

## Alchemy 1261

Chapter 1261: Wench

After talking with the White Tiger for a little longer and requesting a few things he hoped to get from him, Alex left the Beast realm.

He promised to be back in just a few days, as he had to bring back his aunt there to help with the formation as soon as it was ready to teleport across the ocean.

He hoped Pearl would be out by then, but he kept his expectations low. He would be ready for anything from a month to a year. Any longer than that, however, would be rather worrisome for him.

After arriving outside the beast realm, Alex took out a boat and immediately the aunt and nephew were on their way to the Scarlet city.

Alex arrived outside the Scarlet city sometime later and without stopping directly teleported into the city.

Liz was surprised to find herself inside the city all of a sudden, but then Alex suddenly released his spiritual sense, searching for where everyone was.

His spiritual sense was now wide enough that he could see almost everything in the city. He immediately found his father and mother in the Tiger sect, but who was this other person?

He walked with his aunt and quickly arrived by the Tiger Sect. He entered through the gates, without the guards being able to stop him at all.

On the way to the mountain where the Tiger sect disciples lived, there was a small crowd forming that seemed to belong to the people he recognized.

He saw his father, his mother, his daughter, his clone, his master, his senior sister and brother, and a few other faces that he recognized.

However, amongst them was one face that he didn't recognize at all and that seemed to be the person everyone was gathering around.

"Please calm down, senior Feng. We can talk it out," Wen Cheng tried to speak, but the thin man with long black hair and grayish-blue robes didn't seem to calm down at all.

"No, we're not talking about this. I demand an answer right now," the man shouted. "It's either me or him."

"There is no you, senior Feng. Why do you continue deluding yourself?" Helen asked.

"You accepted all of those presents I brought you, and now you say you have a husband?" the man shouted. "Do you believe I can accept that?"

"I only took those gifts because it's rude not to. I told you multiple times that I had no interest in you and that I was already married," Helen said. "You were the one that didn't accept it, senior Feng. I told you my husband would come back to me, and yet it was you who held the delusions."

"No, you could've rejected me straight up, but you didn't. That's because you knew you wanted to keep me as a backup in case your husband never returned," the man said.

Helen shook her head. "There is something seriously wrong with your head," she said. "The reason I said nothing is because I was scared of you. You might kill me if I rejected you outright. That's why I tried to distance myself from you, but you kept advancing."

"Please, my wife wants nothing to do with you, just leave," Graham spoke. He had been holding back for a while, not out of his own volition either, but he was starting to get overly ticked off.

Helen tried to pull him back, but he was rigid like a pillar that couldn't be moved at all.

"You bastard! You think you can tell me what to do?" the man shouted. "That wench tol—"

The man didn't realize when he had been punched. He didn't even realize that he had flown nearly 100 meters away, landing perfectly with his neck on Alex's hand.

He looked around in a daze for a moment, not understanding what had just happened. Then, the pain followed.

The man cried and coughed as blood dripped out of his mouth along with a few teeth. Not only that, he couldn't even close his mouth as his lower jaw had been completely destroyed.

The man tried to speak, but without a jaw, that was pretty much impossible.

"Alex?" Helen finally noticed his arrival and spoke in surprise. Then, she saw the woman standing next to him. "Liz?"

"Sister Helen," Liz spoke and ran up to Helen to give her a hug. Helen hugged her blankly, as the meeting was unexpected. She was told that they would come a little later after all.

"Alex!" the others noticed him after Helen as well.

Alex ignored them for now and looked at the man he was holding. He still held him by the neck, so he turned the man toward him and looked at his broken jaw.

"Oh no, you shouldn't have done that, father," Alex spoke while the man still cried in pain. He looked toward Alex from time to time, but he was too focused on his own injury to care about what was happening.

"I did wrong?" Graham looked confused.

"Yes," Alex said. "You shouldn't hit someone so hard. You destroyed all his nerves before his face even took any damage. Had you held back a bit, you wouldn't have destroyed the main nerves and he would be in much more pain than this."

The man tried to hit Alex's arm to free himself, but no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't escape Alex at all.

"Let go of me," his voice flowed through his spiritual sense into Alex.

"And why should I do that?" Alex asked. "Oh, I recognize you. You are one of the Saints that was there when I was taken away by the beasts, weren't you?"

The man paused for a bit before he recognized who he was looking at. "It's you!" he spoke.

"Yes," Alex said. "Unfortunately for you, you called my mother a wench."

His palm gripped tighter around the man's neck and slowly it started to hurt a lot. "What are you doing?" he shouted and tried to take out a weapon from his storage bag.

However, before he could do anything, Space and Cutting dao joined together for a split second and attacked the man.

Both of his arms were cut off right away, falling to the ground.

Alex pulled the man close to him and spoke, "Go on. Call my mother a wench again," he said.

The man couldn't say anything but cry louder as the pain overwhelmed him. It had been a very, very long time since he had felt pain, let alone see his own blood. However, somehow not only was he in pain, but his jaw was completely broken and his hands were also cut off as well.

Alex got ready to attack once more, but Helen ran next to him and stopped his arm.

"That's enough," she said. "You've already hurt him enough."

Alex looked at the man and shook his head. "Fine," he said. "Be grateful, you fool. You won't have to suffer much longer because my mother is kind, unlike the rest of us."

He tossed the man away and in doing so, the man disappeared from everyone's view.

Alex finally turned toward his mother and smiled. "I'm sorry you had to wait so long for me to come back," he said.

"Better late than never," Helen said and hugged her son tightly.

#### Chapter 1262: Married

Alex's mother and the rest had been getting ready to visit the Hong Wu sect when they had been stopped by the man surnamed Feng, who had taken a liking to his mother ever since he had decided to become a guest elder for both the Tiger sect and the Hong Wu sect.

After the lord's return, she wanted to leave the beast realm. However, she couldn't go back to the Luminous empire as there would most likely be enemies of her son that would want to take revenge.

Instead, she came over to this side to live with her son's friends and close acquaintances.

After arriving in the Scarlet city, Helen started aiding the two sects by becoming their guest elder who could make almost anything.

Even the Alchemists over at the Hong Wu sect were surprised by her alchemy, even though it wasn't even her strongest suit.

She could make formations too, but her strongest suit still remained talismans. Despite the lack of proper resources on this side, she could still make amazing talismans that quickly made her popular all over the empire.

The Hong Wu sect was already popular for its amazing quality pills, but adding onto that the amazing talismans and sometimes even better pills made the city just that more popular.

That was one of the reasons why so many people had come to the city over the last 30 years, increasing even more over the last decade.

When the Emperor found out that she could also make saint pills, her status grew even more.

Helen made a few pills for the Emperor once or twice a year due to the severe lack of resources on this side. Via the emperor, the other two saints came to know her as well.

The man surnamed Feng was in the Saint Foundation realm, an entire realm above the Saint Condensation realm that Helen had only recently entered. As such, she was polite and respectful to the senior without being overly direct.

However, that caused the man to have the misconception that she was interested in him just as he was interested in her. Even when she casually mentioned about waiting for her son or husband, the man didn't truly believe her.

When he found out that it was actually true today, he had come to create a ruckus. Only, he hadn't expected to be beaten so badly.

"I hope he doesn't end up becoming a problem," Alex spoke as he looked in the direction when he had thrown him away. He was still inside the city as Alex's teleportation dao didn't exceed more than a kilometer of distance without external help.

His spiritual sense had already reached the man and he had threatened him too, but who knew what would happen.

He turned around to look at the people from the Tiger sect and smiled. He bowed toward Wen Cheng and spoke, "Greetings, master."

"You finally came," Wen Cheng said with a wide smile and open arms. "Welcome back. We've been waiting for you."

Alex smiled and accepted the hug from his master. He then turned to his senior sister and brothers and greeted them too.

