

## Alchemy 1281

### Chapter 1281: At The Same Time

Blood Aura was nothing more than just Qi. It was Qi that had transformed inside a human or beast's body and embedded itself into one's blood thanks to the Blood Essence.

Blood Aura could not be freely converted into Qi, but it was possible if one used some techniques that allowed for it. This usually applied to blood aura outside of one's body, but there were secret techniques or forbidden ones that allowed for the blood aura in one's own body to be changed into Qi.

However, that was something very rare and only a handful of techniques existed that made it possible for someone to use it like that.

Conversely, no techniques existed that could turn Qi into a blood aura. It took time for the Qi in one's body or the surroundings to be absorbed by the Blood Essence to turn into blood aura.

There were techniques that could speed up the process, even by just a bit. However, none were significant enough to say that they made enough of a difference in the conversion. At least, not to the point where it could be useful in a moment of need such as a life-threatening moment.

However, just because there was no technique to do so did not mean that it could not be done.

Aside from body constitutions that allowed for something like that, there was a single way to convert Qi into Blood Aura.

And that was...

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Bai Jingshen stayed in his massive quarter doing nothing as he couldn't even cultivate. There was no Qi in this realm that could help him cultivate at all, so all he could do was spend time with his wives and concubines.

However, at the moment, he was alone. He had wanted to be alone.

That was because he wanted to see just what was going to happen, or if something even was going to happen.

For the past week, the heavens acted as if they would descend multiple times. There were only two instances where that sort of phenomenon could happen.

The first possibility was that someone had tried to learn a Dao and had failed. Bai Jingshen didn't believe that was the case here at all. He would imagine a person would stop after the second or third failure and try something later.

So, the only other possibility was that someone was breaking through to a higher realm.

Breaking through and learning a dao brought about a similar phenomenon. It was why many people mistook someone for breaking through when in fact they had learned a dao.

The phenomenon was happening once more in front of Bai Jingshen and he understood that someone was breaking through to the next realm.

He also understood that someone was none other than Alex.

Normally, he wouldn't be curious about someone breaking through at all, however, this instance was unique. After all, he had never seen someone do it multiple times in such a short time while also knowing they were fine with breaking through without stopping.

Because doing so gave one an opportunity that most people wouldn't get in a lifetime.

Because he had been breaking through multiple times in the short period, he had felt the heavens descend multiple times in the short period.

Because the heavens were also the worldly laws, Alex got to take a peek into them multiple times.

Because of that, Bai Jingshen could only imagine if what he was thinking was going to happen at all. He had wondered if that would happen multiple times during the past few days when the phenomenon had occurred.

However, it looked like it was only today that it was going to happen.

"It's starting," he said to himself with quite a bit of surprise. It wasn't every day that someone got to see someone learn a dao due to getting to take a peak into the worldly laws multiple times.

Bai Jingshen could only watch excitedly as the worldly laws descended and remained there for a while. He tried to look into it, to see which of the law it was that was being taken from and learned.

However, it didn't look like it was a law that he understood at all. Alex was learning a dao that he had no idea about.

Around the palace and even beyond it, the beasts were surprised to see that someone was learning a dao. It wasn't every day they got to see that either here.

Liz and Hao Ya had only just returned from the location of the formation when they too noticed it.

"Someone's learning a dao," Hao Ya couldn't help but say.

"Hmm, learning a dao without going to the Dao mountain is not an easy task," Liz said. "I wonder if it's Alex that's doing it."

"Another one, huh?" Scarlet looked to the sky with nothing but shock in her eyes. "At this rate, he's going to catch up to me very soon."

Helen could only imagine what was even happening. She knew about Dao, but she had yet to learn a single one. So, she could only watch and pray that her son succeeded in learning the dao.

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Alex was having the weirdest sensation right now. Never before had he tried to break through and learn dao at the same time.

He would've assumed that splitting his attention to either would cause him to fail both, however, there seemed to be harmony in what he was doing.

Learning the dao seemed to make his breakthrough easier while breaking through seemed to make learning the dao easier.

Thanks to both sides aiding each other, Alex was easily getting across both hurdles at the same time.

The worldly laws seemed to transcend space and time, completely disregarding the time manipulation in the room to make contact with Alex.

His golden core that was in his dantian had grown each time he broke through. By now, it was less than half the size of the dantian and was only growing to become half the size as the breakthrough was underway.

With each breakthrough, the connection his spirit held with his body was getting thinner and thinner. More and more of it was dragged into his golden core, where it would remain until it was time to break free as a beautiful nascent soul.

At the same time, Alex was peeking past the veil of worldly laws, unraveling the one thread of the loom he had caught on to. With each passing instance, he was learning more and more.

