

Alchemy 1251

Chapter 1251: No Longer Empty

While the other group had gone ahead to the Scarlet city, Alex's group had made their way to the southern regions of the Southern Forest.

They flew by themselves for a while, going toward the teleportation platform that was outside of the Beast realm.

Pearl had started out with them, but soon enough everyone realized that he couldn't keep up at all. With how weak his current cultivation was as compared to everyone else, Alex took Pearl back into his beast space so they delayed no longer.

"How long do you think it will take?" Alex asked. "Will we be done in a month?"

"It's hard to tell. It could be faster or slower," Hao Ya said. "The thing is, because we do not know the exact distance between the two formations as the records have already been lost for millennia now, we will have to go through a lot of trial and error to figure it out."

"If we're lucky, it could be a day. If we're not, it could even take 6 months. Fortunately, your aunt is here, so we can use her powers to increase our efficiency and do a lot of those trials in a very short amount of time," Hao Ya said.

"I see."

He wondered how long it would take for Pearl to evolve if he could at all. He wondered if, in that time, he could go find his mother in the Luminance empire at that time.

As they arrived closer, his eyes narrowed as he saw something from far away.

"Beasts?" he spoke softly with a confused look. As the group got closer, a wave of spiritual sense passed through them all, surprising Alex and the rest.

"Saint beasts?" Alex thought. "How are there saint beasts in the Southern Forest?"

Even finding a peak True realm beast was impossible in the Southern Forest, and somehow there were Saint beasts out here. And they all seemed quite strong as well.

The beast flew into the sky to intercept them. One of them was a golden-furred gorilla, and the other one was a bear with black and white stripes all over it.

Alex was ready to fight the beasts, but before he could do anything, the beasts bowed immediately.

"We are honored to be in your presence, blessed Phoenix," the two beasts spoke at once.

Scarlet flew to the front and looked at the two beasts with curious looks. "Since you can recognize me, I will assume you are not from around here. Let your master know that I am here and that I have brought along a few humans that wish to make use of the Intercontinental Teleportation formation," she spoke.

"Right away," the two bowed toward Scarlet and moved down to the platform. Alex saw a talisman fly out of one of the beast's storage bags which it used to contact someone inside the beast realm.

'Master?' Alex couldn't help but be surprised. 'Surely she couldn't mean...'

A deep sense of worry appeared in Alex's heart. He quickly turned toward Scarlet only to see her serious face. "Scarlet, what do you mean by a master?" he asked.

"What do you think I mean?" she asked. "The throne that has been empty for the past 5 thousand years has been occupied once more. The Western Continent once again has a ruler."

"What?" Alex couldn't help but be surprised. "How do you know that?"

"Senior Luhei told me," Scarlet said simply. "That's why I am here, after all, to check if what he said was true."

Alex felt his heart skip a beat. He remembered the small bit of information he had received a long time ago.

Back when Pearl had first been brought to the Beast realm, he was told that within the next 100 years, another ruler would come if the throne remained empty for much longer.

The beasts were worried that the prideful nature of this new ruler would bring forth war over the lost resources of the Western Continent. That was why they wanted Pearl to become the new ruler, to keep the peace.

However, it seemed that even though not even 50 years had passed, another ruler was already here. Was he as bad as everyone assumed the next one would be? Alex didn't know, but he sure hoped not.

He worried what that would mean for him and Pearl too. Because he had the White Tiger's bloodline, would that cause problems today? Would Pearl even be allowed to go through the ritual?

Alex suddenly felt as if everything was about to go very wrong. He took a deep breath and prepared himself as someone appeared on top of the teleportation formation.

A snow leopard with very light-yellow fur and a deep black spot had appeared before them. "Greetings," the snow leopard spoke. "May I ask if you're lady Nuanhuo?"

Hearing the snow leopard's voice, Alex was surprised that it was actually a female.

"You recognize me?" Scarlet was a little surprised.

"My apologies, senior Nuanhuo. It was my lord who guessed who you might be," the leopard spoke.

"I see, and who might you be?" Scarlet asked.

"I am called Han Kexiu, I am my lord's third wife," the leopard spoke. She looked at everyone apart from Scarlet as well. "Our lord is waiting for you in the throne room. Please, follow me."

Scarlet was the first one to go down to the formation with Hao Ya a little behind. Liz followed the two and Alex was the last to arrive.

When he arrived, he couldn't help but instinctively try and figure out the cultivation base of the beast in front of him. When he did, he felt her cultivation as deep as an abyss that his senses couldn't see the end of.

Without a doubt in his mind, Alex knew that the leopard in front of him was most definitely an Immortal cultivator.

"Let us go," lady Han spoke. The teleportation formation activated instantly, sending all of them into the Beast realm.

Alex arrived in the familiar underground cave of the beast realm. The crystalline stalactite over them still glowed a bright white light into the room. The room looked familiar to Alex, but the aura within it was anything but.

He could sense many, many saint beasts roaming the palace, each one stronger than the other. The number of different cultivation bases he was sensing from where he was felt absurd to him.

Never in his life had he sensed such a large amount of strong beasts in a single place.

"Please, follow me," the leopard said and began walking. The group followed lady Han and went along with her through the various hallways.

Multiple beasts dropped to their knees and bowed as they moved across, each one of which was in the Saint realm.

Alex looked around him in half-wonder, half-worry. His heart grew more and more anxious.

Lady Han arrived outside the throne room and stepped to the side. "Please, get in."

The door to the throne room opened and Scarlet walked in along with the two other girls. Alex followed behind and stood beside the two.

The throne room which used to always be empty was filled to the brim this time around, with all sorts of beasts sitting on the seats that were so vacant back then.

And it wasn't just feline beasts either. Monkey, Zebra, Bear, Deer, and all sorts of beasts were present, all of which could be described with a single word.

His eyes fell on a White Cat that sat on one of the seats and was surprised. "Lady Ren?" He had believed that she had died during the Heavenly Judgment, so why was she here?

"So, it really was true," Scarlet spoke all of a sudden, grabbing Alex's attention. He looked toward her and saw her staring straight ahead.

So, he looked ahead as well.

There were 3 seats in the front. One for the heir, one for the Lady, and one for the Lord.

The seat for the heir was empty.

On the seat for the Lady sat a brown-furred, white striped Lynx that looked very majestic in her own way. She wore a golden robe that draped all over her body.

Alex's eyes then moved onto the seat for the Lord, and on that seat, he was surprised to find not a beast, but a man.

The man had a handsome face, framed perfectly by his flowing golden hair that came to his shoulders. He wore a pure white robe and had two spherical earrings on him, each of which had spikes all over it.

Alex's eyes went wide in surprise as he couldn't believe what he was seeing at all.

"B-Brother Shen?" he blurted out without even thinking.

"Yo!" Shen Jing spoke from atop the throne, with a wide smile.

Scarlet turned to Alex with a weird look on her face. "Brother Shen?" she asked.

"That's brother Shen Jing," Alex said quickly. "What... what are you doing here? Why are you on the throne?"

Alex didn't even have time to process anything before Scarlet turned back toward the throne and spoke.

"Shen Jing, huh? You could've at least tried a little harder when coming up with a fake name," she said.

"I wasn't really intending to use it for more than a few minutes, so I just used what I randomly thought of at the time," the man said.

"Scarlet, what are you talking about?" Alex asked, as suspicions grew in his heart that he knew what was happening.

"That is not Shen Jing. He is the White Tiger that came with us all those years ago, Bai Jingshen," Scarlet said. "The one that had supposedly died in the Central Continent over 5000 years ago."

Chapter 1252: Pearl's Situation

Shen Jing was in fact the Ruler of the Western Continent, the White Tiger known as Bai Jingshen.

This information was way too large for Alex to digest at once.

He had trained with this man, no— this beast, for nearly a decade, and never in that time had he ever realized that he was actually with someone of this caliber.

All this time, he had expected Shen Jing to be someone important from the Hegemony to the west, but to think he wasn't even from this realm.

"3 people I've been looking forward to meeting are all here at once. I am very happy to see you all," the beast said from his throne.

"Bai Jingshen, I demand you explain everything to me right now," Scarlet said in an angry tone. "How the hell are you still alive?"

The beasts around the palace hall suddenly got agitated.

"Hey! Just because you're a phoenix doesn't mean you can—"

"Shut up," Bai Jingshen's voice roared through the palace hall. "Do not be rude to my guests."