Luo Mei and Liu Xun both hugged him once after another.

"You guys look the same," Alex said. "Yet, so very different."

Luo Mei smiled. "Same goes for you, little brother," she said.

"I hear you've got quite the status now," Liu Xun said. "Should we be changing how we address you?"

"I would prefer if you ignored my status and treat me like the younger brother I am," Alex said. He then looked around at the crowd that had gathered and greeted them as well.

He didn't recognize all of them, but he did recognize a few of them. That was enough for him to speak to them for a bit before they all left.

Alex then had them meet his aunt as well. After the greetings were passed along, Helen finally spoke.

"We were on our way to the Hong Wu sect, but now that you've just arrived..." Helen paused.

Alex looked at them and at his clone who seemed anxious to go and smiled. "Let us go then," he said. He turned around to his master and senior disciples and said, "Is it alright if I come back later?"

"Sure, sure," Wen Cheng said. "Alex, I mean that Alex has been wanting to go there ever since they arrived here yesterday."

"Oh yeah, how do we even address you two? You clearly aren't like normal clones who its two bodies with one mind," Luo Mei said. "But calling you both Alex is annoying because you won't know who we're talking about."

"Uhh... you can do names like First Alex and Second Alex," Alex said.

"And who's first and who's second?" Luo Mei asked.

"I'm obviously first," Alex said. "He's a clone, he should be second."

"But he's the one we met first," Liu Xun added.

"Well... no, I mean kind of? You met him in soul, but it was still my body," Alex said.

"So? Who's first? The body or the soul?" Luo Mei asked.

"Fine, let's not call ourselves that," Alex said and shook his head. "You can continue calling him Alex and refer to me as Yu Ming if you need to distinguish between the two of us."

"Oh, so simple, huh?" Wen Cheng thought. "How come I didn't think of it?"

"Anyway, I don't see brother Du around," Alex said. "Where is he?"

"My husband is training his disciples around the crater," Luo Mei said.

Alex's eyes widened. "Husband? So you guys got married?" he asked with an excited look.

"Hehe, it was 2 decades ago," Luo Mei said.

"Oh, congratulations, sister," Alex said. "I'm happy for you."



"You shouldn't just be happy for me," Luo Mei said.

Alex looked confused. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"I'm not just the one that got married," she said pointing to the side with her eyes.

Alex followed her eyes and looked at the man standing in front of him. He gasped in surprise. "Master? You got married?" he asked.

"Why did you gasp? Is it that surprising? Did you think I would be single for life?" Wen Cheng asked, prompting a burst of laughter from around the group.

"No, no, I was just surprised," he said. "When did you marry?"

"Just a few years ago," Wen Cheng said. "It hasn't been that long."

"Yeah, but that's only because he took his sweet time to ask her to marry. I told you, master, you should have done that ages ago," Luo Mei said.

"Shut it," Wen Cheng said.

"Oh, who did you get married to?" Alex asked. "Someone from the sect?"

"No, not from our sect or any sect," Luo Mei said. "But I think you know her. Even Alex remembered her after mentioning a few things about her."

Alex got curious. "Who?" he asked.

"It's someone pretty from the Pink Cloud Auction house," Luo Mei said.

"Pink Cloud Auction..." Alex's eyes went wide when he remembered a female figure from the auction house, the one that he used to visit so many times to sell his pills when he was still part of the Hong Wu sect.

"No way!" he gasped once again in surprise. "Lady Cai Ping?"

"Uhuh! So you do remember," Luo Mei said.

"I do," Alex said. "So you married lady Cai, huh? Should I be calling her mistress Cai now? How does it work?"

"Just senior Cai or Lady Cai is fine," Luo Mei said. "I myself call her senior Cai, while senior brother calls her Lady Cai."

"I see," Alex said. "Then I suppose congratulations are in order for you too, master. Wait, I can't give empty congratulations on such occasions. Here, take this temporary gift for now. I will try and prepare something better when I have the time."

Alex handed two pill bottles along with two talismans, one of each to both Wen Cheng and Luo Mei.

"The bottle contains various types of pills that can help you in various scenarios, the descriptions of which I've written down on that talisman. I prepared them in advance since I expected to have to give away pills to people I met here, but I didn't think it would be you two who would get it first," he said.

He then turned toward his senior brother. "Are you married too, brother?" he asked.

"No, but I do have a fiancée, so I should be getting married soon as well," he said. "Does that mean I'm not getting any pills?"

"You can have one if you want, but I have better pills that I can give to you once I have some time to sit down and see what you would need," Alex said.

"Oh, then I will choose to wait," Liu Xun said. "You better have a pill that can push me directly to the Saint realm. I'm hoping you to be at least that good by now."

Even knowing that his senior brother was joking, Alex could only give a dry laugh at the ridiculousness of the pill he was suggesting. If such a pill existed, it wouldn't be in this realm at all.

"You guys should leave now," Wen Cheng said. "We will come by your mother's house later tonight and we can talk there. I'll make sure to bring my wife along as well."

"Oh, I'll look forward to it," Alex said. "I'll see you all later then."

He turned around and started walking out of the sect with the rest of his family.

#### Chapter 1263: The Hong Wu Sect

"Father, are you sure it will be alright? What if that man comes again?" Ronron asked.

"You have your master's treasures don't you?" he asked. "You will be safe. There's the blood core I gave you as well."

Ronron nodded.

"Where is Pearl, by the way?" Helen asked.

"He's in the Beast realm trying to evolve," Alex said. "He should be staying there for a while, I don't know how long."

"Oh! Did you meet the new beasts that came there? They had a scary aura. I didn't want to stay there after seeing them," Helen said.

"I guess they are scary," Alex said.

"I don't remember much about the beast realm but there was that one beast that threw me out. What was it?" the older Alex asked.

"The puma," Alex remembered. "I didn't see him this time around. He must have been in closed cultivation as well," Alex said

"I see," the older Alex said. "I remember hating him a lot."

The family of six talked with each other for the better part of the 20 minutes it took them to reach the other side of the massive city where the Hong Wu sect lay.

When they arrived, the guards immediately bowed to Helen and called her a Guest Elder. Thanks to her, they could all walk in without any problem.

The older Alex could feel tears filling his eyes as he saw the outer disciple mountain remain the same as it was all those years ago. He remembered walking up this dirt road to the side of the mountain before going down to the sect valley.

The disciples wore a light green robes and watched the group of six walk past them. They bowed toward Helen when they saw her. She was way too big of a figure in the sect to not be recognized by the outer disciples.

"Who's the current leader of the sect?" Alex asked.

"It's a woman named Shao Chun," Helen said. "Do you know her?"

"Shao Chun?" Alex thought for a bit but he didn't remember such a name. "I don't think I know her, is she new?"

"No, she's apparently been here for the past 70 years apparently. It's weird you don't know her," Helen said.

"It's not like I know every elder," Alex said. They continued walking down the mountain toward the valley when Alex saw someone waiting at the gate to the valley.

A man that seemed to be in his late 30s had a shocked expression on his face as he stared in their direction.

Helen smiled and said, "I told him I was coming and that there was a surprise for him so he had to wait there for me."

The man looked at Alex and couldn't believe it. "Martial Nephew?" he asked.

"Martial Uncle," Alex spoke happily and walked down the road to meet the man.

The older Alex felt a wave of anxiousness hit him as he realized who he was looking at.

It was Lang Shun, Ma Rong's junior disciple brother.

He nervously watched Lang Shun and Alex greet and hug each other happily. They talked for a few moments before everyone walked up to them.

"Sister Helen, you should have warned me about this," Lang Shun said. "I wasn't ready for this."

"You're still not ready," Helen said and turned toward the old Alex. "Guess who this is."