Blood aura and Qi were the very same thing in essence, and yet it wasn't easy for them to take the form of each other.

Blood aura required extremely rare or dangerous techniques to turn into Qi, and Qi could not be converted into blood aura unless the person had a physique that allowed for it.

However, Alex was now learning how to do exactly that without the help of any body constitution or forbidden techniques.

The moment he learned that which was hidden in the veiled worldly laws, his golden reached a size that was exactly half the size of his dantian.

As such in one single moment, Alex reached the Saint Core 5th realm and also learned the Dao of Blood Aura.

#### Chapter 1282: New Plan

Learning the Dao of Blood Aura made it easy for Alex to absorb the remaining immortal blood as quickly as he could. The aura behind the blood without any intent was no longer capable of threatening him as it did before.

Alex walked out of the room sometime later and was surprised to see Bai Jingshen waiting for him outside.

"Brother Shen? What are you doing here?" he couldn't help but ask.

"I was waiting for you to come out," Bai Jingshen said. "I wanted to ask a few questions."

"Oh, okay," Alex said.

Bai Jingshen carefully looked at Alex and nodded to himself. "You don't feel anything wrong with your body, do you? You did breakthrough 5 times in a row in a small period of time," he said

"I'm... mostly fine," Alex said. "I probably need to spend a few weeks or even months cultivating to make sure there are no problems, but there isn't anything wrong with the cultivation base itself."

"It was probably because absorbing so much blood was a daring task, it sort of fixed most of the problems that came with breaking through too quickly."

Bai Jingshen nodded after hearing that. "That's a relief," he said. "It would be bad if you made cracks in your foundation at this stage."

"I know, brother Shen. I would've stopped if I had felt something was wrong," Alex said.

"Oh yeah, congratulations on learning a new dao," Bai Jingshen said. "If you don't mind, what dao did you learn exactly?"

"It's the dao of Blood aura," Alex explained. "I should be thanking you for that actually. If not for the immortal blood that was almost impossible to absorb, I wouldn't have to force myself into trying so hard. Because of that, I ended up learning the mysteries behind the blood aura and now learned its dao."

Bai Jingshen was surprised to hear that. "I thought it was only the worldly laws that helped you, but I'm happy to hear I could be of some help too," he said. "Did you absorb all of it?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I absorbed the most I could into my cultivation base and absorbed the rest into my blood. Although, I'm not certain I absorbed it all. There was just too much and I might have missed a lot of it."

"As long as you absorbed the most you could, that's fine," Bai Jingshen said. "Alright, come with me and rest a little."

Alex nodded and walked along with Bai Jingshen as he was taken to the garden aboveground.

"Is Pearl..."

"Not yet," Bai Jingshen said. "It seems he wants to take his sweet time."

Alex felt a little dejected when he heard that. "How long was I inside exactly?" he asked.

"Uhh... about a week or so," Bai Jingshen said.

"Huh..." Alex thought. He felt as if he was in there for months. It was truly something to cultivate in rooms with intense time dilation. "Do you know why everyone doesn't just cultivate in rooms with time dilation, Brother Shen? That seems like an obvious choice."

"Because your progress would mostly remain the same," Bai Jingshen said. "Just think about what you need to cultivate. There are 2."

Alex thought for a moment. As he did, the answer to his question suddenly became obvious.

"Ah, I see," he said. "Qi takes time to get into a room, huh?"

Bai Jingshen nodded in response.

Cultivating in a room where time moved faster than it did outside was not fruitful since you would quickly run out of Qi in the room and the Qi outside wouldn't be able to replace it in time.

As a result, even if you could cultivate faster, the resource necessary for cultivation itself remained the same overall.

Unless you had a lot of spirit stones or treasures to aid your cultivation, cultivating in such conditions made little to no difference at all.

'No wonder no one really uses it,' he thought. 'Even a saint will have to use thousands of saint spirit stones to make any use out of the sped-up time.'

Cultivating in such a way was a drain on resources when others could gain the same result without using any. Alex himself could only make use of the sped-up time because he had so much blood to make use of.

"Oh right, the teleport formation was fixed yesterday. We are ready to send everyone away," Bai Jingshen said.

"Is that so," Alex said. "Has anyone been sent to inform the humans about it?"

"We are going to today," Bai Jingshen. "Hao Ya is ready to leave to talk with the humans in the Crimson Empire. I will most likely go and talk with the human from the Luminance empire."

"Do you want to go yourself?" Alex asked with a surprised look.

"Not really," Bai Jingshen said. "But I just thought it might be the quickest way."

"Oh, then you don't have to bother. I'm going to the Luminance Empire anyway, so I can do that while I am there," Alex said.

"Are you sure?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Although, I might have to stop making pills for a while."