The beasts trembled in fear and nodded before crouching down and not speaking again.

Bai Jingshen turned back around and smiled. "It's been a while little Hao, is your master doing okay?"

"Master is perfectly fine, senior," Hao Ya spoke respectfully.

"Since you are here, then you must have come for the teleportation formation. You should go ahead and get started with it. I'm afraid I must accompany these two for a little while longer," he said. He then turned around to the Lynx that sat next to him. "Dear, can you take her to it?"

"Of course, my lord," the Lynx said and got off her seat. As she did, her body turned into that of a young woman with brown hair, wearing a golden robe.

She smiled at Hao Ya, and said, "Shall we?"

"Yes, senior," Hao Ya said. "Little Sis, we should go."

She pulled away Liz from the group and took her with the Lynx. Once they left, Bai Jingshen looked around the throne room and spoke, "Everyone but concubine Ren leave as well."

The beasts around the room nodded and walked out of the room one by one, leaving only four people in the room.

Ren Xiao got off from her seat and looked at Alex with a slight smile. "How have you been doing, young man? How is Pearl?" she asked.

"I've been doing quite alright, lady Ren," Alex bowed in her direction. "As for Pearl..."

Bai Jingshen got up a little. "What's wrong? What's wrong with Pearl?" he asked in a concerned voice.

"Well... see for yourself," Alex said and brought out Pearl.

Pearl came out in a flash of light and landed in the middle of the throne room. He looked around in confusion for a second before noticing the giant White Cat that stood next to him.

"Grandmother?" he asked in surprise. He quickly ran up to her. "Grandmother, you are alive!"

"Of course I am alive," Ren Xiao said with a warm smile while she pet her great-grandson. "Did you think I was dead?"

"Well... brother said the last time he saw you... you were hit by the lightning, so..."

"Ah," Ren Xiao realized. "I'm perfectly fine, my child. You don't have to worry about me."

"What's wrong with you?"

Pearl heard a voice speak from next to him and turned around to find Shen Jing standing next to him. "Huh? Old man, you're back? What are you doing here?" he asked in a surprised voice.

"Pearl, you can't call him that. He is your great-grandfather," Ren Xiao spoke.

"Huh? G-great-grandfather? What? How?" Pearl was just as shocked as Alex had been and still was after finding out Shen Jing's true identity.

Bai Jingshen crouched next to Pearl and frowned as he thoroughly checked his body. "What's going on?" he asked. "Why is his bloodline so weak?"

"What?" Ren Xiao was surprised. She quickly tried to sense the White Tiger's blood in Pearl, and she too couldn't find it at all.

"What happened to you?" Bai Jingshen asked worriedly.

"I... I lost it," Pearl said.

"We got caught up in the Central Continent's Qi wall while trying to escape a false immortal. Pearl and I were separated, and he had to overwork his bloodline and Spiritual root to save himself," Alex said. "He saved himself in the end, but he ended up losing it too much for it. He no longer has a bloodline and his spiritual root is in a very bad condition too."

Bai Jingshen's face twisted in anger. "How could you let that happen?" he shouted. "You were supposed to take care of him!"

"My lord, please calm down," Ren Xiao quickly spoke up.

"Old man, don't shout at my brother," Pearl quickly spoke. "He did nothing wrong. He was kidnapped by a madman who could kill him at any time and was forced to make pills for him. The fact that I am alive now is because he managed to save me."

"You should be thanking him, not scolding," Pearl said.

Bai Jingshen looked at Pearl and then at Alex and then back at Pearl. He breathed in and out to calm himself down. He crouched next to Pearl again and looked at him again.

"I guess it's alright as long as you are alive, that's all that matters," Bai Jingshen spoke. "You are in the Saint realm, so you should be able to live for a long time. When it's time for me to go back in another thousand years, I will take you with me back to the Blessed Sun realm."

"Brother Sh— no, Senior Bai," Alex quickly spoke up. "Senior Yang said that we can heal him. As long as we make him go through the ritual where he can evolve to a White Tiger, he will be fine."

Bai Jingshen shook his head. "He can't survive the ritual without the White Tiger's blood in him," he said. "The ritual's main function is to force your body to absorb all of the White Tiger's blood inside of one so that they can produce the blood by themselves even if they lose it. Only then would they become a real White Tiger."

"Without the White Tiger's blood in him, there will be nothing for his body to absorb, and the ritual will only kill him in the end," Bai Jingshen said.

"I see," Alex said. "But it will work as long as he has the White Tiger's blood in him, right? The senior said that we should be able to take out the Blood Essence inside of me and it should help Pearl. Apparently, it will work because the Blood Essence in me belongs to his mother."

Bai Jingshen paused for a moment and looked at Alex. "You are willing to do that?" he asked, almost worried for some reason.

Alex nodded. "As long as it will work, I will do it," he said.

"It will work," Bai Jingshen said. "There's no doubt about it, but that would mean you would lose a significant portion of your strength, and as you might have already guessed, you will no longer be able to body cultivate through Pearl like you're used to."

"I'm fine with that," Alex said. "It's just a few drops of blood after all. I am willing to lose much more than that if it can restore Pearl's talent and potential."

Chapter 1253: Master

"Just a few drops of blood, huh?" Bai Jingshen nearly laughed out loud. "I wonder if you would say the same if you knew the significance of those few drops of blood."

"Significance?" Alex got curious. "It's just White Tiger's blood anyway. If I ever want it again, I'm sure I can get it some other way."

"Can you?" Bai Jingshen smiled at Alex mysteriously.

"What do you mean? Why can't I?" he asked. "Is it White Tiger's blood? I know it's rare here, but if I ascend, I should have many ways to get it, right? Whether it be by using money, or maybe even other nefarious means if need be."

"I'm afraid if you lose this blood now, you will never get a White Tiger's blood essence this good," Bai Jingshen said and then he spoke directly into Alex's mind. "After all, these few drops of Blood Essence are comparable to the Blood Essence of the progenitor of the White Tiger, the very one that was blessed by the gods."

"What?" Alex shouted out loud in disbelief.

"Tell, do you still wish to depart from it?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"How can th—"

"Yes or no," Bai Jingshen asked.

"Yes, absolutely," Alex said. "I was just curious how his mother got it."

"How indeed." He gave a mysterious smile. "Correct answer, by the way. Had you refused, I would have forcefully taken it away from you."

Alex shuddered a bit. He knew this beast would absolutely do that. He had seen what he was capable of even against people he wasn't supposed to kill.

"But, are you sure, senior Bai?" Alex asked. "That it is that good."

"What happened the first time Pearl devoured the blood essence?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"He puked it out," Alex said.

"Do you know why?" Bai Jingshen asked. "It was because his body wasn't capable of handling such a powerful blood essence just then. Even just look at yourself, you took the Blood Essence once and suddenly you gained a Supreme Metal root. Do you know how incredibly difficult it is to gain such a root?"

"Do you think some random blood Essence can do that? No, it did because of how special it was," Bai Jingshen explained.

Alex remained stunned for a few moments. All these years he had looked forward to taking in the Blood Essence of the other beasts, would that have not helped him?

'How did a White Cat give me blood essence belonging to the White Tiger's progenitor? That doesn't make any sense at all,' he thought.

"Xiao'er, can you take Pearl and have him thoroughly checked to see what problems he has? Have the others meet him as well," Bai Jingshen said. "I must remain here and answer someone's questions or she might burn down this whole palace."

He turned to look at Scarlet who seemed to be controlling her fury to the best of her ability and failing at it.

"As your say, my lord," Ren Xiao said and took Pearl with her.

Now, only Alex, Scarlet, and Bai Jingshen remained in the room.

Bai Jingshen turned around to Scarlet and smiled. "Last time I went to check on you, you were nothing but an egg. When were you born?" he asked.

"Over 2 decades ago," Scarlet answered. "Last I heard you were supposed to be dead. How are you still alive?"

"Who told you I was dead?" Bai Jingshen asked while moving back toward his throne.

"Everyone did," Scarlet said. "They said you were supposed to have died. Even senior Luhei was surprised that you were alive."

"Tsk, tsk, tsk. If you want to learn about me, you should ask the question directly to me. How can you go and ask the others about me?" Bai Jingshen shook his head in disappointment.

"BAI JINGSHEN!" Scarlet shouted furiously.

"Sorry, sorry, I was just joking," the man chuckled a bit and sat down on his throne. "Well, even if I'm not joking, I don't know what to tell you. I never died. You all just assumed I was dead."