Lang Shun looked at the older Alex and frowned a little. He looked familiar to him, but he couldn't remember where he had seen him. That was surprising to him because he was supposed to have perfect memory.

"Who is this?" he asked.

"Remember that one time I told you the truth about the players?" Helen asked. "The one where I said our bodies were controlled by minds that were elsewhere?"

"I do remember that," Lang Shun said. "You said something about clones back then. Is... he a clone?"

"He's my clone, martial Uncle," Alex spoke. "He was one that was in control of my body when the master took me in as her disciple."

"Martial Uncle," the older Alex walked forward and bowed. "I'm glad to see you're doing alright."

"You're... Alex too?" Lang Shun was a little perplexed, surprised, and quite thoroughly confused.

Alex had to explain properly what was going on and how this Alex had been living a normal life in the Central continent.

Lang Shun turned his head towards Ronron in surprise. "That's your daughter?" he asked.

"Yes, martial uncle," the older Alex said while gesturing for Ronron to come out. "Her name is Maron. I named her after master."

"Ma Ron?" Lang Shun asked.

"It's all one word. Maron," Ronron quickly said. "Greetings."

"Wow, your daughter is already so grown up, and she's even in the True realm," Lang Shun couldn't help but be surprised.

Alex introduced the rest of his family to Lang Shun as well.

He turned back to both Alex and said, "I'm glad both of you got to come back, even though it has been so long since you did."

"I'm glad too, Martial Uncle," the older Alex said.

After talking there for a while, Lang Shun asked them to come along with him so they could talk in the elder's hall.

The group looked around at the valley as they walked away. The various different buildings that were available around the valley seemed to have changed drastically over the last 3 decades Alex hadn't been there.

To everyone else, it looked completely new.

Alex noticed a massive black stone that had words written all over it, some of which constantly changed. It was the Contribution ranking and the first person on the list was someone named Kong Yumin.

"Are the disciples these days good?" Alex asked. "I assume the level of alchemy has gone up a lot."

"Yes, it's gone up quite a lot," Lang Shun said. "Not only do we have more diverse recipes, elder He has been giving us quite a bit of knowledge on improving the pills, so the level of alchemy for even the disciples has become better."

"They also have medicinal pastes for most ordinary requirements, so they are forced to make better pills as a result, so the public can only be satisfied with the best of the best pills," Helen said.

"I see," Alex said. "So, that Kong Yumin should be quite good at pills."

"She is," Lang Shun said. "Last I remember, she could make Immortal-grade pills on occasion. They are only common pills, but it's still quite a feat. Her True pills are only a little worse, but she's getting there."

Alex looked surprised. "That is truly quite a feat. How is she so good?" he asked.

"Guest elder He is quite biased toward her," Lang Shun said with a chuckle in his voice. "You will understand why when you meet her later."

Alex was a little confused but he decided to not care about it. He continued asking a little more about the sect and came to learn quite a lot.

Hong Wu sect was now the best sect in terms of Alchemy and due to its popularity, was also one of the better sects when it came to just strength.

It had steadily grown to become one of the best sects in the entire empire, even better than the Tiger sect. The Tiger sect was strong and well-known, but it was nowhere close to the Hong Wu sect in terms of popularity.

The Hong Wu sect was now the main sect any and all youngsters from all around the empire wished to join, which had forced the Hong Wu sect to make its entrance exams harder, which forced only the best of the best to get through as well, improving the overall standard of the sect by that much more.

Due to the improvement in pills as well as the talent of the students that joined, the disciples had started breaking through the realms fast enough to still remain a disciple since they broke through to the True realms in just a year or two.

As such, the Hong Wu sect was forced to increase the threshold of graduation from entering the True Realms to entering the True Master realm. There were talks of maybe increasing it to the True Lord realm, but that hadn't been decided yet.

For alchemists, they now had to make a Heaven Grade true pill to graduate early, if they had at least been a disciple for at least 3 years. Otherwise, 20 years was how long they could remain a disciple before graduating.

Alex asked about the sect leader and found out that she had been there since long before he had even arrived. She was one of the numbered elders during his master's time and was Lang Shun's senior by a few years.



With the other elders growing old, she had ended up becoming the sect leader after all this time. Her Alchemy skills weren't that good, but her understanding of Alchemy, and more importantly, her leadership skills were more than good enough to be the leader.

"Where's Grand Elder?" Alex asked. "I wish to meet him as well."

Lang Shun stopped. "Oh... Master passed away," he said with a solemn face.

It took Alex a moment to register what he had just heard. "Grand elder... passed away?" he asked. "He had just entered the True Emperor realm when I was last here."

"That was over 30 years ago," Lang Shun said. "Thanks to you, he had managed to improve his life span by a bit, but around 9 years ago, he tried to force a breakthrough because of his ending life span and ended up suffering another Qi Deviation that killed him."

#### Chapter 1264: Meeting Old Friends

"It isn't very surprising since he had already suffered a Qi Deviation before that had become a problem to his longevity. The only reason he even entered the True Emperor realm was thanks to your pills and his longevity had improved a little."

"He had gotten lucky that time around, but... this time he wasn't," Lang Shun said. "After the Qi Deviation, he entered another final closed cultivation to try and breakthrough, but we were informed that he had died during that."

"I see," Alex said. He couldn't help but feel quite sad about it. "And your father, martial uncle. Is he alright?"

"Oh yes, my father is doing perfectly fine. He now lives in Maroon city over to the west. There aren't many people living there, so he enjoys his easy life in a small city where he occasionally makes pills for people," Lang Shun said.

They arrived at the elder's hall and everyone entered. Lang Shun called for some people and one by one they came.

The first to enter was a woman with long flowing hair and bright skin. Her face held no smile, but she was still quite pretty without it.

"Elder Lang, why did you call for me? Do you require some—" her eyes fell on the group that was in the room, especially on Alex.

"Yu Ming?" she asked, her face finally showing some emotion. "Wh-when did you get here?"

"Sister Zhou Mei, I did not expect you to be the first one to arrive. How are you doing?" Alex asked her.

"I'm... I'm doing fine, great even," she said. "How are you doing? You've been gone for nearly 3 decades when you said you would be gone for just half a year or a year at best."

"Oh, I did, didn't I?" Alex gave an awkward smile. "I'm sorry, I ended up getting teleported somewhere I couldn't return from. I have now and I even brought a few people along with me."

The Older Alex couldn't help but be in awe at the person he was looking at. He hadn't realized that he had completely forgotten about her until the very moment Alex spoke of her name. Only then did the memory of a talented girl that was the disciple of the 2nd and 3rd elder come to his mind.

Alex introduced the older Alex to Zhou Mei who had a hard time believing what she was hearing. It took her a moment to get over the disbelief and started talking with him as well. After that, Alex went around introducing his family to her.

They talked with Zhou Mei for a bit, making some small talk in the process. Zhou Mei seemed quite comfortable about it all, especially since she seemed to be close with his mother as well.

Another pair of footsteps rang through the hallway as someone else appeared. "Aaarh!" a screeching voice suddenly filled the room as the woman that appeared ran towards Alex the moment she saw him.

"Mingming! You're back!" she hugged him even while he was seated and only let go of him after a few seconds. She placed her palms on her waist and looked angry. "Where were you all this time? Why didn't you come sooner?"

"It's good to see you, Fanfan," Alex spoke to the newcomer. "How have you been doing?"

"Aside from being extremely angry right now, I'm doing fine," she said before turning her head toward the others. "Who are they?"

"Believe it or not, that's Yu Ming too," Zhou Mei said, pointing at the older Alex.

"What do you mean, Meimei?" Fan Ruogang couldn't understand. Unlike Zhou Mei, it took her a while to believe that the older Alex was also an Alex.

