshi couldn't understand.

"Your Emily was a clone, just like you," Hao Ya said. "This right here is the daughter of another Emily, that is also the clone of the one that died."

"... huh?"

"So, by relation, she is that girl's half-sister," Hao Ya explained. "She came here to meet her and explain it to you."

"No... what?"

Ronron squatted down next to them. "It's true, senior. I am Emily's daughter from the Central continent, the one you call home. I didn't know about it at all, but it seems my father realized that I might have family up north, which was why he brought me there a few days ago."

Ronron then looked at the little girl behind her father. "Lilin, do you want to come out and play with your big sister? Here, I have some treats for you."

Alex finished his alchemy lecture nearly half a day later. Since the level of alchemy knowledge in the Northern Continent was so low, he had to start from very basic knowledge before proceeding to advanced stuff.

So, a lecture that should have taken no more than 4 hours, ended up taking nearly 12.

He walked toward the group of elders that were happily waiting for him to come down.

"That should be enough, right?" he asked.

"Enough, it's more than enough," one of the elders said. "Thank you so much for teaching our alchemists so much about alchemy. I'm sure most of them didn't even know half of what you said existed at all."

"It's only obvious," Alex said. "Alchemy had to be suppressed before, so there wasn't a lot of growth, and over the past few thousand years, the knowledge slowly disappeared as no one was putting it into effect."

The elders nodded. "Once again, thank you for everything you've done."

"Thank you."

Everyone spoke all at once. Alex smiled behind his white mask and spoke, "if you are happy with it all, then please prepare for our departure. We'll be leaving at sunrise."

Many of the elders nodded and scattered away to fulfill his request. Only a single elder stayed behind and looked at him with solemn eyes.

"You are going to leave once again, huh?" lady Xuan asked. "I wonder how many times it is that I am going to have to watch you leave."

Alex took off his mask and gave a soft smile, not saying anything.

"Will you ever come back after leaving?" she asked.

"Are you asking that of Yu Ming or Alex?" he asked.

"Both?" Lady Xuan said.

"Yu Ming is no more, and will likely never return to you or anyone else in the Northern Continent. Alex is the king of the Southern Continent, and as such may return from time to time in the future. However, you should know what it would mean for a king to visit," he said.

"I see," Lady Xuan said. "So there is absolutely no chance of you ever becoming a member of our sect again, huh?"

Alex shook his head. "It's simply impossible now," he said. "Still, I won't forget the help you and your sect have provided, senior. For that, I will forever remain grateful."

"After I became a King, it's rare that I bow to anyone anymore. So, this might be the last time I do so for someone in the Northern continent. Please accept it."

Alex gave a short bow to the woman.

"You don't have to bow, I understand," the woman hurriedly said, but Alex still fully did his bow before looking back up.

The woman hesitated on what to do before bowing herself. "Thank you for everything you have done too. You say you are grateful to us, but you do not understand just how grateful the entirety of the Northern Continent is to you. It is thanks to you that it has finally had a chance to walk out of the shadow of the Snow Immortal sect, and will finally get to blossom to its true potential."

Alex's smile got brighter. "I can't wait to see it blossom into something beautiful," he said. "Until then, farewell."

He turned around and left the place, leaving behind the woman with a look that was a mixture of happiness and sadness.

Alex looked to the sky far away and saw Hao Ya fly into the air. She was about to begin telling everyone exactly what it was they could expect, exactly what it was they were going to have to deal with.

She was there to break their hopes now, rather than let them keep them for much longer and be in much more pain when they broke once they reached their destination.

Your parents are dead. Your friends are no longer there. Your home isn't your home anymore. The one you loved most likely loves someone else.

You are nothing but a clone.

These sorts of things were a necessity to tell the people before they went back so that when they did, they would have an objective view of reality instead of one they see through their own twisted hope.

Alex ignored her words and went on to find Hao Ya who he knew should be with Fan Yanshi. He found the three with Ronron playing with her younger sister or cousin, while Fan Yanshi was fully invested in the words of the lady in the sky.

"Father!" Ronron quickly waved him over.

"Oh, she's not shy anymore," Alex said.

"Of course," Ronron said. "It would be a surprise if she were to still be shy after she ate so many of the sweets I bought from that other city."

"Brother Yu— no, what was it? Alex?" Fan Yanshi spoke. "You left us that knowledge so many years ago that if we just held out for a bit longer... we could go home."

Alex paused for a second and remembered, he did do that. "Yes, I did," he said.

"I was so excited for this day for the past 3 decades, and this day has finally come," Fan Yanshi said. "So why don't I feel happy anymore?"

Alex could see the sadness on Fan Yanshi's face.

"She says that we will be going home, but she also says that we are clones, someone that never really existed in that place at all," he said. "So... is it still our home?"

"Of course," Alex said. "It doesn't matter what is the truth or what isn't in this case. If you think the world in your memories is your home, then it is your home."

Fan Yanshi sighed. "There will be another me in there, wouldn't there?" he asked. "Where will I have to go instead?"

"I... I can't tell you for certain right now," Alex said. "However, if you end up without a home in there, contact me. I will help you find one."

Fan Yanshi gave a meek little smile. "Thank you."

Hao Ya finished her speech in the air and came down to land next to Alex. "We're ready," she said.

"The sun is about to rise. We should all get ready to leave," he said.

The group lined up and walked toward the Teleportation formation one by one. Just like the one in the Southern Continent, this formation could handle about 20 thousand people at once as well.

Given the number of people that had gathered, it would take them about 7 different times to send them all back.

Alex met up with the rest of his family and waited for the teleportations to begin. He saw tears and heard sniffing from his aunt and understand that she just had a heartfelt goodbye with her sect.

Graham tried to console her, but he couldn't stop her from crying at all, so he let her be.

Ronron held onto Lilin in her arms and talked with her as a big sister. Meanwhile, Fan Yanshi stood by their side as well, but his face was completely blank with no emotion in it.

Hao Ya stood a little away with her arms crossed, waiting for it all to begin.

Alex looked to his left as the first rays of sunlight fell onto the land. Then, the teleportations began.

Chapter 1243: A Few Questions

Alex and the rest teleported back into the open field where they had been sent before. He looked around for his family who had been standing by him.

"Finally, I'm back," Liz couldn't help but say as she looked around the modern world that she had missed so much.

"Brother Fan, actually, I should probably call you Frank since you're back. You know where you're supposed to go right?" Alex asked.

"I do," he said with a solemn face. He looked around the old world that looked foreign to him now.

Alex turned to his daughter. "Can you buy a couple of phones and give one to Frank? Get one for grandpa and grandaunt too," he said.

"Okay, I'll get one for you too," Ronron said and walked away from the field with her new younger sister.

"Don't worry... uh, uncle Frank. If you end up not having a home, you can come live with us on our farm. The place is massive and will have enough place for you and little sister," Ronron said.

Frank looked at her. "This farm... it's where another Emily lives, right?" he asked.