Both Alex and Scarlet frowned when they heard that. What was going on?

"Well, everyone just assumed I died, and my first wife took advantage of that to make it look like I had died," he said. "She was supposed to rule in my absence, but she took advantage of the situation to make it look like I was dead so she could have another ruler come in my place."

"She truly understands just how much I hate responsibilities," he smiled to himself.

"You're not making any sense," Scarlet said. "Everything coming out of your mouth sounds like gibberish to me. Tell me clearly, if you weren't dead then what were you doing all this time?"

"I was having the best two days of my life," Bai Jingshen said. "In a place called Earth, the planet his ancestors came from."

"What?"

"WHAT?"

Both Scarlet and Alex blurted out the same word, but one spoke it in confusion while the other in astonishment.

Scarlet didn't understand what he meant, while Alex couldn't believe what he said.

"You've been to Earth?" he couldn't help but ask.

Bai Jingshen nodded. "For all of 2 and a half days, which was 5 thousand years in this universe," he said.

"What's Earth? What are you guys talking about?" Scarlet asked.

"My ancestors come from a world that is not our own apparently," Alex explained. "Senior Yang said it was a different world where the realms are spherical and people called it a planet or something."

"Oh, he told you, did he?" Bai Jingshen asked. "Then yeah, I was on Earth this whole time."

Alex was slightly confused about it too. "How did you go to Earth? Did you take the same pathway the monster took to go there?" he asked.

He remembered that the monster had wanted to go back to Earth and had even opened a pathway to it.

"Monster?" Bai Jingshen gave a confused look.

"The one you fought," Alex said. "You don't remember it? The one that appeared in the Central Continent and caused the Qi barrier."

"HEY!" Bai Jingshen shouted. "You can't just go calling someone's master a monster."

Alex blinked for a few seconds. "Sorry... master?"

Bai Jingshen nodded. "That was my master," he said.

Scarlet was puzzled as well. "What do you mean, master?" she asked. "Since when did you have a master?"

"Since I was a cub," Bai Jingshen said. "Are you jealous that you don't have a master as good as mine?"

"You bastard! That damn master of yours nearly killed us. No, he did kill us," Scarlet shouted at him.

"No, you killed yourself," Bai Jingshen said. "You guys attacked him without even asking what he was doing there, and he didn't even fight back. How can you say he killed you?"

"We fought to help you," Scarlet shouted back. "You were already fighting with him, so why would we sit back and ask questions."

"I... I wasn't fighting him," Bai Jingshen looked away for a bit. "It was just a spar. You misunderstood the situation."

"What bullshit is this?" Scarlet couldn't control her anger. "You were sparring? We nearly killed ourselves because you were sparring?"

"Sorry?" Bai Jingshen said.

Scarlet seethed in anger. "Explain in all to me from the beginning," she said.

"Well, okay," Bai Jingshen said. "I remember sensing some disturbance all of a sudden and went to go check the Central Continent which already had a barrier around it."

"I entered and found my master there with someone else. My master said that he was leaving this world and that this would be the last time I saw him. Since I always admired my master, I wanted to spar with him before he left."

"Suffice it to say, I easily lost against my master. Just then, you all came at the time and saw the beaten-up me and thought my master was attacking me."

"I tried to stop you guys, but you wouldn't listen. In the end, you ended up hurting and left," he finished.

"And then?" Scarlet asked.

"Then what? Then my master opened a pathway to Earth and I went along with him," Bai Jingshen said. "I never knew what happened to you guys."

"How did you come back?" she asked.

"Oh, well... I wasn't supposed to be back yet. I was supposed to stay there for 3 more days, but someone wanted to go back home and ended up dragging a majority of the humans from Earth into this world"

"My master sent me back to make sure everyone was okay here, but centuries had passed already by the time I returned, so I had nothing to do. Everyone was already settled," he said.

"Your master," Alex asked. "What... was he? Was he a human or not?"

"Hmm, he has a human body, but he won't classify as one," Bai Jingshen said. "He's like a spirit controlling a human body, but not really. That's the best way I can explain it to you."

Alex was still confused by the explanation. "Senior Yang was scared to tell me who he was," he asked. "Can you not tell me either?"

"About my master? I can," Bai Jingshen said. "The humans just don't dare talk about him because the last time they offended him, my master ended up killing 7 different gods in the God Summit. That only too because the remaining ran away in fear."

Alex took a deep breath in fear when he heard that.

Scarlet's eyes widened as she realized who he was talking about.

"Are you saying the man we fought was..."

"Yes," Bai Jingshen nodded. "My master's name is Ning Ruogong, the Sage of Ten Thousand treasures, or more infamously known as the Godkiller."

Chapter 1254: A Task

"Godkiller?"

Alex was surprised, but not as much as he should have been since he didn't know much about the being. Still, to have a name like Godkiller, he couldn't be a normal person.

Scarlet was the one truly shocked. "Wait, no. That can't be," she said. "Godkiller is supposed to have died already. He died in the Sky God's palace, didn't he?"

"Master faked his death to leave behind that life of his," Bai Jingshen said. "He was done with what he had wanted to do here and was only going to live the rest of his life in peace before it was time for him to leave."

"But, I suppose he failed in that aspect," Bai Jingshen chuckled a bit. "You see there was something I was quite curious about after I came back."

"I had been gone for over 5 thousand years and my wife had left this place vacant not long after that. Yet, not a single one dared send someone to check on this place to see what was going on."

"I only found out after I had my audience with the ancestors of my clan that the higher-ups all knew that my master had faked his death. They were simply too scared to not go along with it."

"It seemed they had also found out through some seers that he had arrived in this world too, but never left anywhere else," Bai Jingshen said. "So, they believed that it was him who killed me. That was why no one was sent to check on my absence or take revenge for my death."

"That is also why no one from any immortal realms dares come to this place to look for the senior. It's not because they don't know he's here. There are simply too many seers out there for him to hide from them. It's because to them, Godkiller is staying in this realm, and offending him with their arrival is the last thing any of them want to do."

"So, despite his wish to go back into the Immortal realms, the senior is in fact the safest in this world."

Alex thought he understood what was going on, but the information was still a bit too out of nowhere to get it all.

Scarlet, however, seemed to understand everything.

"No wonder," she thought. "Immortals used to come back from time to time, but I hear no one has come in the past 5 thousand years. It must be because of that too."

"Heh, they nearly didn't let me come back either," Bai Jingshen said. "I had to convince them that I was his disciple."

"How did you do it?" Scarlet asked.

"Simple. I defeated them in a battle," Bai Jingshen said.

"I see," Scarlet said blankly. She thought for a bit and wondered if she could still be angry. The one that had nearly killed them was Godkiller. She had got to meet the one and only Godkiller.

"How long do you think it will take you to ascend to the Immortal realm again?" Bai Jingshen asked.
"You're quite weak right now."

"I'll be fine," Scarlet said. "There's no one stronger than me in my continent, so I'm fine."

"I see," Bai Jingshen said. "Well, that's good, but you should still speed up your cultivation as much as you can. Focus only on it for the next few years."

"Okay," Scarlet said with a weird expression.

"The same goes for you too," he said, turning to Alex. "No, it goes doubly for you. Your cultivation base is very weak right now for what you will need to do soon."

"What I will need to do?" Alex asked. "What will I need to do?"

"I have a task for you, and I want it done as soon as you can," Bai Jingshen said.

"He's the King of the Southern Continent. He won't work for you," Scarlet said. "If you want something done by him, you have to ask me first."

"Huh?" Bai Jingshen's eyes widened in surprise. "You're the King of the Southern Continent?"

"Yes, senior," Alex said.

"I see, no wonder you two were together," he said. "How did that happen, Nuanhuo?"

"I bonded with him shortly after I was reborn," she said. "Since I didn't want the burden of ruling alone, I made him a king so I could laze around."

"You bonded with him and didn't cancel the bond?" Bai Jingshen asked with a smile. "Then you must have sensed it too."

Scarlet hesitated a bit. He had been trying to not go fully into detail, but he was simply too good.

"Yes, I did," she said.

"Did you find out what it was?" he asked.

"He has a lesser body of the god that blessed us four heavenly beasts," she said with a sigh.

Bai Jingshen's eyes went wide in happiness. "I knew it," he said gleefully. "I'm now all but certain that you really are the one that my master told me about. Only you will be the person who can find out the truth of this world."