"Don't worry about the pills," Bai Jingshen said. "There will be plenty of time to make those after you come back. After all, it isn't so easy to gather all the humans from those two backwater empires. It will take days for the news to even travel everywhere and weeks for everyone to gather back here."

Alex nodded in understanding. He knew it would take a long time from the very start. They had planned for all of it after all.

The two talked while they arrived out in the outer garden. Helen, Scarlet, and the others were waiting for Alex to come out.

"Wow! You really did break through to the Saint Core 5th realm huh?" Scarlet couldn't help but say. "Is your foundation stable?"



"Stable enough," Alex answered.

"What was that dao?" Hao Ya couldn't help but ask. "You did learn a dao, right?"

"Yes, dao of Blood Aura," Alex explained.

"Blood aura?" Neither Liz nor Hao Ya understood what it meant to know dao of such an aura. "Is it useful?"

"It's useful to me," Alex said. "I can't tell how useful it can be in battle just yet, but I have no doubts it will be."

"It's a unique dao for sure," Scarlet said.

"Anyway, I heard you two were able to fix the teleportation formation," Alex said. "We got a message back from senior Yang?"

"Yes, we are ready to go," Hao Ya said. "I'm going over to talk to the emperor of the empire in the north."

"We?" Alex looked around. "Oh, are you going too, Aunt Liz?"

Liz nodded. "After we're done informing, I'll go stay with Ronron and the rest until you guys return," she said.

"Alright," Alex said. "That might be for the best."

As they talked for a bit, a plan started forming. Alex and Helen were going to go to the Luminance Empire while Liz and Hao Ya would deal with the Crimson Empire.

Once they were all prepared, they got ready to leave as soon as possible.

"I'm coming with you," Scarlet said and became as small as a parrot before climbing onto Alex's shoulders. "I've been here too long and I want to see what the rest of this continent looks like."

"Sure," Alex said. "Let's go."

### Chapter 1283: Radiant City

Alex, Scarlet, and Helen walked out of the formation they had just teleported to.

"It's good to be back," Helen said as she looked at the jungle she had been around quite a few times by now. "The Riverweed town is just ahead of us, right?"

Alex nodded. The name took him back to the first time he had come to the Luminance empire. After having spent a few days cultivating in the forest, he had walked out to the Riverweed town where he had learned most of the things he needed to about the Luminance empire.

There he had learned about geography, cities, people, and culture of the Luminance Empire. It was also this city where he had met Bai Jingshen or as he had introduced himself back then, Shen Jing before they went on an adventure of their own.

"Do you want to visit the town?" Helen asked.

"No," Alex said. "I'm afraid we don't have that luxury. We will need to go to the Radiant City as soon as we can so that the news spreads faster."

Helen nodded as she thought that was their best course of action as well. "Should we find a city with a teleport then?" she asked.

Alex thought for a bit and shook his head. "We don't know how long it will take to teleport," he said. "As far as I remember, they have a fixed schedule for which city they can teleport to. I think it is better if we just fly our way to the Radiant City."

"Just hurry up already," Scarlet spoke with an annoyed face. She still stood on Alex's shoulders like she always did while impatiently waiting for the two to start moving.

Alex pulled out his boat and got on top of it before flying away. The boat flew quickly through the air at a speed that could only be reached by someone high up in the Saint realm.

However, even this speed was nothing compared to what Bai Jingshen could move at while carrying him. 'God, how did I not realize he was an Immortal back then?' he wondered to himself. In hindsight, everything seemed so obvious.

The land below them moved by in a blur while even the mountains far away moved at a relatively quick speed. Most people didn't even notice that someone had flown past them because of how fast they were going.

Few saints that were staying in the cities that were along the way did notice them. However, because of how fast it all was, they did not dare come out to stop it. They did not want to risk their life just to see who it was.

Alex didn't know where the Radiant city was exactly direction-wise, so he couldn't beeline to the city. Instead, he had to take a slightly longer path wherein he had to fix his route multiple times before he was actually headed towards the Radiant city.

It was close to evening by the time the three had arrived outside of the city.

Alex quickly got out boat along with his mother and made his way into the city. They easily walked into the city without anyone stopping them at all.

As they walked, Alex saw the many Lightsworns that walked the streets of the Radiant City. They were the people that kept peace and order in the city as they worked directly under the Emperor himself.

Alex looked around at the city where nothing seemed to have changed and yet everything was so different. Both he and his mother couldn't help but be surprised by all of this.

Without stopping anywhere, they arrived by the royal palace. As expected, the two of them were stopped by the guards, not allowing them to walk inside immediately.

"Let your emperor know that the King and Ruler of the Southern Continent are here to see him," Alex said to the guards.

As expected, the guards looked at him weirdly, not trusting his words at all. The fault didn't lie with them as what Alex had claimed was clearly nonsensical to them after all. There was no way for any of them to either believe or even verify if what was said was true at all.