Wan Li walked in during the explanation and was surprised to not just see Alex, but also hear that the older one was him as well.

Fan Ruogang held onto Wan Li's arm and pulled her inside. "Do you believe it, that's Yu Ming too," she said.

"It's certainly unbelievable, but not beyond the realm of possibility," Wan Li said while looking at the older Alex.

"But it's still surprising, isn't it?" Fan Ruogang asked while starting up a conversation with the older Alex to get to know him better.

They talked for a while before a group of footsteps sounded from the hallway. The group turned to see 3 people enter the room.

Of them, two were a middle-aged couple, while the third one was a child.

Alex immediately recognized the couple and was even surprised. What surprised him more was the child in front of them that looked quite similar to the two of them.

"Brother Yu? You're back?"

Kong Yuhan was more than surprised to see Alex in front of him. Zhou Mi gasped in surprise as well when she recognized Alex.

"Brother Kong, Sister Mi, how have you been doing?" he asked.

"Great, great," Kong Yuhan said as he walked inside. "How have you been brother Yu? It's been such a long time that if not for our memories, I would've most likely forgotten how you even looked."

Alex smiled a little. "And who is this?" he asked, looking at the young girl that barely looked like she was 16 years old.

"Oh, this is our daughter," Kong Yuhan said. "Yumin, this is brother Yu Ming. He is the guest elder's son."

"Oh! Greetings, senior Yu Ming," the girl bowed in front of him.

"Yumin, huh?" Alex asked with a puzzled face. "Your name sounds similar to mine. How are you, Yumin?"

"I am doing very good, senior Yu Ming," she answered.

"Hmm, her name is similar to your's isn't it?" Kong Yuhan thought. "What a coincidence."

"She has been following your Alchemy teachings that you left behind for her parents ever since she was born and even I help her a lot of times. Thanks to that and her own hard work, she's managed to reach the top of the current generation of disciples," Helen explained.

Then she turned toward the girl. "Come here Yumin, I want you to meet someone else," Helen called for her and introduced Ronron to her.

Kong Yuhan was surprised that Alex had a daughter, and then he was surprised there was another Alex entirely.

Alex cleared the confusion and also mentioned what his real name was to them. After that, the group fell into a talk that lasted nearly an entire hour.

During this time, Alex explained in brief why he couldn't have come back so many years ago and why it was only now that he was back.

"Your alchemy must have reached another level now, hasn't it?" Zhou Mei asked.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he can make Immortal pills with his eyes closed now," Wan Li said from the side.

Alex smiled. "I will give you a demonstration to show where my alchemy skills have reached later on," he said.

He then turned his head and looked toward the hallway where another person appeared. She was an old older figure, a person in her mid-40s from how she looked. As soon as she appeared, everyone turned to her and bowed.

The woman bowed toward Helen once and then turned to Alex. "Greetings, senior. I am Shao Chun, the current sect leader of the Hong Wu sect."

#### Chapter 1265: Take Away

Alex looked at the woman that had appeared in the room. She wore dark green robes and had shiny black hair that was tied in a bun behind her head.

She bowed in front of the group, especially at Alex who she seemed to recognize the moment she came into the room.

"Greetings," Alex spoke. "And you do not have to call me a senior."

"My apologies, but I am not close to you like the rest of them are, so I cannot bring myself to call you by your name," Shao Chun said. "And I call your mother 'senior' as well, and based on strength alone, I hear you are far beyond her, so I cannot think of anything else I can call you."

"My name is Alex. It's enough to just call me that," Alex said. "It's nice to meet you, sect leader."

"I can't just call you just by your name," the woman said. "I shall continue calling you senior Alex."

Alex sighed. "Very well," he said.

The woman looked around the room and looked at the many people. "Senior Alex, is your reason for coming here just a simple visit or...?" she asked.

"Partly for visit," Alex said.

"Partly?" the woman seemed a little confused. "May I ask what the other reasons are?"

Alex looked at the woman. "Is there something in mind that you were hoping I'm here for?" he asked.

"Not hoping exactly," she said. "I was more so expecting to hear that you came here for your mother. I am expecting you to take her away, am I wrong?"

"You're not wrong," Alex said. "But there's more."

"More?" the woman got curious.

"If they accept, I am willing to take away everyone here and bring them somewhere else," he said.

The woman wasn't expecting that at all and was taken aback. "I beg your pardon?" she asked. "You want to take everyone here away?"

"Are you talking about us?" Wan Li asked.

"Where do you want to take us, Mingming?" Fan Ruogang asked.

The others were surprised and a little hesitant even. Alex looked at Lang Shun and the rest, "I will give you time to think about it and only ask you once I have everything ready. By that time, you will have all the information you could want to make the decision and I will respect any decision you make."

"Where will we be going to if you take us away?" Zhou Mei asked.

"As I mentioned previously, I currently live in the Southern Continent, so I will be taking you there," Alex said. "It's a very faraway place, so you will have to make your choice carefully."

"How long do we have to make the decision?" Kong Yuhan asked.

"Don't worry, you have plenty of time. You might even choose to not go after I'm done with what I came here to do," he said.

"What exactly did you come here to do?" Shao Chun asked.

"Well, first of all, I came to visit my master's grave," Alex said. "After that... well, are you willing to give me full authority over the sect so I can make some changes?"

"Full... authority?" the woman frowned for a moment. That was something that she couldn't give so easily, especially because Alex was an outsider at the moment.

"Are you not willing?" Alex asked.

"Please forgive me, but that is a decision I cannot make alone despite being the sect leader. If you'll excuse me, I will gather the elders to discuss this topic," Shao Chun said and turned to walk away.

"Feel free to take your time," Alex spoke to the leaving sect leader. "We will be by our master's grave while you do so. Also, I can make this promise to you. You will most definitely not be disappointed by what I do after I gain full authority."

The woman stopped for a second, nodded, and walked away while pulling out a medallion.

Lang Shun, Zhou Mei, Wan Li, and Fan Ruogang immediately received a message on their medallion, asking them and every other numbered elder to gather in the Elder's hall immediately.

"Please excuse us," Zhou Mei said and left with the other two.

"I will see you guys later," Lang Shun said and walked away.

Kong Yuhan and Zhou Mi remained with the rest, making Alex and the others look at them. "Do you not need to go, brother Kong?" Alex asked.

"Haha, I'm not a numbered elder, not yet," he said.

"Me neither," Zhou Mi said.

"You two should go and visit your master," Helen said. "We will stay here and wait for you guys to return."

Alex and the older Alex walked away from the room.



The two of them went through the valley, making their way toward the Alchemy garden on the left. As they went there, the older Alex slowed down a little and looked to the right.

"That's... where I stayed, isn't it?" he asked.

Alex looked to the side and realized that he was passing by the sect leader's mountain. "Yes, that's where we lived. I can see that our old house is still there. Do you want to check it out?" he asked.

"Can we go? Isn't the pathway to the mountain guarded?" the older Alex asked.

"Don't worry about that," Alex said and grabbed the older Alex. "Let's go."

The two of them teleported at once, arriving someway up the mountain. The older Alex was disoriented for a moment, but Alex quickly saw the house where he had lived all those years ago.

It hadn't been exactly him that had lived there, but the memories and experience made it so that it was.

The older Alex noticed it as well and made his way toward it.

"Oh, someone is living there," Alex said as they reached outside.

The older Alex nodded when he saw the smoke coming out of the room's chimney. Someone was making pills in there and they shouldn't be disturbing that person.

Alex checked who it was through his spiritual sense and saw a young man inside. "Must be the sect leader's disciple," he said. He could see the rest of the building and smiled a little.

Nothing had changed in there at all. Everything looked the same as it was all those years ago.

He watched the older Alex with a soft smile on his face as he reminisced the time of his past that he had all but forgotten. The flashes of memories that returned to him regarding this place made him happier than visiting the place itself.