Ronron nodded.

"Then I don't think I can go there," Frank said. "I can't live in a place where I'm constantly reminded of my wife only to remember she's already gone."

"Oh... okay," Ronron said.

"I will need to leave. I need to go meet my master," Hao Ya said. "I will see you guys later then."

"Wait," Alex quickly spoke up. "Ronron, take everyone home. I will come there later."

He called out Pearl and Whisker too and sent them with his family. Pearl was now a small cat, so he easily fit in anyone's arm or shoulders, and could thus be easily taken around too.

Alex left with Hao Ya to go to Senior Yang's place. He had a few questions to ask him that he had thought of in the past week as well as let Scarlet talk with Senior Luhei about his brother.

They arrived at the mansion after a few minutes of flying and entered. Hao Ya quickly went into the separated room to find her master and tell him the teleportations were complete.

Alex went to the backyard and spoke with senior Luhei along with Scarlet for a bit before the senior walked back out.

"I hear you were a lot of help during this travel," the senior said. "Thank you for helping Hao Ya with the task."

"It was nothing really," Alex said. "I just did what I could to help the players get back home."

"I hear you had to give up a few pills," the senior said. "Please accept my gratitude."

Alex felt weird hearing such politeness from a person that was no different from a god to everyone in this world. He smiled slightly and bowed.

"How long do you think it will take you to send us to the Western Continent?" Alex asked.

"No time at all," the man said. "I can send you all right now if I want to."

"Oh, really?" Alex asked with a surprised expression.

"Yes," the old man said. "Unfortunately, while the Western continent does have a new teleportation formation, it hadn't been tested or even properly tuned to teleport people yet. So, I will have to send you all randomly this time around, which I can do any time."

"Randomly? As in we won't know where we will appear?" Alex asked.

"Yes, I'm afraid that's what it means," the senior said. "I will try to send you all as close as possible, but I can't guarantee it since the fine-tuning I have done before was destroyed when the Yang energy burned it all."

"I will have to go off of what I remember," the senior said. "But don't worry, I know the gist of where I will have to send you exactly. You will most likely appear on the western side of the continent, near some large cities."

"I see, that helps I suppose," Alex said.

"Anyway, you should go and relax for a few days. I will let you know if I think it's time," the senior said.

"Actually, senior, I wanted to ask a few things of you that I did not get to ask last time around," he said.

"Oh, what sort?" the senior asked.

"My first question is regarding Pearl actually," Alex said. "You said that he had destroyed his Bloodline, right? What if I give him mine? I also have the White Tiger's blood essence flowing in me. If I were to give him that part of me, will he heal?"

The senior shook his head. "I do not know if that will help restore his bloodline or not, but even if it does work, it still won't help your beast at all," the senior said.

"Why not?" Alex asked.

"A White Tiger is known for its two aspects," the senior said. "It's exceptional techniques that are passed down through the generations via their bloodline. And their Supreme Spiritual roots that they are born with."

"Actually, all Heavenly beasts are like that. They have skills and techniques that are passed down via their bloodline and a Supreme Spiritual root. If they lack even one aspect of it, they can never be considered a heavenly beast, do you know why?"

Alex shook his head.

"Because you can't use one without the other," the senior said. "The skills that are passed down through the bloodline require a Supreme root to use it."

"Let's say you do give your cat your part of the White Tiger's blood Essence, it will still be missing the most important aspect to make use of that bloodline, the Spiritual root," the senior said. "As I mentioned, he not only lost his bloodline but also his Spiritual root when he saved himself."

"I have no idea why he did that, or even how he knew to do so, but he did, and now he is in this situation. So, what you are suggesting will not help your cat at all," the senior said.

"But... can't the White Tiger's bloodline improve one's spiritual root to a Supreme level? It did for my Metal root. It should do the same for Pearl too, right?" Alex asked.

"White Tiger's blood doesn't have that sort of powers," the senior chuckled. "If they did, they would be hunted left and right. do you know how many people would kill to have a Supreme Spiritual root? It takes multiple celestial-grade treasures to give yourself one."

Alex got a little depressed. "So, my option really is to force him through evolution, huh?" he thought.

The senior nodded before pausing for a second. "Wait, what did you mean by your spiritual root improved? How?" the senior asked.

"Oh, after I ingested a big drop of White Tiger's Blood Essence," Alex said to the senior.

"White Tiger's blood essence helped evolve your spiritual root? really?" the senior checked Alex's body and was surprised. "Is it because of your body?"

"Is it?" Alex asked.

"Maybe," the senior said. "To think the White Tigers were so bold as to keep a treasure of such high importance in a place like this. They must've been out of their minds. I'm surprised you got away with it at all."

"Huh? Treasure?" Alex shook his head. "There was no treasure. I got that Blood Essence from Pearl's mother after she died."

The senior paused for a moment. "From Pearl's mother? Isn't she—" the man stopped as a few thoughts moved through his head and his eyes went wide from something he understood.

A curious look appeared on his face as he looked at Alex.

"Pearl's mother, was she a White Tiger?" he asked.

Alex thought for a bit and shook his head. "Not that I know of," he said. "I hear that beasts have a chance of keeping their features after evolving to a White Tiger. If that was the case, then she should be."

"When did you meet her? It was before my system was destroyed, right?" he asked frantically.

"Yes, it was before that," Alex said.

"What was her species?" the man asked.

"Uhh... a White Cat," Alex remembered.

"Not a White Tiger?" the man asked.

"No, not a White Tiger," Alex replied.

"Then... perhaps she never..." the man thought and suddenly started laughing out loud like a crazy man.

"If that Blood Essence really did come from his mother, then you might just have a chance to help him."

Chapter 1244: The Three Treasures

Alex was a little confused as to what the senior was talking about.

"I have nothing to worry about? Why? Because the blood came from his mother?" he asked the senior.

"Not just that," the senior said. "It's a little more complicated, and unfortunately, I'm not the one that holds the entirety of the information either. So, I can't really explain it to you in detail as to what exactly it is I'm saying."

"However, if what I'm understanding is correct, the chances of your cat evolving have improved infinitely," the senior said. "In fact, it will be surprising if he fails after you have given him back his the White Tiger's blood that you have in you."

"Alright," Alex said. "I will do it. How do I take out the Blood Essence from within me?"

"Unfortunately, I do not know how," the senior said. "The Heavenly beasts remain outside of matter of Humans and Demons as their own separate species, so we don't interact as much. Because of that, we don't know much about them as they are very secretive."

Alex nodded. It was because of their neutrality that they were sent to rule over these lands in the first place.

"Then? What do I do?" Alex asked.

"The White Tigers should know what to do. When you go to the Western Continent, visit them. There should be someone there that should be able to do it," the senior said.

"I see," Alex said. 'Will the Puma be able to do it?' he hoped so.

"Thank you, senior," he said. "You have no idea how much this thought has tormented me for the past week and a half."

"Do you have anything else to ask?" the senior asked.