"The one Godkiller is waiting for?" Scarlet asked in surprise. "What does that mean?"

"I can't tell you, I'm afraid," Bai Jingshen said. "Master put some weird bind on me forbidding me from ever telling anyone anything about what I know of the truth. I only know that my master is waiting for someone who will understand the truth of this world, and I non believe that it is you."

Alex was taken aback a bit. The Godkiller was waiting for him? Why? What was the truth?

"How are you certain?" Scarlet asked.

"Senior Hei Yun told me before we left that even though I do not want any responsibility, the greatest one will be thrust upon me," Bai Jingshen said. "I never truly understood what he meant that day, but after coming back to this world and understanding what I must do, I now believe I understand."

"My responsibility is to train him and help him grow," Bai Jingshen said, gesturing to Alex. "That was part of the reason why I didn't immediately kill him when I first met him."

"K-kill me?" Alex was taken aback. "Why?"

"Why?" Bai Jingshen got angry. "I come back to this world after going for all of 2 days, only to find out that the granddaughter I only saw as an infant was dead, my great-grandchild was stolen away, and my woman left half dead in front of my own palace."

"Do you think I wouldn't be right to kill you?" Bai Jingshen asked.

Alex gulped a bit. There wasn't anything he could say to refute that.

"I only stopped because I saw how happy Pearl was with you. And... I remembered what my master told me after meeting you, so instead of killing you, I tested you a bit. You only live today because you survived my test back then," Bai Jingshen said.

"I see. I'm sorry senior, for everything that happened back then. I was worried everyone was going to send Pearl to his death by forcing him to go through the ritual and had to take him away."

"As for lady Ren, that was... I couldn't help her even if I wanted to. The Heavenly Judgment is not something I can stop," Alex said. "As for Pearl's mother, I only put her out of her misery at her request. I can't be said to be the one that killed her. Her killers—"

"Her killers are in the Eastern Continent, I know," Bai Jingshen said. "That's why I wanted you to find them. That was the task I was going to give you."

"Find her killers?" Alex asked. "Will I even be able to?"

"Isn't it obvious who her killers are?" Bai Jingshen asked with disdain on his face. "It's someone affiliated with the royal family of the Eastern Continent. The sword that had stabbed my Granddaughter has the insignia of the Azure Imperium. You just need to figure out who the sword belongs to."

Alex nodded. "I see, that does make sense," he thought. "But may I ask why you are giving me this task instead of doing it yourself? As you said, I'm weak right now, so you should be much faster at doing it all by yourself."

"I would if I could," Bai Jingshen said in an annoyed manner. "But I can't, that's why I am asking you to do it."

"You can't?" Alex asked with a surprised look. "Oh, right. I forgot you guys can't kill any humans."

"Oh I can kill them," Bai Jingshen said. "Our oaths have exceptions too where we can kill people. We were sent here to maintain peace in this land, which sometimes requires us to take lives as well."

"Then?" Alex got confused.

"It's not that I can't kill them, it's that I can't even reach them in the first place," Bai Jingshen said.

"What are you talking about?" Even Scarlet was confused by what she was hearing. "Just go and find the killers. What's so hard about that?"

Bai Jingshen turned toward her and said, "So Xuan Luhei and the senior aren't aware of this either, are they?" he asked.

"Aware of what?" Scarlet asked.

"It's understandable, even I only recently became confident that my first assessment was correct," he said.

"What are you talking about?" Scarlet asked angrily.

"I can't go to the Eastern Continent," he said. "Neither can you or the tortoise. Our oaths won't let us anymore."

"What are you—" Scarlet paused when she realized what he was talking about. Even Alex had an inkling of what might have happened.

"That's right," he said. "The ruler of the Eastern Continent, the Azure Dragon Qing Tianchui, is dead."

Chapter 1255: Hei Yun

"What? The Azure Dragon is dead?" Scarlet asked. "When? How?"

"I do not know when or how," Bai Jingshen said. "I only know that he had died before I came back half a century ago."

"Did he die to Heavenly Judgment?" Scarlet asked. "He should have overexerted himself like us and fallen to it as well."

"Maybe," Bai Jingshen said. "I don't know what happened. All I know is I can't go in because he's dead and thus can't find out what's going on there. Because of how strong the cultivators in the Eastern continent are, I can't even send in my people."

"They will immediately find out what is going on and increase their security. I instead need someone to sneak into the continent for me and figure out what they can. And I believe he will be the perfect candidate for that."

The two heavenly beasts looked at Alex.

"But, isn't it dangerous?" he asked. "I don't have nearly as good a cultivation base as I would require."

"I'm afraid not," Bai Jingshen said. "That's why I am asking you to improve your cultivation as soon as you can, because of the ones that have any stake in this, you are the only one that I can send."

"Will you do this for Pearl?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"Yes," Alex said without even having a think for a second. He would do it so Pearl could have his revenge.

"Thank you," Bai Jingshen said. "To tell you the truth, I am afraid of sending you there because of how important you are. However, if the person my master is waiting for is truly you, then you won't die. Not until you find the truth."

Alex remained quiet for a few seconds, thinking to himself. "You can't tell me anything about the truth? Or how I am supposed to find it?" he asked.

"Nope, not even a hint," Bai Jingshen said. "But I can tell you that you have already received a hint, just by merely coming to my palace."

"...what?" Alex was confused.

Bai Jingshen didn't elaborate. "If you are the one who's supposed to find it, then you will find it. Don't worry," he said.

"How are you so certain that I will?" Alex asked.

"Because my master told me that the Divination God divined that the person who will find the truth will come from this realm," Bai Jingshen said.

"The Divination god?" Alex asked with a surprised face. "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm pretty sure," Bai Jingshen said. "I don't see why he would lie about something like that when he needed my master's help to go away with him."

"The Divination god isn't dead?" Scarlet asked. "He's supposed to have died many years ago, isn't he?"

"No, he didn't. He is on Earth right now, finally free from his ability to see anything and everything from the future. To the poor man, his divination ability was more a curse than a blessing."

"Wait, are you saying the Divination God is alive, and that he left with you?" Scarlet asked.

"I told you guys, didn't I? My master and I left with someone else called Hei Yun. That's the Divination god," he said.

"But... how could people not have known he's alive?" Scarlet asked.

"I don't know," Bai Jingshen said. "He was the most capable of understanding fate, so he might have known how to hide from it as well. I hear he was hiding in this realm ever since the war ended, waiting for Master to come and take him away."

"Is that so..." Scarlet thought.

Alex's mind had already moved away from the conversation as his heart started beating faster and faster. He remembered Godslayer's words when he said that the Divination god was the best at seeing the future.

He remembered the wells from the Northern Continent. He remembered the prophecies.

When two unworthy hands meet a stone, the Truth shall reveal itself.

The prophecy spoke of a truth that he did not know about. However, hearing the same words being repeated by Bai Jingshen, Alex became more and more certain that he actually might be the one that Godkiller was waiting for.

However, if that was true then... there was another prophecy he needed to worry about.

You hold the Key to a fallen power. You shall help restore that fallen power, and that shall be your death.

If the Divination god was as good as everyone claimed, then one of two things was true. Either he wasn't the one that Godkiller was waiting for, or he was going to die helping someone.

The third prophecy seemed so useless to even consider at this point, as the first two determined everything for him.

"What's wrong?" Bai Jingshen's voice spoke from right next to him. At some point, he had arrived in front of him and was looking at him curiously.

"N-nothing," Alex said and shook his head.

"Alright," Bai Jingshen said. "You are probably tired, but let's go get the White Tiger's blood out of you. Also, I let you keep it so you could give it to Pearl, but I would like to take it back now. Please hand over my granddaughter's core."

"Your granddaughter's... oh," Alex remembered. "I... I don't have it anymore."

"Huh?" Bai Jingshen's eyes narrowed. "What do you mean?"

"I... I lost it, senior," he said.

"How could you lose it? It belonged to Pearl's mother," Bai Jingshen shouted at him.

Alex shuddered a little and bowed. "I'm sorry, senior," he said. "I lost it when I tried to run away from the false immortal that I had to fight. I have either lost it for good, or it is inside my Soul space. Given its importance, I would love to hope it's inside of my soul space."

"Your soul space?" Bai Jingshen's anger diminished a little. "How did you know you had one? Nuanhuo shouldn't be nearly strong enough to sense it."

"Oh, uh... Senior Yang sensed it and told me," Alex said. "Did you know about it?"