"Let's go back," he said after a few moments. "This isn't our place anymore."

Alex nodded and took the older Alex back down to the base of the mountain. From there, they walked over to the alchemy garden that was constantly guarded.

Alex could already feel the thick yin energy in the air around him. He brought out a bit of Yang Qi and covered the older Alex so that his mortal body wouldn't be affected by the Yin Gathering tree he had planted so many years ago, which seemed to have grown to become such a large tree.

The elders gave them free access before they had even asked for it. They were already ordered to do so, so they had no hesitation.

The two Alex walked in and immediately got weird looks from the disciples that were inside. The Alchemy mountain was filled with females that came to cultivate their yin arts, just as Ma Rong had intended all those years ago.

If she were alive, she would have been cultivating under this very tree as well.

The yin aura manifested itself as a thick fog that covered the entire atmosphere. While Alex could see everything more or less clearly, the older Alex with his mortal body couldn't even see past 10 meters away from him.

As they climbed higher, the visibility got worse and worse until he could only see 5 meters away from him.

A few girls tried to stop them and question why two men were there, but they were easily persuaded to let them be when Alex told them that the sect leader had agreed to it.

They seemed to trust the sect leader a lot.

"There," Alex pointed ahead of him and the older Alex looked as well. He couldn't see anything just yet, but as he walked, a small headstone appeared.

Alex saw the headstone and felt his heart grow empty all of a sudden. When he saw past the headstone, there was another mound of land that seemed like a grave as well.

'Grandmaster?' Alex thought, but there was no gravestone, so he didn't believe it was his grandmaster that was buried there.

When he thought about who else it could be, he quickly realized that something was missing. 'Master's pet,' he thought. The snake that was together with Ma Rong was missing.

'I see,' Alex thought. The snake had died as well.

For the past 4 and a half decades, the snake had looked after his master's grave, but during that time, it had also passed away.

Alex sighed, not knowing what to think.

The older Alex didn't seem to care about any of it at all. He took a few steps forward and fell to his knees in front of the grave.

Tears started flowing down his eyes and he planted his forehead on the ground. "Master, please forgive your unfilial disciple for not coming to visit you sooner," he shouted as loudly as he could with regret evident in his voice.

Alex walked next to the older Alex and knelt as well before planting his forehead on the ground.

"I have returned once again, master," he said. "I'm sorry I kept you waiting for so long."

## Chapter 1266: Resonance

The older Alex started speaking first.

"This is the first time I have come here since the funeral, isn't it?" he asked. "I wish I could have come sooner. How have you been doing, master? Are you having fun in the afterlife? Or have you reincarnated already?"

"If you did, I hope you are born as the daughter of someone important like a king or an emperor so you never have to work a day in your life again," he said. "Although, I would love it if when I die, I can be your disciple once again in the next life."

"Do you want to hear how I've been living master? You would have probably worried that I was going to have a hard time, but I didn't," he said. "I have a beautiful wife and an even more beautiful daughter. I can only say that I've been blessed, master. I'm sure you would feel nothing but happiness seeing my life right now."

"And there would be nothing that would make me happier than to see you again," he said. Tears overflowed from his eyes, filling the cracks of his wrinkled skin as they flowed down his cheeks.

Alex patted the old man on his back, consoling him while letting him shed his tears. Unlike him, the old man had never had the chance to speak what he had in his heart for all these years.

The old man started talking about his life and how she had influenced it. He told her that he was a better person today because of her.

Alex nodded as well. He started talking about his own time away as well. It had been 3 decades since he had last come here and there were plenty of stories to tell her about those times.

He didn't have much in his heart that burdened him, unlike the old man, but talking to his master still made him feel relieved.

"It's not a lie when he says you've influenced our lives heavily, master," Alex spoke. "Did you know, every time I visit an auction house, I think about the time you took me to my first auction."

"When I practice Alchemy, I remember your teaching. When talking to strangers, it's your words that remind me to be wary of them, to not show my hands when I'm up against an enemy."

"Following your and master Wen Cheng's teaching has led me to a status far beyond either of you could've ever imagined," he said. "Do you believe it, master? I'm a king, now. King!"

"It's the greatest achievement anyone could have achieved," he said. "I only wished you were here to see that, master."

"Master!" the old man started screaming once more as he cried like he hadn't since his mother's funeral.

Alex couldn't help but tear up hearing the old man's screams as well. He looked up to not let the tears flow, but they fell down his face inevitably.

"Why aren't you here, master? Why did you have to die? Was it my fault?" the older Alex asked.

"I wish you were here, master," Alex said and silently cried as well.

Albeit the same person, the two of them were never similar to each other at all. However, for the first time in their life, they had cried together for the same reason.

They shed tears, one after another, and felt the same emotion at the same time. For the first time, they were closer to each other than they had ever been before.

For the first time since they existed as two, they were the same in mind and body. And thus, for the first time, their souls resonated as if the two Alex were truly just one.

Alex saw two visions at the same time, one clear, one blurry.

In the clear vision, he was looking at his clone who was knelt beside him with his master's grave in front of him.

In the blurry vision, he was looking directly at his master's grave in front of him. He was looking through his clone's eyes.

Then, he heard the man's thoughts, he felt the man's feelings, and soon, he started seeing his memories.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alex looked around nervously while he stood next to a priest by himself. There was a space in front of him and beyond that were a few girls that stood wearing similar pink clothes.

He recognized one of the girls that stood on the other side. What was her name? Sarah, right? Why did he know that name?

Many people were staying in two groups. He saw his parents, uncle and aunt, and his cousin. Then he saw another older woman on the other side that he felt he was close with.

He heard cheers and turned in that direction to see a young Emily walk out in a white gown.

Was that a wedding dress? Of course, it was, what else could it be? It was his wedding after all.

'No, not mine,' Alex thought. He had been through such memories before where he nearly believe he was someone he wasn't. He hadn't died over 100 times in the volcano just to forget who he was seeing someone else's memories.

Still, that was not to say that it wasn't hard to dissociate himself from the memories. He decided to let it play out and soon he was sucked back into believing it was his memory.

Emily walked up to the altar and he smelled the sweet scent of rose from her clothes. Was that what he remembered from back then?

The next portion was a blur in his mind and all he remembered was the kiss and then the memory vanished.

'What's next?' Alex thought.

He saw a memory of his honeymoon where they had gone to the snow resort in the snowy mountains of Plumroot city.

He saw his father working hard in the fields.

He saw Hannah's wedding and who she was married to.

He saw a memory of a very sick Emily that he had to take care of over the night.

Another memory surfaced of a sick Emily, only this time she was slightly older and the memory was a happy one. That was the day they found out that after years of trying, Emily was finally pregnant.

Alex saw the Birth Omen that he had heard about. The sky churned and the winds roared.

He saw the memory of the first time he held his daughter in his hand.

The memories continued. He saw a memory of finding his father in the field. He remembered the first time his daughter walked on her own.

He remembered the first day of his daughter's school life. He remembered the last day his mother breathed in that hospital room.

More and more memories flashed through Alex until he had seen everything that the other him deemed important enough to remember.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alex could probably still see more memories if he wanted to, but... that was not him, was it? This was his clone's life. Even though he had seen it and knew what happened in it, it was not one that he had experienced.

As such, unlike the times his clone had spent in his body, he knew for certain that whatever he saw was not his life.

They were different people and they should remain different.

Alex pulled his consciousness out of his clone's body and shook his head.

He realized that he had now gained the ability to peek into his clone's mind and look through his eyes. Controlling him was not a possibility unless he could suppress the soul itself somehow.

However, Alex couldn't think why he would need to do that. He decided to never do that again and let his clone keep his privacy.