"Of course," Alex said and quickly thought up some more questions to ask the senior. "Right, I wanted to ask you about pill veins."

"Pill veins? What about it?" the senior asked.

"I can't seem to form pill clouds out of Common and True pills at all. Am I doing anything wrong? Or is that just how it is?" he asked.

"Oh, that's just how it is," the senior said. "You can't form pill veins with Common and True pills the same way you can't form pill souls with Saint and Immortal rank pills."

"There needs to be a level of energy in a pill to create such phenomenons, which only comes at various levels," the senior said.

"I see," Alex said. "What's a Pill Soul?"

"It's when your pill forms a soul," the senior said. "Kind of like an artifact spirit."

"Ah, I see," Alex said. "There's such a thing huh? I didn't know about it at all."

"Really? Even after you got the Alchemy god's book?" the senior asked.

"Well, the knowledge he has is blocked behind layers of intent that loosen up every time I break through to a major realm," Alex said. "Until then, I have to get my information from other sources, like you."

"I see," the senior said and brought out a book. "So that's why there was nothing remaining inside this book huh?"

Alex looked at the book curiously and was surprised when he saw the name. "Alchemy God's Knowledge? How do you have that book? Is this a copy?" he asked.

"No, this is the original," the senior said.

"Then... did I get a fake one? That can't be," Alex said.

"No, you got this book. When you decided to learn it, I had it sent back here," the senior said.

"Was it not destroyed when I learned it? It disappeared from my storage bag," Alex said with a shocked look.

"Oh, did you not realize what happened yet? Every time someone learned something using my system, I had the information sent directly into their minds, while the book itself was sent back to me so it could go back into the pile of books that I could send with others," the senior said.

"You teleported it back here?" Alex asked.

"Yes, the same way I teleported back the spirit stones everyone sold," the senior said.

"I see," Alex said. "How did it work though? How did you just teach someone something?"

"It required some creative thinking, but I managed to do it in the end," the senior said. "I had to make a formation that forced intent into someone's mind and I only gathered books with a sufficient amount of intent."

"Also, I don't know if you knew it or not, but not all books could be just learned, especially ones that were not related to battle," the senior said.

"So I learned that book because it had Intent in it?" Alex asked.

The senior nodded. "This book is useless now that the intent behind it is inside of you," he said as he tossed it to Alex. "Still, it's a good memento of the Alchemy God, so keep it safe with you."

Alex grabbed the book and looked at it. He quickly flipped through the book and found that what was written inside of it was simple information about Alchemy that even someone who knew nothing about it could figure out on his own after a few months of practice.

The book was never what was important at all. It was the person who had stored his intent into it.

"There are no other copies like this, right?" Alex asked.

"Uhh... I don't believe so," the senior said after thinking a bit.

"Then... does that mean that I now hold the highest level of information any alchemist can hold in all the realms?" Alex asked. His heart started beating faster and faster as he realized that only he had the Alchemy God's teaching.

"Do you really think so?" the senior asked as he smiled a bit.

Alex felt a little embarrassed that his thinking had gone that way. "Am I mistaken, perhaps?" he asked.

"I won't say that you are wrong in thinking that you have a very high knowledge of Alchemy even though you have a lot of layers to still unlock in your mind," the senior said.

"However, you have to think of one thing exactly. The knowledge inside of you comes from the Alchemy god, but where did Alchemy God get his knowledge from?"

Alex paused for a bit as he realized that he hadn't even considered that question. In his mind, the Alchemy god just... existed. He never gave any thought to how he trained, or where he learned anything from.

"Where?" Alex asked slowly.

The senior smiled. "It is said that the Alchemy God came across 3 treasures when he was but a nobody. These treasures took him to the peak of Alchemy which no one had yet reached to this point," he said. "It was because of these treasures that he became what he was and wrote the book that you now hold."

"Oh, what are these treasures? where are they?" Alex asked curiously.

"We only know about one. After the Alchemy God's death, these three treasures disappeared, with no one knowing where any of it was."

"A few years after the war ended, however, someone appeared with the ability to make any pill they wanted and went on to become the current Alchemy god. After his ascension to Godhood, the current Alchemy God revealed that he held one of the three treasures."

Alex was beyond intrigued by this information. "What is the treasure?" he asked.

"The treasure is a book artifact known as The Book of Endless Recipes."

Chapter 1245: Take a Break

"The Book of Endless Recipes?"

Alex couldn't help but be fascinated by the name alone. "What does this book do exactly?" he asked.

"We're not sure, but Alchemy God did imply that the book was capable of providing him with any and all recipes, allowing him to make whatever type of pill he wanted," the senior said.

"Woah, any and all recipes? That's..." Alex could only imagine what he could do if he had the knowledge of every single pill that could exist. Life would be so much easier if that were the case.

"That's... quite amazing," he said. "What about the other 2 treasures?"

"We do not know what the other two treasures are," the senior said. "The records from back then are lacking and given the fact that the first Alchemy God was a secretive person, to begin with, there isn't much I can tell you."

"I see," Alex thought. "Well, this is quite a bit of information too."

The man shrugged. "What else do you want to know?" he asked.

Alex thought for a bit and asked the man about his divinations as well as the divination well in the Northern Continent, but the senior couldn't help him at all.

He told Alex the same thing Godslayer had said back then. He did not have to trust these divinations at all.

However, Alex found it hard to believe either of these two. After all, of the 6 different divinations he had received, 2 of them had already come true.

If he wasn't mistaken, then the third one was also starting to come true as well.

"Oh right, that reminds me, wasn't your aunt supposed to come along with you this time? The one with the time powers?" the senior asked.

"She did," Alex said. "She should be on the way back to her home right now with my father."

"Oh, would you mind bringing her here? A person capable of manipulating time can be very helpful to aid me with my work," the senior said.

"I will see what I can do," Alex said. "It should take a few days though for her to get over her emotions of losing her home and life."

"Ah, yes. Let her take her time," the senior said. "By the way, do you intend to take Ronron to the Western continent too?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I want her to meet her grandmother there, so I should take her with me."

"That's... good, but I'm a little worried that you will be scattered when you teleport away," the senior said.

"Hmm, I don't think you will have to worry about us scattering much," Alex said. "Depending on the power of the Teleportation aura, I should be capable of helping up stick together for the most part. After all, I have learned the Dao of Teleportation."

"Oh! Right, I forgot," the senior said. "Then I don't think I will have much to worry about at all."

Alex nodded. "I will take my leave for now," he said. "I will come back in 3 days after we've rested a bit and then we can leave for the Western Continent."

"Alright, I will wait for you all then," the senior said.

Alex walked back to Scarlet to see if she wanted to leave as well.

"I know where to go. I will go there later with senior here if he wishes to," Scarlet said. "For now, I will stay here."

"Alright then," Alex said and turned to leave. He saw Hao Ya standing by her master and wondered for a moment.