"Haha, of course, I knew about it," Bai Jingshen said. "Don't you remember when I told you that you had something in you as a True realm cultivator that only Immortals could have? I was talking about your Soul space. If I remember correctly, it was quite large. Has it grown by any chance?"

"I'm not sure," Alex said. "Senior Yang couldn't tell how large it was, so it's hard for me to even know if it increases or not."

"Woah, really? I knew it was large, but to think it was so large," Bai Jingshen said. "So, when can you check it? Do I have to wait until you're immortal?"

"Senior Yang said I would have to wait until my spiritual sense is strong enough to pierce through the walls of my own Soul space, so it will most likely be around when I enter the Saint Soul realm," Alex answered.

"Saint soul realm, huh? That will require you to fight through two Inner Demons," Bai Jingshen said. "Do you think you can do it? After what you have learned today."

"I can," Alex said. "Even if I'm afraid, my Inner Demon can't get to me."

"Good," Bai Jingshen said. "Let's go help Pearl and reduce the number of things your Demon can use against you."

Chapter 1256: Blood

Alex, Scarlet, and Bai Jingshen left the throne room. As they did, Alex once again noticed the murals around the room but didn't give them much thought.

"Oh right, what happened to the Ocean God's teardrop that you took?" Alex asked. "Did you already hand it over?"

"I gave it to my clan's elders. I don't know what they did with it just yet, but they will most likely return it to the Ocean God's people. They can track where it is after all," he said.

"I see," Alex thought. "Wait, so everyone should know that their stuff is in this world, right? The only reason they're not here is that they are afraid."

"Not exactly," Bai Jingshen said. "Not everyone knows. Only the important ones. Also, not everyone who lost something has someone to care about their stuff as the Ocean God did. Most people that end up becoming strong are usually who tread the path of cultivation alone, and thus have no one to care for their stuff once they die. I assume many of the items here are as such."

Alex felt a little better hearing that. He wouldn't want multiple gods after him just because he used what he had found here.

They arrived outside another massive room that Alex had never been to. A group of female felines gathered around Pearl and were talking with each other.

"My lord." The group of felines greeted Bai Jingshen the moment they saw him walk in.

"You're all here, good," Bai Jingshen said. "Meet my wives and concubines."

Bai Jingshen started introducing the lot to Alex and Scarlet. The main wife, the Lynx, was called Shu Shiren. She was the only one in her human form and bowed to the two of them when she was introduced.

The 2nd wife was a lioness named Gu Xiaomo. She was the tallest from what they could tell

The 3rd wife was the snow leopard they had met earlier, Han Keixu.

The 4th wife was a dark wildcat named Xiang Yibai.

The 5th one was the first of the 3 concubines, a puma named Wen Meirin.

The 6th one was an actual tiger with orange fur and black stripes, named Luo Beihan.

The 7th and last one was the white cat that Alex was so familiar with, Ren Xiao.

Alex greeted everyone as they were introduced and they greeted him back as well. He saw how they treated Pearl and smiled a little before looking around.

"Senior, where are your descendants?" he asked.

"Oh, I left them behind," Bai Jingshen said. "Every single one of them is over 5 thousand years old at the very least and some of them are even Immortals, so it didn't feel right bringing them here."

"I see," Alex thought.

"Get the bloodline bath ready and have Pearl prep for it. I will be back in a while and we will start Pearl's evolution," Bai Jingshen said.

"My lord," the females got scared all of a sudden. "This child doesn't have much blood—"

"I know," Bai Jingshen said. "Don't worry about it, I know what I'm doing. I will be back in a bit with what he needs."

He turned around and walked away.

"See you in a bit, Pearl," Alex said and walked away as well. They went down the hallway, underneath the crystal's light, and arrived at another section of the underground palace that Alex hadn't been to before.

He simply hadn't been allowed to move around these places.

"Alright, let us start," Bai Jingshen said after stopping.

"What do I have to do?" Alex asked.

"Something dangerous," Bai Jingshen said. "Give me as much blood as you can and also as many drops of your own Blood Essence as you can. The more there is, the more drops of White Tiger's blood essence I can pull out from it."

Alex hesitated a bit. "My... own blood essence?" he asked. He had assumed that Bai Jingshen was going to do something simple like using some skill to pull out the white tiger's blood from his body directly.

However, if he had to take everything out, then...

"I won't lie to you, it's dangerous," Bai Jingshen said. "Especially since it can also affect your cultivation in the short term until your body forms more blood essence."

Alex sighed. "I will do it," he said. He took out midnight and cut his own wrist. His hand started bleeding profusely, while he did his best to control his body's regenerative capabilities to not immediately heal from this cut.

As his body bled, Bai Jingshen caught the blood midair with his own Qi and was surprised at how much vitality his blood had.

"This is more than just the White Tiger's blood," he said softly. "How is your blood so strong?"

Alex didn't answer as he concentrated on not healing as much as he could. He felt his body drained of blood and even though he got dizzy for a second or two.

Because he was stopping his undying physique from working, his body couldn't even produce blood fast enough to replace the one that he was losing.

Both the Phoenix and the White Tiger were surprised at how much blood was pouring out of the young human's body.

"Alex, you'll die at this rate," Scarlet said. "Stop."

"Young man, that's enough," Bai Jingshen said. He too was worried for Alex, albeit for different reasons than Scarlet.

Alex's lips had chapped, his skin was super pale and his flesh seemed sunken in. His eyes refused to focus and all of a sudden, his mind went blank.

As soon as he fell unconscious, his body could finally heal once more and regenerate the blood that he had lost. His complexion got better immediately and the wound on his arm was healed before either of them realized.

Scarlet checked on Alex and was surprised that he was already healing so much. She knew about his undying physique, but she had never seen it in action this well.

Even Bai Jingshen was surprised when he saw that Alex looked like nothing was wrong with him just a few seconds later.

Alex opened his eyes and slowly got up. He still felt the dizziness, but it was much better than before now. "How long was I out for?" he asked.

"All of 8 seconds," Scarlet said. "You okay?"

"Yeah, I'm mostly fine," he said and looked at the blood in front of him. He could feel the strength of the blood that floated in the air. While he hadn't had the chance to go improve his bloodline in recent years, it was still the strongest tool in his arsenal.

He got back up and looked toward Bai Jingshen. "Do you want my Blood Essence separately or should I just drop it onto that?" he asked.

"Huh? Oh, right," Bai Jingshen freed himself from the shock he was feeling and looked at the floating blob of blood. "Give it to me separately. Because of how strong this blood is, I think I might have a better use for it."

"A better use?" Alex asked.

Bai Jingshen nodded. "Instead of separating just the White Tiger's blood from this, I'm going to place it all into the bath so Pearl can absorb everything from here directly. That should help him quite a bit," he said.

"Hmm, okay," Alex said. He could be sure that Bai Jingshen wouldn't do something that was bad for Pearl.

Then, he reached for his own forehead and worked on pulling out the few drops of blood essence he had in him.

A few seconds later, multiple deep crimson droplets floated together in front of Alex.

Alex felt like his age had increased by nearly 10 years when he parted with his blood essence.

Bai Jingshen let Scarlet handle the other blood while he took care of the dozen or so droplets that had come out of Alex's forehead.

"Are you going to give it all to Pearl too?" Alex asked with a short breath.

"No, the Essence needs to be just White Tiger's," he said. "Anything else and it will cause problems during the evolution process."

"I see," Alex said.

Bai Jingshen did something that made the world around him shudder for a second. Alex couldn't tell what was happening, but whatever it was, it was strong.

Then, he felt a pulsing sensation coming from Bai Jingshen himself and realized that it was his own blood aura.

Bai Jingshen didn't have the ability to control their blood aura, but as a beast, he had the ability to at least control his own bloodline.

A dozen drops of blood essence jiggled around each time a pulse went through them.

'He's trying to resonate his own blood with the blood essence to separate just the White Tiger's blood,' Alex thought. 'No wonder Senior Yang said he couldn't do it. It had to be a White Tiger.'

Suddenly, Alex felt an aura overshadow every single thought he had. As if the blood essence had suddenly awakened, the power that was hidden within Alex's blood essence showed itself to the world, and the world saw how terrifying it was.

It wasn't just Alex or Scarlet who had felt this, but the entire palace was in chaos over the sudden suppressive aura that had appeared.

Alex could barely breathe over this aura as he watched 7 perfect droplets of blood separate themselves from the dozen droplets that were floating in the air.