The older Alex hadn't realized at all what had happened. He was still crying all the same in front of his master's grave.

Alex sighed and sat down with a solemn look on his face. His emotions were in slight disarray due to the memories, so he couldn't feel just sadness anymore.

So, he sat there and waited for his clone to pour out his grief onto their master's grave.

Alex looked at the tree that had grown so much since the time he had come back. The Yin Gathering tree's seed was something his master had bought and he had helped her plant it.

He wondered if the essence of his master's yin was absorbed by this plant. After all, she did have a great yin body.



He even guessed that it was a Celestial-grade body.

A Celestial grade Yin body, which had likely evolved from a Divine grade one when she entered the Forbidden Fields.

'How strong would master have been had she not gotten into Alchemy?' he wondered. 'Would she have become a strong fighter? Would she have still been alive if that was the case?'

Alex wondered if she had made a mistake in her life by joining an Alchemy sect. However, thinking about it, if she hadn't joined an alchemy sect, then she would have never been his master.

He smiled a bit when he realized that.

The older Alex had calmed down by now and only sniffled a bit here and there.

"Let us return," Alex said to the old man who nodded.

The older Alex turned toward the grave and bowed. "We will be leaving for now, master, but we'll be back later. I want to talk with you plenty more times," he said.

Alex bowed toward her grave and well and walked away.

The two walked down the alchemy mountain and went back to the Elder's Hall. By the time they got there, the sect master had talked with the elders, and together they had come to a decision.

Alex was to gain full authority of the sect until they decided otherwise.

#### Chapter 1267: Ronron's First Battle

Alex was given a metal medallion that gave him the highest authority over the sect that not even the sect leader had.

If he wanted to, he could even expel disciples or even fire the elders. They knew they couldn't stop him if he wanted to, so they gave him everything he needed.

Alex took the medallion he was handed by Shao Chun and nodded. "It reminds me of when the master gave me full authority back when I was just a disciple," he said and chuckled a bit.

"I remember that somewhat," Shao Chun said. "I was there when that decision was made. Can you tell us what you wish to do at the start?"

"Honestly, I don't really know what I'm going to do," he said. "I have some general idea, but I will have to think for a while and see what I can work with."

"Tomorrow, then?" she asked.

"Sure, I will have thought of something by tomorrow," Alex said. "Honestly, there are a bunch of recipes that I will have to write down so I can pass them along to the sect, and that will take some time."

"Please, take as much time as you will need," the woman said with excitement that she couldn't hide at all.

She let Alex be after that, and Alex took the time to go around the sect with his family. His mother knew the place, but the rest of his family had never been there, so they tried to familiarize themselves.

Even the older Alex didn't know about some of these places, especially the Forbidden Fields that was no more. In its stead was a massive grassland that had many buildings and fighting platforms that had been set up.

Some disciples were training on top of those platforms and seeing that, Ronron could only imagine what it would be like to enter a sect.

"Do you want to fight them?" he asked.

"Wh-what?" she flustered a bit when asked. "You want me to fight them?"

"I'm asking if you want to," Alex said. "It will be just some training. I will try and find someone that can match your cultivation base."

"Can I?" she asked nervously.

"Right, my granddaughter hasn't had the chance to feel what it's like to be a sect disciple, has she?" Helen asked. "Do you want to know?"

"I mean... sure?" she said.

"Alright, starting tomorrow, you will enroll in the Hong Wu sect," Helen said. "We should have enough time for her to experience it all, shouldn't we?"

"It will take a month or so," Liz said. "It's going to take an especially long time since the formation is on the other side of the secret realm, so time is the last thing you will lack here."

"That settles it then," Helen said. "For now, let's get you someone to fight against."

Without even Alex having to do anything, Helen went out by herself and searched for someone appropriate to fight Ronron. Since this was her first fight, Helen found a girl that had similar cultivation as Ronron and asked her to help fight her.

The girl was more than happy to accept the request from the guest elder. She was told to be more of a teacher than a fighter and that was exactly what she did.

As soon as the two of them started fighting, Alex realized two things that surprised him quite a bit.

The first thing he realized was that his daughter could not fight at all. She did not have the awareness a fighter was supposed to have and was rather uncoordinated when she got flustered too.

She had no fighting style at all, which was what surprised him the most. Having trained under the senior Yang for the past 10 years, he had assumed he had taught her how to fight, but it seemed that the only thing she had been taught was how to cultivate and how use skills.

She was good at using skills, but just not good at using them at the right time. She needed a lot of training if she wanted to win any fight.

However, even without fighting experience, Ronron was probably going to win the current fight, which was the second thing that surprised him.

Ronron was strong.

She had no fighting experience and she could only use Wood Qi, but she was still very strong. That was because as she fought her opponent, Alex could see that her output was far stronger than her opponent's.

She could fight people well above her own cultivation realm, just like Alex. Alex didn't know how far above, but it was at least 4 realms based on how the other girl reacted to the skills that she had to block.

The fight continued for a while longer and Alex not only had to care for his daughter's well-being in this fight but also the other girl's. If the other girl wasn't careful, there was a large chance that she would receive a terrible injury.

Ronron was quick to catch on to things and by the end of the fight, she was starting to slowly erase the problems that were causing her to mess up.

Little by little, even without a weapon or a fighting style, just by using her skills properly, she started winning the fight.

The fight ended when Alex appeared on stage and blocked a single vine strike her daughter had sent her opponent's way.

Her opponent had made a mistake at the last second and couldn't use a defensive technique in time.

"Well done," he said. "You won."

Ronron looked at him with a blank face. "I... won?" she asked before her face turned to all smiles. "I won! I did it father, I won."

"Grandma! Grandpa!" she shouted as she ran down the stage.

Alex checked the other girl while Ronron celebrated with the family. After they were done celebrating, he took them to check the rest of the sect.

They arrived next to a bustling river that had a bridge over it that lead to people on the other side of the grassland.

The place that used to be a desert now had trees and grass growing on it. People also stayed on the other side of the river, which gave even Alex a surprise.

The Older Alex couldn't believe that the desert he remembered wasn't there anymore. How things changed in just 50 years.

Alex stared into the distance and saw the desert that still remained. From what he could tell, the desertification was reverting itself and it was doing so starting with the Forbidden Fields and making its way to where the Nine Yang Divine tree was previously located.

Alex remembered the tree and the location. He remembered the ocean there as well. That place had been an important place to him.

That was the place where he had gained his freedom.

When he thought of the location, an idea came to his mind. 'Maybe,' he thought. He had been searching for a place where he could act on his plans, but he couldn't find anywhere he liked.

However, now that he was here, it was obvious to him that this should have been his choice from the very first day.

"This is it," he said to himself. "I should get the materials ready."

#### Chapter 1268: Evening Gathering

"Sorry we're late," Wen Cheng said as he walked into the house. "Hmm? Oh, we're the first one to come?"

"Master, come in," Alex said and saw the woman next to him. "Senior Cai Ping, greetings."

"Alchemist Yu," the woman greeted. "I didn't think I would get to meet you so soon. I only just recently found out that you disciplined under my husband as well."

"Oh, I thought more people knew that," Alex said.

"Only the people from the sect knew that," Wen Cheng said. "People from the outside were mostly unsure of everything."

"I see," Alex said. "Anyway, senior Cai. How have you been doing these days? Last I saw you was some 5 decades ago, wasn't it?"

"I've been doing fine," the woman spoke. "The years have been mostly mundane, but I managed to get promoted to becoming the head of the Pink Cloud auction house of this city, so my days have passed by without becoming too boring."

"How did you guys meet?" Alex asked. "Or rather, how did you get close?"

"Well, since Luo Mei returned and Liu Xun got promoted from his post, I couldn't find anything to do in the sect at all. I wasn't planning on taking another disciple, so I instead started handling outside relations."