"Sister Hao, if you don't have anything else to do, why don't you come with me and my family to relax on our farm for the next 3 days? You've worked a lot and surely you want to get away from it all," he asked.

Hao Ya hadn't even thought about that. She turned to her Master who nodded. "He's right. You should take a break. You've worked without a break for so very long," he said.

"Should I?" she wondered.

"You should," Alex told her.

"Alright then," Hao Ya said. "I will take a break."

The two of them left the mansion and arrived outside. "Can you call Ronron and see if they've already left by any chance?" he asked.

"Sure," Hao Ya said and called Ronron.

Alex took the phone once she picked up and asked where she was. "Oh, I'm in the train station. I'm sending away grandpa and grandaunt to her home right now," Ronron said.

"Oh, then stay in the station and wait, we will be there in a few minutes," Alex told her and hung up.

The two of them reached the train station about 10 minutes later and found Ronron sitting by a bench with Pearl in her lap and Whisker on her head.

"Whisker? Didn't you go with father?" Alex asked after arriving.

Whisker shook his head.

"Grandpa said he wanted Whisker to stay with me. He had no reason to go with him anyway," Ronron answered.

"I suppose," Alex thought. "What about Frank and Lilin?"

"Oh, they left early. I got them their ticket, which turned out to be free actually, and got them a phone as you said before sending them away," Ronron explained.

"Where were they going?" Alex asked.

"To Peachpit city in the west," Ronron said. "He said he had a home there, but I'm worried he won't have one."

"Don't worry about him, he's an adult and can handle himself," Alex said. "Oh right, did you see Matt? He should have come with his wife."

"That guy from the big sect? I remember seeing him get here a few batches before our own," Ronron said. "He must have taken the train to the other train station that was closest to them. I came here because it was so crowded there."

"I see," Alex said. "Well, let's not worry about them then. Go buy 3 tickets and we can leave."

"3? Is big sis coming along too?" Ronron asked with wide eyes.

"Yes, I'm coming along," Hao Ya said.

"Wow! Did you finally complain to master like I said you should? Let me know if you want me to say something too," Ronron said.

Hao Ya smiled a bit. "I didn't need to do such a thing," she said. "He told me to go as soon as your father brought up the topic of vacation."

"Ooh, nice. Thank you father, you have no idea how long it must have been before sister Hao had a chance to take a break," Ronron said.

"I understand, now go get us the ticket," Alex said.

Ronron giggled and ran away to the counter while Alex sat by Pearl. "I think I found a way to help you, buddy," he said.

"Huh? Help me? How?" Pearl asked curiously.

"It involves the ritual for evolution back in the beast realm," Alex told him. "The senior says the chances of success will be high, but I'm still not convinc--"

"Will I become strong again if I succeed?" Pearl asked.

"If it works, absolutely," Alex said.

"Then I will do it," Pearl said with a firm resolution. "Help me get there, brother."

"I will," Alex said. "3 days later, the first thing we will do after going to the Western Continent is go to the Beast Realm and ask them for help with your ritual."

Chapter 1246: To The Western Continent

The three days passed in the blink of an eye.

Liz had returned to the farm a day later and spent some time with the old Alex and Emily. The two old people felt very youthful not only with their elders around them but also because of the pill they ate.

While the True Rejuvenating pill didn't give them back their youth in terms of appearance, it did make them way more physically capable than they were last time around.

Alex explained to them that their life had improved by a thousand years or so, and the only way it would decrease was if they got sick and needed healing. Although, that wasn't possible as far as Alex was around.

The group enjoyed their time around each other, with even Hao Ya acting like she was family for the rest of the days.

Then, after the third day, everyone got ready to leave, including the older Alex. He had wanted to go back to the Crimson Empire his whole life, and Alex accepted his request when he made it.

Only Emily was left behind on the farm, but with so many workers there, she wouldn't be lonely at all.

With the older Alex coming, they had to take a train ride to the senior's place, where they arrived a few hours later.

The senior looked at everyone that had come and was quite surprised. "Oh, are you planning on going too?" he asked older Alex.

"Yes, senior," the older Alex answered.

"Papa wants to go see his old sect and friends," Ronron answered from the side.

"Ah, I see," the senior said. He looked around until his eyes fell on Liz. "Are you Alex's aunt?"

"I am, senior," Liz bowed a little. "Greetings."

The senior nodded in greeting as well. "I hear you have learned Time Dao. Can you show me?" he asked.

"Uh... sure," Liz said and used her time powers a little. The senior didn't move at all and only felt what was happening. From the outside, it looked like he sometimes moved very quickly and sometimes he didn't move at all.

Liz stopped. "Is that enough?" she asked.

"That's... amazing," the senior couldn't help but say. "Alex said that your time power has to do with your body, is that true?"

Liz nodded. "I believe so. It's called the Profound Temporal Celestial body," he said.

"CELESTIAL?!" the senior's voice jumped a few octaves in surprise since he couldn't believe that the girl in front of him held a Celestial body.

"Wait, it's your daughter that holds a Celestial body too, right?" the senior asked.

"I've heard so," Liz said, and the others confirmed.

"H-how does your family keep doing this?" the senior couldn't help but ask. He breathed in and out a bit before calming down. "Please come with me, I have to test a few things with your powers."

Liz nodded and walked away with the senior as well as Hao Ya who had heard about it as well. As for the rest, they waited around in the backyard for it to be all done.

It took them about half an hour for their talk to be over before they walked out.

"It's time to leave," the senior finally said.

The group felt a bit anxious when they heard him. After all, unlike the Northern Continent, the Western Continent held an entirely different grade of importance in the heart of most of these people.

To the two Alex, it was the place they thought of as their home. It was a place where they could help Pearl, and it was the place where their mother was currently at.

The rest were also anxious because of Helen as well as the fact that the only sects Alex ever joined remained there.

They all followed the senior back to the room where the teleportation formation was and stood on top of it.

The group included two Alex, Graham, Ronron, Pearl, Liz, Hao Ya, and surprisingly, Scarlet. Alex didn't notice her at first but when he realized she was there, he was a little confused.

"Scarlet, you should leave the platform," Alex said.

"Why? I am going too," she said.

"But... you can't go," Alex said. "Isn't that part of the oath?"

"Don't worry about me," Scarlet said with a serious expression. "I know what I am doing."

Alex was still a little worried, but her words helped him calm down a little. 'If she knows what she's doing then, she must know she can go,' he thought. 'Then... is she bypassing the oath somehow?'

"Okay, everything except the destination is ready," the senior said. "Tell me where I should send you. I can do anywhere aside from the secret realms."

"Oh... uh..." Alex was about to answer, but he couldn't come up with a destination at all. "Where should we go first?" he asked the rest of the people there.

"What does it matter, father?" Ronron asked. "Aren't we going to go everywhere in the end anyhow?"

"It matters because we have two choices and either choice will delay the other destination by a lot," Alex said. "My sect lies in the Crimson Empire while Mother should be in the Flowing Brush sect of the Luminance Empire."