Those 7 droplets arrived next to Bai Jingshen and he let the rest of the droplets drop to the ground.

"Finally," he said as he watched the 7 perfect droplets of blood essence. "If the world knew what was in my hand right now, I could only imagine the war that they would fight to get their hands on it."

Chapter 1257: The Pool

The terrifying aura from the few drops of blood essence had disappeared, leaving only pristine crimson drops floating aimlessly on top of Bai Jingshen's palm.

"I never realized these drops were that strong," Alex said softly. He couldn't believe something so powerful was inside of him and had remained dormant this entire time.

"My master gifted this to my granddaughter when we first met her. These drops of blood hold the bloodline of the first White Tiger in them," Bai Jingshen said. "Even just absorbing part of it, Pearl was able to use almost every single skill that was passed down through the bloodline. I can only wonder if he will be as strong as me."

Alex looked at the man in front of him with a curious look before asking, "did your master give you these as well?"

"Of course," Bai Jingshen said. "There's a reason why I am as strong as I am. Of my generation, I am the strongest."

"The hell you are," Scarlet said from the side. "If you were anything above average, none of your ancestors would ever send you down here to rule over a random piece of land. They know you aren't helpful, so they let you handle the responsibility, the same as me, senior Luhei, and Tianchui."

"You're not wrong there," the tiger said. "They sent me here because I am basically useless to them there. However, that was by design. I just wanted to hide my powers and enjoy my life. Although, that backfired when they sent me here."

Alex was surprised to see this side of the person he thought he knew. "Should we get that to Pearl?" he reminded.

"Oh, right. Let's go," the tiger walked away with the normal blood and blood essence. He took them through another few winding hallways before arriving somewhere Alex had once again never been to before.

However, this time, this place looked far more important than just a few rooms here and there.

The room was dark with the final few crystals ending just past the doorway. The room was illuminated at the door, but beyond that, there was not much light.

Bai Jingshen's wives were already there, preparing the fountain with a tiger's head sculpture on one end that seemed to glow red from the inside.

"What is that?" Alex couldn't help but ask curiously.

"Probably some sort of bloodline artifact that creates White Tiger's blood inside of it," Scarlet said from the side. "We have something like that back home too. The blood isn't that good, but its enough to help someone evolve into a heavenly beast."

"I see," Alex said.

"The blood in here is basically going to force anyone that goes in here to defend themselves from its attack. The only way to defend it is with your own blood aura," Bai Jingshen explained.

"Since most will end up losing given that this is mostly White Tiger's blood, the one that is inside either dies or is forced to evolve with their bloodline as well to fight against this force."

"The weaker ones that don't have enough bloodline in them can't evolve and most certainly die. However, if you do have it, you have the potential to evolve, and become a White Tiger."

A constant flow of blood seemed to fall into the pool below which was getting filled up very slowly. Bai Jingshen went ahead and dropped the large amount of blood that he had brought into the pool as well.

He then turned around toward Pearl and crouched before him. "Revert back to your normal size," he said.

Pearl nodded and changed, turning back into a giant White Cat that was barely any smaller than the ones around him.

"Take these. It might hurt a little, but bear it, okay?" Bai Jingshen said.

Pearl nodded. He opened his mouth and the 7 drops flew into him, absorbed by his body. He instantly felt the flaring pain throughout his body as his body tried to retake what it had lost.

It forcefully absorbed every single bit of the blood essence, even though it hurt Pearl to do so, and unlike the last time he had eaten it, he did not puke back any of the blood.

Alex was still feeling very drained after losing all of his blood, but even so, he felt bad seeing Pearl in pain.

'Hang in there, Pearl. You can do it.'

Bai Jingshen tried to remain stoic, but his tapping feet made it apparent that he was very worried as well. He too was worried for Pearl, not to mention his 7 partners.

Lady Ren wanted to help Pearl, but she had to stay where she was. She couldn't help anyway after all.

Pearl didn't cry, shout, or make any noise because of the pain. He simply stood there, taking all the pain with gritted teeth until it was all over.

He felt weak when the pain left him and at the same time very tired. "Go into the pool," Bai Jingshen breathed out in relief and spoke immediately.

Pearl weakly nodded and walked over to the pool before jumping into it. The pool wasn't deep at and only came about halfway up Pearl's body.

Pearl crouched until nothing but his head was above the pool of blood.

"You guys should leave," Bai Jingshen spoke to everyone in the room. "I will leave after I start the process."

The women nodded and left. Scarlet walked out as well.

Alex tried to leave, but he couldn't find the heart to move away from Pearl, knowing how much pain he was going to be in.

"Don't worry, brother," Pearl spoke softly. "I will be alright. I will come back stronger than ever."

Alex took a deep breath and smiled. "I'll wait for you," he said. "Good luck, Pearl." He finally walked back out of the room.

The door slammed behind him and Bai Jingshen started.

Alex waited outside the room for a while, waiting for the white tiger to walk out. In the meantime, he tried to check his blood and was surprised at how weak it had become.

"I've... completely lost the White Tiger's bloodline from within me, haven't I?" he asked Scarlet who was next to him.

"Yes," she said. "I can't sense the tiniest bit of it in you."

Alex felt a little weird hearing that. He had the White tiger's bloodline from basically the start of his cultivation journey. It was something he had acquired so early on that he never thought he could lose it.

It had put him through some tough times as well as some easier times. However, he had now lost it and would likely not gain it back again. Especially because no other blood essence could ever compare to it.

Bai Jingshen walked out after a while and saw Alex standing there. "You don't have to wait here," he said. "It will take a while before he can succeed," he said.

"How long... do you think it will take?" Alex asked.

"Hard to tell," the beast said. "His is a weird case as both he and the blood essence he is using is something that has never been put through such an ordeal before."

"So, it can take anywhere from a week, to a month to a year. It could even take a decade. As long as Pearl doesn't die, it will continue forever until he evolves, so only time can truly tell."

Chapter 1258: The Upper Garden

Alex went into a room to rest. Due to the loss of his Blood Essence, he needed to rest or else he wouldn't be able to function properly at all.

He cultivated in the room for a while, before he felt slightly better. It would take a long time before he could feel as good as he always did, however.

A while later, he heard a knock on the door. Releasing his spiritual sense, he realized who it was that waited for him outside.

He quickly opened the door and looked at the giant black Jaguar that stood outside. He smiled when he saw her.

"Sister Yao, it's great to see you again," he said jubilantly.

"Hehe, it's great to see you too, young man. I heard you came, so I hurried here," Yao Jia said. "How have you been?"

"Nothing less than great," he said. "Where's senior Yao?"

"Father is in closed cultivation," she said.

"Oh, is he nearing some breakthrough?" Alex asked.

"No, not breakthrough. It's just that he hasn't had the time to cultivate before since he had to look after the palace in the lord's absence. However, now that the lord is back and has brought so many people with him, he doesn't need to remain outside for so long and has gone into closed cultivation."

"I see," Alex said. "You've gotten quite strong as well. Saint Condensation 4th realm, huh?"

"Oh, you can tell? You must've grown very strong as well then," Yao Jia replied.

"Somewhat," Alex said. He wasn't surprised that she couldn't tell his cultivation base, as no one normally could.

"Oh, was I disturbing you? I heard you were here and came to visit, but maybe I should have waited until you were out," she said.

"Oh, no. It's alright. I should be leaving as well," Alex said.

"Leaving? Are you going somewhere?" Yao Jia asked.

"Yes, to the Luminance empire," Alex said. "I need to go get my mother from there."

"But... your mother isn't in the Luminance empire though," Yao Jia said. "She's in the Crimson Empire."

Alex paused for a second. "What? She's in the Crimson Empire? How?" he couldn't help but ask.

"Well, after you were gone, father took many seniors to the Luminance empire to kill the ones that were responsible for your and young lord's disappearance," she said. "Once he was done with that, he waited for you two to come back with your mother. But when they realized you weren't coming back, he brought your mother here to keep her safe."

"After the lord returned and the number of beasts increased, your mother decided not to stay here anymore and went to the Crimson empire. She said she had people there that she knew," Yao Jia said.

"Oh," Alex thought. "So... father and the rest must have met her already then."

He wondered for a second what he needed to do next. Should he still go to the Luminance Empire and finish what he had remaining, or delay that for some other time?

"I should have to go there anyway later on, so maybe I should do both at the same time," he thought.

"Do you know where Scarlet is?" Alex asked her.