"As a result, I had to frequently visit the various auction houses. Being the best one there is, I had to visit the Pink Cloud auction house the most. We were acquainted for a long time, but meeting week after week got us closer."

"Then, one day I decided to ask her to marry me and she accepted," Wen Cheng said happily.

Alex smiled. "Once again, congratulations on the marriage," he said.

He took the two of them into the house and let them talk with the rest of his family.

After leaving the Hong Wu sect around the evening, they had come to the small house that his mother stayed in.

Alex only considered it small based on the places he was used to living these days, and in truth, the house was far larger than even the mansion back on the farm.

Once his master and Cai Ping settled in, another pair arrived outside the door. Alex quickly opened the door and smiled widely when he saw his senior sister and her husband.

"Brother Yuhan!" he shouted and stopped. "No wait. Brother-in-law!" He opened his arms wide and went in for a hug.

Du Yuhan wasn't expecting any of that at all, so when he was hugged, he involuntarily tried to push Alex away. Unfortunately for him, Alex was simply too strong to be pushed away by a True King realm cultivator like him.

Alex let go of him a second later and turned around to see his senior sister snickering a little. "What?" he asked.

"He was nervous about meeting you again after so long and the first thing you do is hug him. Look at how flustered he's gotten," Luo Mei said and held onto Du Yuhan's hands. "I told you. He hasn't changed much. He's still the same person."

"I guess so," Du Yuhan said and turned to Alex. "I hear you went through quite a bit of trouble to get back here. Have you been doing alright?"

"I'm splendid," Alex said. "What about you, brother-in-law? How have you been? You've been treating my senior sister well, right?"

"I don't think I can even treat her wrong if I wanted to," he said. "She has her master and senior brother to fall back on if I ever did anything to hurt her."

"Now she has another brother too," Alex said. "Come on in, you must've heard there's another me too, right? Let me take you to meet him."

The three of them entered and joined the group. They started talking within themselves and after a while, Liu Xun joined them as well.

The group started asking Alex questions about his travels, and although he had spoken about them multiple times just that day already, he still told them all about it all over again.

They had known where he had been to these past few decades from his family, but hearing about his journey and how he got there was interesting on its own. Hearing how he became a King was even more surprising to them.

"Right, where's Scarlet?" Graham asked. "I thought you would bring her to introduce her to your mother."

"I was planning to, but she is more interested in being with the White Tiger right now. She must be curious about her home, so she couldn't come with us this time around," he said. "I will probably bring her the next time I come back."



"You are going to leave again?" Wen Cheng asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I need to take aunt back there to help with the teleportation formation, while I, myself, have to be there for Pearl. On top of that, I have a few things I have to take care of on the other side and only then can I really be free to stay here without any worry."

"Are you going to the Luminance empire?" Helen asked. "Can I go there too?"

"You want to go back there?" he asked.

"I need to meet my master. He helped me so much, so I should at least thank him before I leave, shouldn't I?" Helen asked. "I also wish to see the sect one last time."

"Hmm, that should be fine," Alex said. "I will take you too then."

"Oh... will you be going there tomorrow?" Luo Mei asked.

"No, we have about a week before we need to return," Alex said. "I will be spending the next week between the two sects."

"By the way, young brother," Liu Xun asked. "Do you have anything interesting that you can give us? Some unique pills you found on your journey?"

Alex smiled and even chuckled a bit. "Of course I do," he said. "Let's see... these two pills should help you the most."

He brought out two pill bottles and started handing around the pills throughout the room. Aside from Graham, his clone, and his daughter, everyone else got the pills and looked at them curiously to try and figure out what they were.

"These pills improve your Earth spiritual root and Water Spiritual root. If you have either of those roots, you should eat the corresponding pill and cultivate tonight," Alex explained.

"They do what?" Cai Ping looked at the pill with a surprised look on her face. "How can that be?"

The others weren't very surprised as they had seen a similar pill before.

"Well, this one is not for me," Luo Mei said and handed back one of the pills. As she only had a Superior water spiritual root, she didn't need the pill to improve her nonexistent earth spiritual root.

Even the water pill wouldn't help her much because of how good her Water spiritual root was, to begin with, but she still took it.

The rest of them accepted the pill and were more than fascinated with it.

"What are these lines?" Wen Cheng asked while pointing at the pill veins.

"Those are called Pill Veins," Alex explained. "You don't have to worry about those for now. Just eat the pills after you return tonight."

#### Chapter 1269: Ronron's Morning

Ronron opened her eyes early in the morning as her cultivation session came to an end. She could almost see the slight bit of green in the air around her that blinked in and out of existence in her vision.

She was sitting inside a formation created by her master that was used to separate just the wood energy from all the energy that was inside the formation.

Most of the time, there would be some sort of Wood elemental treasure that she had inside the formation, but this time around, it was just regular Qi that was being filtered with the formation.

As such, she didn't have that much wood Qi to cultivate with and her night-long cultivation session hadn't had much effect on her.

She closed the formation plate and walked out of the room she was in. She looked around the corridor and heard some sounds coming from outside.

She walked out and saw her father training in the front yard of the house. He was playing around with the golden spears that he had learned to make back in the Northern Continent.

"What are you doing father? Are you not cultivating?" she asked as she walked outside.

Alex stopped practicing his skills for a second and looked toward Ronron. "I'm just training," he said.

"Training? Those spears? I thought you were already good with those," she said.

"I am, but I am training for something else. I'm trying to merge two techniques, and for that, I need to learn as much as I can about this one technique," Alex said.

"Okay," Ronron responded simply, not understanding what exactly it was that he meant by it all. Merging techniques? What would that exactly achieve?

She wondered if she should train as well.

"What are you doing so early? Did you not sleep?" Alex asked.

"No, I was cultivating," Ronron said. "Besides, it's already morning. You can't really call it early."

"It's still early," Alex said. "Go back and rest for a bit."

"No, I can't," Ronron said. "I need to get ready. Grandma is taking me to get enrolled into the sect."

"Oh right, I nearly forgot about that," Alex said. "Do you need anything before you go?"

"No, I'm alright," Ronron said. "Besides, isn't it better to not be prepared for it if what I want is experience?"

"You're right," Alex said. "Still, take Whisker with you."

The small, gray mouse jumped out of Alex's shoulders and jumped onto Ronron's shoulders.

"But... I thought I was supposed to experience it all alone," Ronron said.

"He won't involve himself with anything," Alex said. "He's simply there for protection. That saint might still come back for some revenge, so I must be ready for it all. Do you still have that blood core I gave you?"

"Yes, it's in my storage bag," Ronron said.

"Good," Alex said. "Also, tell grandma to take you to the Tiger sect instead of the Hong Wu sect. I don't know how good Hong Wu sect's combat division is, but it's definitely worse than the Tiger sect since the Tiger sect exclusively focuses on one's cultivation."

Ronron nodded. "Okay," she said and walked away with Whisker. She went over to her Papa's room, but he was still sleeping, so she let him be.

"Oh, grandaunt, you're up early too," she said when she saw Liz.

"So are you. What are you doing outside?" Liz asked.

"Father is training outside. I was just with him," Ronron said.

"That little... he can't just enjoy a few days without doing something, can he?" Liz spoke with an angry look. "I need to give him a piece of my mind."

Liz stormed off, leaving Ronron by herself. Ronron shrugged and walked away to find her grandma.

She found her grandma along with her grandpa in their room. "Grandma~! Grandpa~! Good morning," Ronron spoke as she entered the room.

"Good morning, Ronron," Helen spoke.

"Good morning," Graham responded as well.

"You guys are up already too, huh?" Ronron said. "Does no one besides papa sleep in this family?"