"Whichever place we go first, we will have to go through the Beast realm," Alex explained. "But because Pearl will have to be treated in the Beast Realm, it will take some time to go to the other place."

"Hao Ya and I will have to go to the Beast realm quickly either way, so I won't matter to us," Liz said. "We have to deal with the Teleportation formations there."

"Oh," Alex thought. "Then... let's go to the Crimson Empire first. I can't delay Pearl's evolution either, so I will go to the Beast realm and immediately leave for mother as soon as I can from there. We can meet back in the sect."

Since it was settled, the senior put in the destination as the Crimson Empire. "Be ready, I will activate it now," he said.

Alex nodded. He used his Space dao and separated a chunk of space from the rest of the space around him. The chunk of space was large and fit everyone inside of it.

Alex hoped that the teleportation saw this space as a single entity so that when it randomly teleported everyone around, it randomly teleported the single large space and not everyone it in.

The teleportation aura filled the platform in an instant, and just as Alex expected, it accepted the large chunk of space as a single entity.

Alex had done this before back when he was teleported from the Northern Continent to the Southern Continent. He had expanded his space so he could teleport away with everyone and everything around him.

With his space bubble working as intended, he let the teleportation aura capture their bubble and send them away.

In a flash of light, the group disappeared and reappeared somewhere inside a forest. Water dripped from the dense trees as a result of the rain that seemed to be falling right now.

The bubble Alex had created was still around so the water never got to them. He looked around and checked the people he had come with.

"No one separated right?" Alex asked.

The group counted themselves and they were all here.

"Where are we?" Ronron asked. "This looks like a forest."

"We must be in the Southern forest," Alex explained. "It's part of the beast realm, but outside of their secret realm."

"Where do we go now then?" one of them asked.

Alex pulled out a compass and checked the direction. "Let's go south for now and see where we are exactly. Once we know, we will know where to go," he said.

The group followed the compass south until they came to a road that was clearly used daily. Alex spread his spiritual sense around and found a few carriages that were going away and coming in their direction.

"We will know in a bit," he said.

The carriages and caravans were afraid of bandits, so when they saw a group of people waiting for them next to the road, just outside of the forest, they immediately walked out with weapons and techniques ready to be used whenever needed.

"Please relax, we're not bandits," Alex explained. "We just want to know which direction the Cardinal City is."

The guards didn't trust the lot at all and didn't answer for a moment, waiting for their leader to answer instead.

The carriage door opened and a figure walked out from inside. He had long, flaming red hair and looked a few years older than Alex did right now.

He looked at the group with narrowed eyes, which landed on Alex for a few seconds too long. "You look familiar," the man said. "Are you... Yu Ming?"

"Oh, I didn't expect to see you here, brother Yang. How's everything going?" Alex asked with a bright smile.

"Oh," the older Alex recognized the young man as well. "Is that... Yang Ma?"

"He is," Alex said. "I heard you left the sect after you graduated, brother Yang. I'm glad to see you're doing quite well."

"So... It really is you," Yang Ma said with a weird look on his face. "Stand down, he's not a bandit."

The guards put down their weapons and waited for more orders.

"What are you doing by the forest?" Yang Ma asked.

"Oh, we just came to the Crimson Empire and arrived in the forest," Alex explained. "Would you mind telling me the direction of the Cardinal City, brother Yang?"

"Get in," Yang Ma spoke. "I'm on my way to the city right now. I'll take you there."

Chapter 1247: Destinations

Alex looked to his left in the direction where the carriage was headed to. If the carriage was coming from the east and heading toward Cardinal City, then it appeared that he had arrived in the Eastern Regions of the Crimson Empire.

He hadn't been to these places before.

"You will take us to the Cardinal City?" Alex asked. "Thank you, brother Ma."

Alex looked at the group behind him and gestured for them to get on.

Yang Ma looked at the people behind Alex and asked, "Who are they? You really aren't doing banditry, are you? I heard you left the Crimson Empire, but I'm starting to doubt it now."

"Haha, these are my family and friends. This is my father and his sister. This one is a friend, and this right here is my daughter," Alex explained.

"And... who's that?" Yang Ma pointed to the only person Alex hadn't introduced.

"Well, how do I explain this? That's me," Alex said. "Well, my clone."

"Your clone?" Yang Ma's eyes narrowed.

"Yes," Alex said. "Actually, it was him you met all those years ago, not me. Technically speaking you should be talking to him, but I'm afraid he doesn't have that good a memory, unlike me."

Yang Ma couldn't understand what was happening at all. "Let's get inside for now. We're blocking the road," he said and settled the group in various carriages.

Alex got into the carriage with Yang Ma, while the rest were scattered throughout the various carriages.

"So, how's life going, brother Yang? I hope it's good," Alex said as he settled in the carriage.

"It's alright," Yang Ma said.

"How long has it been since we've seen each other? I don't think I saw you after I graduated, have I?" he asked.

"I believe that was the last time," Yang Ma said. "Did you even return after that time?"

"I did once about a decade later," Alex said. "But, it's been over 30 years since then too. I wonder how the sects have changed since then."

"So, you really just came to the Empire?" Yang Ma asked. "What were you doing in the other Empire beyond the forest?"

"Oh, I wasn't there at all," Alex said. "I went to different continents and was stuck there most of the time. I only recently found a way to come back which is why I'm here."

"Different Continents?" Yang Ma was surprised. "Are you saying you've left the Western Continent?"

"I have," Alex said. "I actually came from the Central Continent. Do you know about the Central continent?"

"I have heard a few things from my Grandfather, nothing else," Yang Ma said.

"Your grandfather? Oh right, he was a Saint too, wasn't he?" Alex thought. "I remember master saying something about your family being one of the more powerful ones in the Empire."

"Of course," Yang Ma said proudly. "We are the Yang family after all."

Alex nodded. "So, what are you doing right now, brother Yang? What's this carriage about?" he asked.

"I handle my family's merchant business. I'm delivering a few goods to the capital right now," Yang Ma said. "It shouldn't take more than an hour or two now. We're close."

"I see."

Alex remembered having negative feelings about this person long ago, but somehow none of that remained anymore. Any feelings, negative or positive about him had been washed away with time.

He looked at Yang Ma again and didn't know if he was fast or slow given that he had only just reached the True Lord's 8th realm.

For someone close to 70 years old, he should be considered slow, but given that this was the Crimson Empire, Alex couldn't be sure. It was after all one of the worst places for cultivators due to its severe lack of high-grade spirit veins.

"You got married?" Yang Ma asked curiously.

"No," Alex said. "My daughter is actually my clone's daughter, he's the one that got married."

"Why did you make a clone?" Yang Ma asked.

"Haha, he was made without my knowledge," Alex said. "It's too much to try and explain right now. Very soon, there should be announcements that spread all over the empire. That should help explain a bit."

Yang Ma nodded. "Whatever reason it may be... welcome back," he said.