"Who's... Scarlet?" Yao Jia asked.

"Nuanhuo, the Phoenix that I came with," Alex said.

"Oh! Lady Phoenix is with the lord in the upper garden. You should find them there," Yao Jia said.

"Oh, let's go," Alex said and started walking away. Yao Jia followed behind him and walked until they came across the door that led upstairs.

There were guards at the door, none of whom knew if they should let Alex walk free or not. They were about to stop him, but before they could, they were ordered to let him go.

Alex continued without stopping and arrived outside at the beautifully maintained garden. It was late in the morning, so the sun was up in the sky, shining brilliantly on everything.

Scarlet rested on the meadow, enjoying the sun. Next to her was a massive tiger with white fur and black stripes. His size was much larger than Alex had expected or hoped.

The tiger turned around and saw Alex. "Are you done with your cultivation?" he asked.

"Yes, senior," Alex said.

"Don't call me senior," the tiger said. "It doesn't feel right. Just call me what you used to call me."

Alex paused for a second, taken aback. "Do you want me to call you brother Shen?" he asked.

"Why not? It's not like that's not part of my name," he said. "Come, sit down."

Alex nodded and sat down next to the two of them. Yao Jia walked up as well and crouched next to the two of them.

"Shouldn't you be cultivating?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"I—"

"I just left my room, my lord. Let me enjoy the sun for a bit," Yao Jia grumbled when she heard the white tiger.

Alex was surprised for a moment and realized that Bai Jingshen wasn't talking to him at all.

"If you don't reach the Immortal realm by the time I need to leave, I will leave you here and only take your father," Bai Jingshen said.

"Why?" Yao Jia shouted. "That's not fair, my lord. I'm trying my best. I already reached the Saint realm, didn't I?"

"How old are you again?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"Uhh... a 100 years old," Yao Jia said.

"In real years," Bai Jingshen asked.

Yao Jia hesitated a bit. "Nearly 600 years," she said.

"See? You wasted so much time reaching the Saint realms. You have much better talent than your father, and yet you are slower than him," Bai Jingshen said.

"Well... that's just because I spent most of my time in the rooms with slowed time, my lord," Yao Jia said.

"None of which are rooms that are cultivation related, are they?" he asked.

"N-no," Yao Jia said in a hesitating voice.

"Either way, you need to focus on your cultivation soon," Bai Jingshen said. "Okay?" He pet her on her head a few times.

"How are you feeling?" Scarlet turned around to Alex and asked.

"Much better than yesterday, but still not as well," Alex said.

"You likely won't feel as good as you did. You will have to adapt with this weaker self of yours," Scarlet said. "Well, it's just your blood anyway. You can fix that later on."

"Yeah, I might have to go to the ocean after I return," Alex said. "I haven't been there for a while, so it's about time."

"The ocean? Why?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"To gather blood," Alex said. "Oh, you might not know this, but I can use blood aura. I can also absorb other's blood to get stronger too."

"Oh, you can use blood aura? That's not very common," Bai Jingshen said and thought for a bit. "Can you use any blood or does it have to come from aquatic beasts?"

"No, it can be any beast's or human's. I only use the aquatic beasts because they are usually the least intelligent of all the beings that I can get blood from," Alex said. "That way I can keep my conscience clean."

Bai Jingshen nodded. "Does the blood have to be from a dead beast? Does it have to be Blood Essence?" he asked.

"No, it just needs to be normal blood from anywhere," Alex said.

"Then you don't need to bother with going to the ocean," Bai Jingshen said. "I'm sure I can help you regarding it much, much faster."

Chapter 1259: Authority

"Are you going to request the beasts to give me their blood?" Alex asked.

"That's exactly what I thought of," Bai Jingshen said. "Even if you get just a cup of blood from a single beast, together with thousands of beasts, wouldn't that be a lot of blood to improve your own?"

"It would," Alex said as he thought about it. "Not only my blood, but I can improve my cultivation base with it as well."

"Cultivation base?" Bai Jingshen was surprised. "How exactly?"

"My Blood Absorption technique allows for one of two things. I can either improve my blood aura to make it stronger, or I can improve my cultivation base," Alex said. "Depending on how weak my blood has become, I will have to go with one of the two."

"Hmm, then it seems I will have to hurry up," Bai Jingshen said. "How did you learn to use blood aura though, I'm very curious. Actually, I'm curious about everything that happened in my absence. Tell it all to me."

Alex nodded and spoke of what he remembered. He went through the story of his past and with each new event, Bai Jingshen and Yao Jia reacted as if they were watching a play of some sort.

Not even Bai Jingshen could see some of the twists and turns coming and was surprised to hear about it all.

"No wonder you reached the different continents," Bai Jingshen spoke softly. "I can't tell if you got lucky or unlucky, having to leave behind one land and go to a new one each time."

"It's pretty unlucky at the moment, but overall, it's quite lucky, I suppose," Alex said.

"It helped you more than it harmed you, but the same couldn't be said of Pearl," Bai Jingshen said. "But it should be alright once he evolves now."

Alex nodded. The speed at which Pearl evolved all depended on Pearl himself, so there was nothing for him to do either. All he could do was hope and pray that he was successful.

"So you actually did end up learning the Dao of Technique, huh?" Bai Jingshen asked. "It's a very hard dao to grasp, and you somehow did it. I'm impressed."

"You have that dao too, don't you Brother Shen?" Alex asked.

"Of course, but it took me thousands of years before I learned it," Bai Jingshen said. "You haven't even lived a century, so it is truly very impressive."

Alex nodded. "I could only do it because you told me such a dao even existed. Had I not known about it, I could never have learned it. Without your help, I wouldn't even know that Intent was necessary to use techniques at all," he said.

"That's enough humbleness from you. Everyone knows about this stuff, but not everyone can learn it. Just take the praise when I'm giving it to you," Bai Jingshen said with an annoyed voice.

Alex chuckled a bit. "By the way, brother Shen, I'm a little curious about your journey too. How was it on Earth? When did you come back? I hope you can tell at least something," he said.

"My journey, huh? It was quite fascinating, to say the least, but mostly because the world itself was in a very fascinating state," Bai Jingshen said. He went on to explain his time on Earth as well as the weird things he saw there.

Stuff like Mana and people's awakening powers were something he hadn't come across before and he explained it with great enthusiasm.

Alex and Scarlet were surprised to hear that there were beings there that could easily destroy every single god that lived inside of this world without any effort.

"Are we safe?" Alex asked. "Can't they just come in?"

"No one has the power to travel in between the two universes, except for people like my master who are rare to the point that almost no one else will ever come in," Bai Jingshen explained. "Also, according to my master, the two universes have drifted apart, so even he will have to go through a great amount of trouble to make it here again."

"Not to mention, because of the time difference, you will be hundreds of thousands of years old before someone else like that comes through again," Bai Jingshen explained.

He continued his story, explaining how a part of Earth was destroyed, all of its people gone. Those were the people that had appeared in the Central continent all those years ago and were Alex's ancestors.

"I came as soon as I could after helping everyone, but even then it was too late," he said. "Over 600 years had already passed by the time I had arrived back here. When I did, I saw that everything was as good as it could be and I wasn't needed."

"I met up with the senior after that and talked with him for a bit. To be honest, I hated him quite a bit for what he did to your people, still do. Forcing them all to cultivate is one thing, baiting them into doing so without them even knowing what cultivation even is even worse."

Alex couldn't disagree. He hadn't forgiven the senior for what he had. He wasn't sure he ever could. However, as a person who was still so very weak, he couldn't even show the entirety of his hatred.

"But I suppose you can empathize with him," he said. "You must've been desperate to go back home when you were stuck somewhere as well, weren't you?"

Alex sighed when he heard that. "I can't deny that," he said.

"Anyway, to continue my story, I talked with the senior for a bit and understood what was going on," Bai Jingshen said. "I can't help but regret coming here a little too late though. Had I left Earth even just a few minutes earlier, I probably could've come here in time to stop Ren Xiao from being targeted by Heavenly Judgment, or maybe stop my granddaughter from dying."

"Once I came and found her wounded, I helped her a bit and left to find Pearl. I was going to take him away from you, but then... I realized at that time, I sensed the aura from you. Not only did you have the White Tiger's bloodline which I wanted to know how I also sensed some sort of familiarity toward you that ran blood deep."

"I could tell it came from my own bloodline, one that is no different from the first White Tiger, so I waited. Soon enough, I came to understand that you were the one that my master is waiting for," Bai Jingshen said.