The two grandparents chuckled at her question. "That's just how cultivators are. We don't need sleep and can go without it forever as simple cultivation easily replaces sleep for all of us. Stay in these places long enough and you will realize that too."

"Is that so?" Ronron asked. "Oh right, when are we going to the sect? Father told me that it's better if I enrolled in the Tiger sect instead of the Hong Wu sect. He says that sect is a better fit for me."

Helen frowned a little. "Did he say why it's a better fit?" she asked.

"Yes, he said it's a better sect if I intend to completely focus on cultivation alone," Ronron said.

"Then he's wrong," Helen said. "He knows nothing about the current situation of the sects in detail to make such decisions. Hong Wu sect is better for you."

"Is that so?" Ronron asked. She didn't really care which sect it was. As long as she got to enter one, she would be more than happy. "When do we leave?"

"Are you that desperate to leave?" Graham asked while laughing a little.

"I've never experienced what it's like to be in a sect, so I'm very much looking forward to it, Grandpa," she said. "It must be something special since so many people join one."

"Hmm, I don't know," Graham said. "I never joined a sect before."

"Really? Do you want to join one with me then? You might be able to join just by saying you started cultivating very late," Ronron said.

"No, no, I have no intention of joining any sect. You go and have fun," he said.

"Okay," Ronron said and turned to her grandma. "So, when do we leave?"

"Go tell everyone goodbye. You likely won't see them for an entire month once you join," Helen said.

"Okay," Ronron excitedly said and walked away from the room.

Helen was surprised to see her granddaughter leave the room excitedly. "Was she excited at the prospect of never having to see us again?" she asked.

"No, she's just excited about getting to join a sect," Graham said.

"But she didn't even react to the fact that she won't be seeing us for over a month," Helen said.

"Why would she?" Graham said. "After all, she's used to spending her time away from her family for months on end."

Ronron went around to say goodbye. She went back to the front yard to see if her father was being scolded by his aunt, but somehow he had instead gotten his aunt to train with him instead.

"What happened to just enjoying the days?" she thought to herself. She said her goodbyes to the two before going to her father's room.

She woke her up and told him what she was doing.

"Don't worry about me and go. I will be fine," the older Alex told her.

"You won't be lonely, right papa?" she asked.

"How can I be lonely? I have so many people around me," the older Alex said.

"Okay, then I will see you in a month," Ronron said and went back to her grandma's room.

Helen had been waiting for her to return. Once she was back, the two of them left for the Hong Wu sect where Ronron was going to enroll in the combat section of the sect for the next month.

#### Chapter 1270: Returning

With Ronron off to the sect with his mother, and his clone and aunt off to the city with his father, Alex was alone in the house and finally had some time to work on the pills.

He had spent the previous night going through what he needed to do while he was here. There were mainly three things he thought he needed to do, one of which he wanted to do before he left for the Luminance Empire.

The first one was to provide some alchemy lectures in the Hong Wu sect, which would help everyone evolve into better Alchemists.

The second one was to provide pill recipes that he had perfected over the course of the past few decades.

Finally, the third thing he needed to do, he decided to do so immediately.

Unlike the Hong Wu sect, Alex hadn't had the authority to make changes to the Tiger sect, so he had to start with the Hong Wu sect.

He left the house and went over to the Hong Wu sect where he met up with the sect leader Shao Chun to discuss a few things.

"You... you are really going to do this?" she asked with an expression on her face that was beyond just shocked.

She couldn't imagine something like this was even possible for someone to have and walk around with. Were the lands beyond the ocean that much better than just anyone could walk around with these things?

"Where do you think is the best place for it?" Alex asked.

"I... " Shao Chun had to make the decision very carefully. "Past the river."

"Past the river? Are you sure?" Alex asked.

"Absolutely," she said. "That is the best place."

"Alright," Alex said. "Then I shall head over there and get started in a few minutes. Please inform the disciples to not cross the river in the meantime."

"Right away," Shao Chun said and got to work.

Alex went by a few minutes later and the entire area past the river in the Forbidden Fields was devoid of any students.

Shao Chun flew in the distance and watched Alex. Alex carefully checked the ground below him before he could start.



There were a few requirements for the type of land for it to work. The land had to be soft, there shouldn't be any pockets of water underneath and finally, there shouldn't be another spirit vein down below.

After all, what Alex was going to do was place a saint spirit vein of his own into the ground below.

Shao Chun had chosen this location since it was the furthest away from any civilization and could thus be used by the sect before the Qi in the saint spirit vein could reach elsewhere.

The ground below had restored itself not long ago from being a desert, but the deep underground was still mostly dry and fluffy, without any massive rocks in it.

And because of the Nine Yang Divine Tree's dominating aura, all spirit veins in the area seemed to have been destroyed in the thousand years it had taken for the fruit to ripen.

As such, the ground below was perfect.

Alex placed his palm facing the ground and pushed the air. The ground below him caved as a large plume of sand flew into the sky, surprising everyone. He flexed his palm a little, testing out if he had lost any strength.

From what he could see, getting rid of his White Tiger's blood hadn't negatively affected him in any way other than simply his blood aura, which was now just a few realms above his own cultivation base.

Besides his physical body, his blood was now the second worst among his 5 types of strength.

Sword Aura came in third in overall strength and his Qi came in 2nd with his cultivation base being equivalent to a Saint Core 9th realm in terms of strength.

Finally, it was his Dao that was the main source of his strength at the moment.

Alex pulled out one of the many storage bags he had brought along from the Southern Continent. All of these bags contained spirit veins that he had brought back to return to the Western Continent.

Ever since he had learned about the war that took place between the Western Continent and the other 3 continents, he had felt bad about the Western Continent having to lose so much during the war.

When in Southern Continent, he had stripped away the stolen saint spirit veins so he could return them to the Western Continent when he had the chance. Now that he had, he had brought back the 56 saint spirit veins so he could give it back to the Western Continent.

However, before he came back, he had come across another problem with returning the spirit veins.

Who exactly did he return them to?

The Western Continent wasn't under a single rule, so he couldn't return it to just one group. Then did he return half to the Crimson Empire and a half to the Luminance empire?

That would make sense but one needed it more than the other. So he had wondered if he should give the Crimson Empire more veins than the Luminance empire.

Also, what about the beast realm? The beast realm was a significant portion of the land in the Western Continent and they were the true rulers too, but they held no power anymore either.

All these problems had caused Alex quite a bit of a headache as there was no one else to make the decision for him.

That was of course until Alex returned and found out that the Western Continent did in fact have someone that could represent all of it.

Bai Jingshen.

So, he returned the spirit veins to Bai Jingshen. However, the white tiger didn't want those spirit veins at all. The beast realm hadn't lost many saint spirit veins, so he didn't need it back.

"Then what do I do with it?" Alex had asked him. The answer he got back was almost mind-opening for him.

"Do whatever you want."

Whatever he wanted. Alex hadn't considered he could do what he wanted with these spirit veins as he didn't believe they were his own. However, now that the ruler of the continent had given him permission, he was doing whatever he wanted with these spirit veins.

The long, white worm-like spirit veins with myriad different roots came out of the storage bag and fell to the ground below him where he had made a hole just before.

There needed to be no order to the way a spirit vein was placed, so Alex simply placed it in the hole and quickly covered the hole.

Once it was covered, he floated down to the ground and waited for it. Shao Chun landed next to him as well and looked around. "Is it done?" she asked.

"Hmm..." Alex didn't immediately answer and waited for it. The sect leader was worried that something had gone wrong, but seeing Alex suddenly smile, she retracted her worry.

"It's done," he said. "It has started giving off Saint Qi."

Shao Chun's eyes went wide in surprise. She knew what was happening, but she still couldn't believe that it had happened.

"Congratulations," Alex said. "Now you and the rest have a chance to enter the Saint realm as well."