Alex smiled. "Thank you, brother Yang."

The carriage arrived outside the Cardinal city and stopped as there was a long line of carriages that were trying to enter the Cardinal city.

"It will take a while to enter the city, huh?" Alex asked.

"Half an hour or so," Yang Ma said.

"I see, then... I think it will be better if I get off right here then," Alex said.

"You're not going to enter the city?" Yang Ma asked.

"I might," Alex said. "My main intention for coming here is because I can now know where I have to go to go to Scarlet city."

"I see," Yang Ma said. "My journey is to the city alone, I'm afraid. I will have to return once I'm done with my business."

"No worries, brother Yang. Thank you for bringing us here," Alex said. He reached into his storage ring and pulled out a pill bottle.

"Please take these pills," Alex said. "I haven't seen you in a long time, so you may consider this a gift. If not, consider this my way of saying thanks for helping us today."

Yang Ma hesitated to take the pills. After all, all he had done was give him a ride.

"Don't hesitate to take it, brother Yang, you should know how good my pills are," Alex said. "These pills can help you or your grandfather improve your cultivation speed by a lot. Use them very carefully."

Yang Ma finally sighed and took the pills. "I can't reject something so precious, thank you."

Alex smiled and got off the carriage. The others had already gotten off before him as he had told them to do so already.

"I'll see you around, brother Yang. Goodbye."

Alex walked away with his group, leaving Yang Ma by himself to wonder what he really had been doing all this time.

To him, Alex was an enigma, that came out of nowhere and left as early. "Did he lose his cultivation base? Or was it just so high that I didn't even notice it?" Yang Ma wondered. Whatever it was, Yang Ma understood that the two of them stood in a different league from each other, and it was very much likely that he was never going to see Alex ever again.

Alex arrived by the gate of the Cardinal City and looked back at his group. "Sister Hao, do we go and tell the Emperor about gathering people to send them back?" he asked.

"No, we need to fix the formation first. We will let the players know after everything is ready," Hao Ya said.

"Alright," Alex said. "Then we should split."

The group gave a weird look. "Split?" Ronron asked.

"Yeah, I will go with Sister Hao to the Beast realm to fix the formation and help Pearl. The rest of you will go to Scarlet city," Alex explained. "I can also quickly go over to the Luminance empire and bring mother back."

"Sounds good," Liz said. "But I will have to come with you. The senior said I am needed to speed up the process of fixing the formation with my time dao."

"Is that so?" Alex asked. "I guess you should come with us then. What about you, Scarlet? What do you—"

"Obviously I'm coming with you," she said, not even letting him finish his sentence.

"I see, obviously," he said. "I guess that's it then."

Alex, Pearl, Liz, Hao Ya, and Scarlet were in the group that would go to the formation to get it fixed. Meanwhile, Ronron, Graham, and Old Alex would have to go to Scarlet city on their own.

"Uhh... this is annoying," Alex thought. "You guys don't really have a very high cultivation base."

"It should be fine though," Graham said. "I can protect them."

"Yes, but not if the fight takes place in the sky," Alex said and brought out the Blood God's Manual. He pulled out a beast from inside the book, a four-horned Ocean snake that was completely made up of blood.

At the same time, he brought out Whisker as well. "Whisker, you will have to go with them. You are in charge of protecting them with this snake, okay?" he asked.

Whisker nodded.

Alex reached for the snake and suddenly the snake changed its size rapidly, shrinking not only in size but in shape as well. It took the form of a small sphere that looked no different from a beast's core.

"Use it only when needed, okay?" Alex said. "You guys can't revert it back at all. Also, don't use it when Whisker is not around. He is the only one that can control it at all."

"Got it, father," Ronron said and took the blood core. "So, where do we go now?"

"Your papa will tell you. He should be remembering everything now," Alex said, pointing at the older Alex that was looking around in amusement and disbelief.

"I believe I do remember," he said. "We need to head west from here, don't we?"

"Yes," Alex said and pulled out a ship. "Take this and go. We won't be needing ships, so you guys take it."

"Thank you, father," Ronron said quickly got onto the ship with Whisker. Graham and the other Alex got on as well.

"Alright, head out now. We will hopefully be back very soon," Alex said and waved them goodbye.

After the group left, Alex turned to his remaining group. "Shall we?"

Chapter 1248: Nervous and Anxious

Graham, Ronron, and the Older Alex flew on the small boat that Alex had lent them. They flew through the air, not fast or slow, following the pathway on the ground.

There were not many people flying on boats like theirs, but even the ones that did couldn't help but look at them as they easily passed by each and every one of them.

Their boat was just too fast even when it was not flying at its fastest speed. Graham was surprised at how slow everything was around him.

Ronron wasn't really surprised as she didn't yet know much about the world outside of her own to judge the difference. Alex had told her this was one of the worst places to be in if one wanted to cultivate, but that didn't help her understand much of the place.

The older Alex was simply shocked at how fast his own boat was. He looked around as the world zoomed past him in a blur. The flashes of trees nearby made him dizzy from how fast they went by.

He had to focus on the land far away or on the ship itself so he didn't get a headache.

"Do you know where to stop, Uncle Whisker?" Ronron asked.

Whisker thought for a moment and shook his head. He looked toward the older Alex for an answer, but the old man simply wasn't paying attention at all.

Ronron giggled a bit. "Uncle Whisker, you should slow down or we will never know if we got there or not," she said.

Whisker nodded and slowed down the ship a bit, enough so that even the older Alex could tell what he was looking at.

"Can you tell where we are, papa?" she asked.

The older Alex finally looked around, but he only saw trees and maybe a few villages along the way. "Uhh... I don't remember any of this," he said. "We should reach a city or something so I can tell where I am exactly."

The group nodded and followed the road as they waited for the first city on their journey to show up.

The older Alex looked around, wondering how nothing seemed to have changed at all and even then it all looked so... foreign to him.

Graham looked around as well, but he was nowhere nearly as fascinated as Alex was. He was used to the cultivation world. The only difference between the places he had been to and this one was the fact that this one had weaker Qi in the air.

"Grandpa, why didn't you go to find grandma with father? Isn't that why you came here?" Ronron asked.

"I wanted to, but... I got a feeling that if I went there, I still wouldn't see her for a long time. Alex has been talking about Pearl, so I'm afraid he will spend a lot of his time there and won't get to go find grandma soon enough. Without him, I wouldn't even know where to go and be stuck with him."

"Since I was going to have to come here anyway, I decided to come and meet with the people that Alex considers as close as family," Graham said.

"I see," Ronron said. "I wonder if father and the rest reached their destination by now. They said it was close by, so with their speed, it should have taken them no time at all."

"Who knows," Graham said and looked ahead. "Oh, there's a city there. Whisker, slow down by that city, okay?"

Whisker did as was asked of him and slowed down as they got closer. Old Alex looked at the city and shook his head. "I don't remember this city and it's far away from the forest. Scarlet City is pretty much attached to the forest. Let's keep going," he said.