"Are you sure you're okay with that information being public?" Alex asked. "The one about your bloodline."

"Uhh... it doesn't matter," Bai Jingshen said. "It's already public anyway."

"Really?" Scarlet asked. "And here I thought I was going to bring some juicy information back to my family."

Bai Jingshen laughed a bit. "No, they know already. I might have gone a bit overboard this time around so that I could come back. There is no one in the land of the Blessed Sun that does not know what has happened."

"Land of the Blessed Sun, you mentioned that a long time ago," Alex said. "That's your home, right?"

"It's the realm we come from," Bai Jingshen said. "It's a realm of beasts with very few humans living in it. We remain outside of humans or demons, and don't get into conflict with either if we can help it."

"Don't worry, I will take you there when it's time for me to leave," Scarlet said.

Alex said nothing.

"Oh right, do you really not know when Tianchui died?" Scarlet asked. "Not even a hint?"

"No, I went to check on everyone a few years after I came back. I could see the tortoise was hurt, I knew the snake was hurt, and I saw you reverting back to an egg."

"But I couldn't sense the dragon at all. On top of that, I couldn't enter the continent either," Bai Jingshen said. "I was positive he was dead, but it wasn't until I went back and found out that he had never left the realm that I could be confident about it. As for when he died, we will have to ask someone from the Eastern Continent."

"He couldn't have died right after fighting the Godkiller, right?" Scarlet asked. "I hear he came here to announce your death to your wives and subordinates."

"Wait for a second," Alex thought. "How could he come here if you weren't here? Shouldn't your oaths disallow that?"

"It can, because when I left, I had made my first wife the ruler of this land, just like Scarlet did for you. Because of that, the Dragon could come here since a ruler was still on this land," Bai Jingshen said. "I can come to the Southern Continent too in Scarlet's absence, as long as you are there now."

"I see," Alex thought. "Wait, then shouldn't you be able to go to the Eastern Continent too? Since the Dragon Emperor is there?"

"No, it's a little different there. Unlike you or my wife, the Dragon Emperor doesn't hold direct authority from the Azure Dragons to rule the Eastern Continent," Bai Jingshen said.

"Only the first Dragon Emperor had the authority," Scarlet explained. "Everyone after that does not."

"I see," Alex said. "Do you guys happen to know why the first Dragon Emperor held the authority? Was the Azure Dragon tired of ruling and passed the trouble along to others as she did with me?"

"No," Scarlet said. "I believe the reason why the first Dragon Emperor was allowed to rule despite the Azure Dragon's presence is that he was the son of the Azure Dragon that was the ruler back then."

Chapter 1260: Human

Alex was taken aback a bit by this information. "Wait, how can that be?" he asked. "How can a beast have a human child?"

"They can if either of the parents is a human," Scarlet explained.

"I believe the first Azure Dragon was a male dragon that mated with most likely a demon of this world. It is very difficult for interspecies conception to occur, but not impossible," Bai Jingshen explained.

"But... it doesn't make sense physiologically, does it? I mean a beast and a human..." Alex hesitated to continue.

"It doesn't make sense if the beast is a beast," Bai Jingshen said. "In fact, it is pretty much impossible. However, what if the beast were not a beast?"

"... What?" Alex asked with a confused look.

"What if the beast were a human?" Bai Jingshen asked. "You do know what a beast can do when they reach the Immortal realm, right?"

"Oh... right," Alex thought. "So the Azure dragon turned to a human and had a child with a demon of this realm, and that was the first Dragon Emperor?"

"That is correct," Bai Jingshen said.

"Was the Dragon Emperor a human because his mother was a human?" Alex asked. "What if the genders were reversed and it was an Azure Dragon that gave birth to a human's child?"

"The child would still be a human," Bai Jingshen said. "They would have part of the beast's bloodline in them all the same. Actually, they are quite common in the Immortal realms since the distinction between a beast and a human gets muddled quite often due to everyone being able to take a human form whenever they want to. In fact, even plants can have children with humans or beasts, so long as they turn to a human."

"Plants can have children with beasts? And their children would be what?" Alex asked. "Plant or beast?"

Bai Jingshen chuckled. "A human," he said.

"Huh?" Alex was confused once again. "Why a human? None of the child's parents is a human."

"Oh, they are," Bai Jingshen said. "Any plant that manages to reach the Immortal realm after cultivating can permanently turn to a human if they chose to. Unlike beasts, there is no going back once they do so. Since at that point they are basically a human, their child would also be a human."

"Do you have any idea why the child is always a human?" Alex asked.

"Heaven's will," Bai Jingshen shrugged.

"We don't really know the reason, just that it is how it goes all the time," Scarlet said. "Of course, they are not fully human. Most of those children actually have the capabilities of half transforming into what their other half is."

Alex was curious to learn more about it all, as the more he learned, the more knowledge seemed to be unlocking in his mind from his medical information base that was locked behind the Alchemy God's intent.

"What about two beasts? What if one of the parents takes a human form?" Alex asked.

"In a beast's case, even if they take human form, they still end up giving birth to a beast," Bai Jingshen said. "Basically, a human child is born every time there is a human involved. Whether that human is a human, a demon, or a transformed plant, it doesn't matter."

"So the beasts have no benefits when mating in human form, do they?" Alex asked.

"There is a small one," Bai Jingshen said. "You've seen my wives. Can you tell what's common about them?"

"Common?" Alex thought for a bit. "The fact that they are all felines?"

"Exactly," Bai Jingshen said. "The reason they are all felines is that they are the closest in bloodline to the White Tiger and can thus potentially carry down the bloodline by giving birth to an actual White Tiger."

"If I were to marry anyone else that is not similar in species to me, the chances of me passing down my bloodline becomes basically zero," he said. "However, I could increase the chance, even if by a little bit, if I were to become a human. That is one advantage, however infinitesimal, that beasts have if they become human."

"As he said, it's infinitesimal so it's not even that useful," Scarlet said. "It's not that you can't have children if two beasts aren't close in species, just that their children would be incredibly mediocre and most likely wouldn't carry the bloodline of either parent. So, it's always better to just find someone from your own species."

"I see," Alex said. He had learned quite a lot today that he hadn't even expected to learn. "So the first Dragon Emperor, he isn't a half-Azure Dragon, is he?"

"No, it would be a big deal if he was, since he would be the first human to hold the bloodline of one of the Heavenly beasts," Bai Jingshen said. "He would be no different from you, who until now held the White Tiger's bloodline."

"His case is different, isn't it?" Scarlet asked. "He didn't absorb the White Tiger's blood, but only made use of it."

"He was a step away from absorbing it," Bai Jingshen said. "If not, he wouldn't have been able to make use of the White Tiger's Dominating Body that Pearl cultivated."

"I see," Scarlet thought.

Alex remained there, thinking for a bit. A few footsteps appeared from nearby as a couple of folks walked out.

Hao Ya and Liz walked beside the 2nd and 3rd wives of Bai Jingshen.

"Oh, you guys are out?" Alex asked. "How's the formation?"

"Terrible," Hao Ya said. "It's a good formation, but the way it's set up is going to take me a bit to make it work with the formation back at Master's place. It will only be afterward that I can even start testing if they can communicate with each other or not."

"How long will that take?" Alex asked.

"As soon as I can get my hands on a few things. I came here to request senior to help me find these things," Hao Ya handed over a talisman to Bai Jingshen.

Bai Jingshen shook his head and one of his wives took it instead. "Forgive me, but my husband doesn't like reading," she said. "Should I do as she says?"

"Is there anything in there that's hard to get?" Bai Jingshen asked.

The snow leopard read through the list and nodded. "Everything is available in the treasury and isn't of much value either," she said.

"Give it to her then," Bai Jingshen said.

"As you command, my lord," the snow leopard said and walked away with her sister.

"Do you still need me?" Liz asked.

"It's probably better if you don't help me right now and instead save it for the test later," Hao Ya said. "I will need quite a bit of time to just think what to do and that will cause you to unnecessarily exhaust yourself. Don't worry, I can complete this in a week, and then you can be of help."

"Okay," Liz said.

"Oh, if you don't need her, then can she leave with me?" Alex asked. "Aunt Liz, it turns out my mother is already where father and the rest went to. If we go there, we can meet her today."

"Really? You already know where she is?" Liz asked in surprise.

Alex nodded. "We should leave as soon as we can."