Whisker sped up the boat once again and flew until they reached the next city and the city after that.

2 hours and a few cities later, they arrived in another city that gave the old Alex a feeling that he had been here before. "Wait... this might be... what was its name?" the old Alex tried to remember the name of the city.

"Do you know this one, papa?" Ronron asked.

"I do, it's the city right before the Scarlet city. I remember this city's sect's sect leader being present in my first-ever auction house," the old Alex said.

"Oh, then we are close by," Ronron said.

The boat continued and soon they passed by a massive patch of open land that didn't seem natural at all.

"The Gap," the old Alex remembered. "This was where I was taken away by the beasts to their realm."

The old memories were coming back to him in bits and pieces. "We're close by," he said. He got more and more anxious as they got closer and closer to the city.

Then, finally, in the distance, they all saw the massive walls of a massive city right next to the Southern Forest.

The group had arrived at Scarlet city.

Whisker slowed down the ship until it came to a halt right outside the city gates. The three of them got off the ship and finally, Whisker jumped out as well.

The ground was wet from the rain that had only just stopped and the smell of rain hadn't left the air either. The green trees and grass followed by a massive gray wall was a contrast that the old Alex only ever remembered in his memories.

"I never realized how big this was," he spoke softly.

Ronron took the ship into her bag and looked at her father. "Are you alright, papa? You seem nervous," she asked.

"I am nervous," the older Alex said as he breathed in a little. He looked around at the many people that were gathered outside. Were there always this many people?

He saw flashes of yellow and green robes coming in and out of the gates, making him feel more nervous and anxious about it all.

"Let's go in," Graham said and walked up to the line of people that were there to go into the city.

After a while, they arrived at the gate and the person by the gate asked for some identifications or some silver coins in exchange for going in.

The older Alex remembered the time he had to kill a beast to try and afford those coins. Now, his daughter simply took out a spirit stone and handed it over.

"Don't worry about the change," Ronron said and walked ahead. "Come on, let's go."

Graham and old Alex walked in behind her.

"Woah!" the older Alex couldn't help but say when he saw the inside. Not only was the inside completely different from his memories, but it also seemed to be quite developed as well.

So many things had changed that he couldn't even tell which road he was supposed to do.

"Where do we go now?" Graham asked while looking around the place as well. Ronron did so too, and so did Whisker who was standing on her head.

"Have you been here before, uncle Whisker?" Ronron asked.

Whisker nodded. "I was very young back then so I don't remember anything," he spoke in her ears.

Old Alex thought for a bit. There were two different places he could go to. He decided to go first to the one where he would be happy rather than sad.

"Let's take this road," he said. "We should go to the Tiger sect first. If we follow the wall south, we should arrive by the sect."

Chapter 1249: The Real One

The old Alex arrived outside the golden gates of the Tiger sect. He couldn't remember if it was always golden or if they had changed the colors sometime later.

He looked at the mini market that was run by the sect outside of the gates and smiled at how many people there were. That was certainly a larger number, wasn't it?

He stepped forward and walked up to the guards that were in front of the sect. The guards naturally stepped forward to stop him from entering and asked, "what might you be here for?"

"Is elder Wen Cheng still here? I'm his disciple," Alex said.

The guards looked at each other and then back at the gray-haired Alex. "Elder Wen Cheng certainly is around, but are you really his disciple, senior? You don't seem to have any cultivation base, so we're sorry that we have to doubt you," one of them said.

"I am," the older Alex said with a smile when he heard that Wen Cheng was still around.

"Alright, what's your name? We will call him," the two guards said.

"Yes, my name is Alex or Yu Ming. You can use whichever one. He should know both," the older Alex said.

The guards paused. "Yu Ming? You?" they looked at him, clearly not believing him. "We've seen senior Yu Ming before. He's not some old man like you. Please don't waste our sect's time if you are just going to be lying."

"No, please. I am Yu Ming," the older Alex said. "Believe me, please. Just call my master and he'll make it clear."

"Go away, old man. We don't have time for your lies. If you are truly Yu Ming, then bring out your alumni badge," the guards said.

"I... I don't have that," the older Alex said. Even the real Alex didn't have that badge as it had been lost during his fight with the mad immortal. It was yet unsure if he had it in his soul space or not.

"Then please leave, senior. Don't make us kick you out," the guards said.

"But I'm not lying. Please just call my master," older Alex said.

"Hey, let my father in. He's come a long way to meet his master," Ronron spoke as she couldn't stand it all either.

"Young lady, we cannot let you in just because—"

Whisker jumped down from Ronron's shoulders and flared his cultivation base. The two guards instantly fell on their butts as the fear of death emerged from deep within their hearts.

The peak of the True realms was not something the two could handle. With merely a True Disciple or True Master realm cultivation base, the two could only cower in fear in front of the terrifying little mouse.

"Do what they say right now!" Whisker spoke directly in their mind and the two of them immediately called for Wen Cheng.

A few minutes later, an older middle-aged man arrived at the gate in a hurry. He looked at the three before him and was confused for a few seconds.

The older Alex saw the man that looked younger than him and couldn't help but tear up. "Master!" he spoke out and immediately fell to his knees. "This disciple greets you, master."

Wen Cheng gulped a little when he saw the gray-haired Alex. "Alex?" he called out in confusion. "Is that you?"

"It's me, master," the older Alex looked up, tears dripping down his face. "I'm so happy I finally got to see you."

The last time Alex had seen his master, he had lost an arm in the fight up in the sect leader's mountain in the Hong Wu sect. After that, he had followed his master's killer into the Forbidden Fields. And after that, he was gone, never to see this world ever again, or so he had believed all this time.

He had only heard about what had happened afterward from Pearl, but that was still over a decade ago, and hearing about something wasn't nearly as good as seeing it with one's own eyes.

"It's... it's really you?" Wen Cheng couldn't help but be surprised. He quickly grabbed Alex by his shoulders and pulled him up. "Alex, what happened to you? Are you hurt? Were you crippled? Why are you so old?"

Wen Cheng's worry was clear in his eyes and that made Alex happy. However, he couldn't help but wonder if he would worry all the same when he found out he was just a clone.

"Nothing happened to me, master," he said. "I'm just... not the Alex you remember."

"... what?" Wen Cheng was confused.

"The Alex you are used to, that's not me. I'm... a clone of his, one without a cultivation base. I..." the older Alex couldn't think of what to say.

"Oh!" Wen Cheng finally understood. "You are the one he talked about, the one that controlled his body, aren't you?"

"Yes, that was me," Old Alex said.

"Then... you are the real Alex that was my disciple," Wen Cheng said. "And you've finally come back."

Wen Cheng hugged the old Alex in a tight grip. "Welcome back."

The older Alex couldn't help but get more sentimental when he heard that. He always considered himself the fake one ever since he figured out what was happening.

He had always thought his master would see him as a fraud that had taken over their disciple's body than the disciple himself. However, hearing his master call him 'the real one' stripped away all of the fear and doubt that had been plaguing his mind all this time.

"Master!" he shouted and hugged him back as he started crying. Wen Cheng wipes his tears as well.

Ronron sniffled a little behind them as the emotions were getting to her as well. Not even Graham could remain stoic.

The master-disciple remained in a hug for a long time as years of built-up emotions were flushed out in a single hug.

Old Alex couldn't think of a single thing that could happen today that would make him happier than he was right now.

Chapter 1250: As Beautiful as Ever

Old Alex let go of his master and wiped his tears away. "How are you doing, master? Are you alright? I hear your arm was healed. Is it okay?" he asked one question after another.

"Haha, you don't have to worry about me at all," Wen Cheng said. "We're doing perfectly fine." His eyes then moved to the back at the two people as well as the mouse.

Wen Cheng's eyes narrowed when he saw the mouse. "Is that... Whisker?" he asked.

"Woah!" Whisker couldn't help but speak into everyone's mind in surprise. "Brother's master knows me. Why does he know me?"

Wen Cheng himself was surprised to hear the voice of the mouse in his head. "You don't remember me, do you? Alex had us meet— wait if you're here then..."

"Alex isn't here but he will be soon," the older Alex said. "He has urgent business in the Beast realm, so he will be here in a few more days."

"I see," Wen Cheng said. "And... who are they?"

"Oh, right. I forgot to introduce you," the older Alex said. "Master, this is me and Alex's father."

"Greetings. My name is Graham," Graham bowed a little. "I heard you took care of my son when he was here. Thank you."

"No, no, he's the one that's taking care of us," Wen Cheng said in a simple voice before his eyes went wide. "Wait, Father?"

"Hmm? Yes, I'm their father," Graham said.

Wen Cheng immediately pulled out a talisman and spoke into it.

The three of them looked weirdly at Wen Cheng, but they couldn't tell what he was doing.

The older Alex continued. "Master, this is my daughter, Maron."

"Greetings, senior. Please call me Ronron," Ronron bowed in front of her father's master.

"Your... daughter?" Wen Cheng couldn't believe it. "You... you have a daughter?"

"Of course, master," Old Alex said. "Do you have any children yet, master? You shouldn't be the sect leader now, so you should have more free time, right?"

"I... I do, but I don't have any children. I only just got married a few years ago," Wen Cheng said blankly. He turned to look at Ronron. "How old are you, child?"

"28, senior," Ronron said.

"Wow... 28. I really couldn't imagine you have a child that early, but I suppose the world we lived in was very different, wasn't it?" Wen Cheng asked.

"It was, master," older Alex said.

"It was no wonder you had no common sense back then. What made sense here wasn't common to you at all," Wen Cheng said.

The older Alex smiled a bit. "Right, master. Are senior sister and brother here?" he asked.

"Yes. They are—"

Before Wen Cheng could finish his words, a strong gust of wind struck them all as someone arrived by their side at a very fast speed.

Ronron hid her father from the dust while Wen Cheng simply pulled up his robe to hide his face.

Graham, however, remained unmoved, with his eyes wide open. In fact, they were wider than they ever could be.

He saw who stood before him, a woman wearing a bright yellow robe with long black hair. She looked beautiful, just as beautiful as the day he had lost her.

"Helen..." Graham spoke softly, unable to believe that she was here.

"Honey!"

Helen jumped into Graham's embrace before he could say anything else. "You're here," she spoke as tears fell down her face. "You're really here."

Graham felt tears flow down his face as well. "I am," he said with a bit of a snuffle. "I am finally here."

Helen embraced her husband in a strong hug and didn't let go of him at all, almost as if he would vanish the moment she let go, just like a dream.

"Honey," Graham spoke. "I'm not the only one who's here."

"Hm?" Helen finally opened her eyes and looked at the other people who were there. "Whisker? Is that y—"

She recognized the little mouse, but her words stopped when she saw an old man that looked like her son.

"That's..."

"M-mother," the older Alex couldn't help but speak through his tears. The last time he had seen his mother was her on deathbed in a hospital gown with sunken cheeks and a bald head, while she fought hard against the painful cancer in a losing battle.

He had watched her take her final breath over two decades ago, and now he got to see her all over again. More alive than ever, more beautiful than ever.

Not only was she lively and pretty, but she also looked younger than she ever was.

"Alex?" Helen couldn't help but be shocked to see her son as an old man. "H-how... what happened to you?"

"That's not the Alex you're thinking of," Graham said softly. "He's the Alex that remained in the Central Continent, his clone."

"Oh..." Helen said. "But... he's still our child, right?"

"Every bit of it," Graham said.

"Al," Helen said and went ahead to hug him.

"Mother!" the older Alex cried once more, his tears unending. "I... I thought... I thought I would never get to see you again. I... I thought you were gone forever."

Helen smiled a little and stroked his gray hair. "Sshh, don't cry. I'm here, aren't I? I'm not gone. You don't have to cry anymore." That only served to make him cry even harder.

Even Helen herself could only cry when she thought about his situation. Ronron was a bawling mess as well.

"Mother!" Whisker spoke and jumped onto her. "Mother, do you remember me?"

"Whisker, you can speak?" Helen asked in surprise. "Of course, I remember you. Why wouldn't I?"

"Woah! Everyone remembers me. I wonder why I don't remember anyone. I must have been very young back then," Whisker couldn't help but think.

Helen smiled and pat the little mouse on its head. She moved away from the older Alex and pat him as well.

"Grandma," Ronron stepped forward and hugged her as soon as she let go.

"G-grandma?" Helen's eyes went wide. "Wait... what?"

"Mother, that's my daughter," Alex quickly explained. "Ronron, introduce yourself first."

"Right," Ronron let go. "My name is Maron. Everyone calls me Ronron." After finishing her introduction, she went back and hugged Helen again.

"Oh... I'm... a grandma?" Helen couldn't help but speak to herself in surprise.

"I felt the same when I found out about 2 weeks ago," Graham said from behind her.

"Let me take a look at you, my child," Helen said and Ronron moved a little away from her. "Wow, my granddaughter is so very pretty."

"Just like you, grandma," Ronron quickly said.

"Oh, and she even knows how to make me happy," Helen said while pinching her granddaughter's cheeks. She kissed her on the forehead and hugged her once again.

"Right, how are you guys here? Did you come by yourself?" Helen asked.

"No, Father brought us," Ronron said.

"Father?" Helen looked toward the Older Alex who quickly shook his head.

"Alex is here as well," Graham said. "So are Liz and Pearl, but they have an urgent business in the Beast realm, so they will be back after a few days."

"Urgent business? What sort?" Helen couldn't help but ask.

"Don't worry," Graham said, not wanting to tell her. "We'll hear from them soon enough."

Wen Cheng stepped forward. "Come on in," he said to the group. "Let's get you guys settled in. I'll let Meimei and Xun'er know that you are here. They will be elated to see you all."