"Huh?" a voice spoke from not far away. "Brother Yu Ming? Is that you?"

Alex and Helen turned around to see a young woman in purple Wei clan robes standing not far away from them. The young woman stared at Alex, trying to figure out if he was who she was thinking he was.

Alex looked at the young woman as well and tried to remember if he had ever seen this woman before. His eyes brightened in surprise when he finally recognized who it was.

"Are you... Fang Shurin?" he asked the young woman in front of me.

"Woah, is it really you, brother?" she asked as she quickly rushed in close. "I would have never thought I would get to see you again. They said you had most likely died in the Demon realm."

The young woman was clearly shocked to see him alive and well.

"No, I managed to survive," Alex said. "How are you doing, Shurin? I can't believe you've grown so much in just 3 decades. I nearly didn't recognize you."

The young woman smiled happily.

Fang Shurin had been the first person Alex had met in the palace aside from the Emperor and Princess Xumei. She had been his servant while he was the royal alchemist and helped him with anything and everything he asked for.

Back then, she was barely a teenager who had started cultivation at a young age. So even at that age, she looked particularly young. However, now that over 3 decades had passed since then, it seemed as though she had grown quite a lot in that time.

She had become a fine young woman.

"When did you come back, brother Yu?" she asked curiously. "Where have you been this entire time?"

The guards were listening to their conversation as well, and as Alex's fake name was thrown around, they started understanding just who they were talking to.

The young man named Yu Ming had been a legend in the Luminance empire. He had appeared just as quickly as he had disappeared, and in that short time, he had managed to rock the entire empire.

Yu Ming was a Heaven rank Talisman creator, Heaven rank Formation master, and most importantly, the first Immortal rank Alchemist, whose pills had shocked the world.

These guards remembered the Alchemy competition vividly and how amazing the final pill had been.

Not only that, but they also remembered the combat competition that had taken place that year before the incident where the young alchemist had taken 3rd place, despite many stronger cultivators being around at the time.

And then after that, it was because of his absence that so many sect leaders and family heads had died at the hands of those beasts that brought nothing but terror to the empire.

The guards quickly bowed toward Alex. "We're sorry for not recognizing you, senior. Please wait around, we will go relay the information right now."

One of the guards left at once to go tell their emperor that their legend had returned.

#### Chapter 1284: The Message

While the guard went to inform the emperor, Alex and Helen struck up a conversation with Shurin.

Shurin spoke more than the two combined, clearly curious about what both of them had been doing this entire time. She didn't know Helen like she did Alex, but even so, she had met Helen back when she had stayed in the palace for a couple of days.

Shurin could not believe it at all when Alex told her that he was in not one, not two, but rather 3 different continents in just the past 30 years. That sort of information wasn't something that could be digested so easily at all, especially by someone who hadn't left the capital city their entire life.

Shurin asked a few more questions to find out more, but before Alex could answer, the guard returned. And with him was another familiar face.

Alex turned towards the woman that had appeared and smiled. "Princess Xumei, I see you're doing quite well," he said as he looked at the woman who couldn't hide her shock at all.

Wei Xumei hadn't changed much in the past 30 years. She had already been a young adult when Alex had met her, and in the last 3 decades, she seemed to have gotten older by just a couple of years. That was nowhere near enough to make her look different from what she did usually.

"Alchemist Yu, you really did return," she said, still very shocked to see his in front of her. "I had not believed the news when I had heard it."

"It's good to see you, Princess Xumei," Alex said.

Helen greeted her as well and was greeted back.

"Please come with me," the princess said and quickly walked away. Alex and Helen followed her, with Shurin quickly leaving them and going her own way.

Alex looked around the palace and noticed that nothing much had changed here at all, and yet the fancy stuff that looked so expensive back then no longer seemed fancy at all.

While the palace hadn't changed at all, Alex had. He now lived in a palace as well, and one that looked far more extravagant than this one. As a result, nothing looked amazing to him anymore.

They arrived outside the throne room and stood in front of the shut-down door. Xumei knocked on the door and the door suddenly opened up.

Xumei walked into the throne room with Alex and his mother right behind her. It wasn't just the Emperor that was in the room. Along with him, there were many ministers and court officials in the room as well, all of whom seemed to be curious to see Alex.

They all stared at him, not sparing a single glance at Helen who was behind him or even Scarlet who was on his shoulder.

"Your majesty," the princess bowed a bit toward her father and moved to the side so he could see Alex fully.

"Greetings," Alex spoke first.

The emperor watched in absolute shock that someone who had disappeared in the Demon realm so long ago had returned alive. The court officials were quite surprised too, however, something else caught their attention.

"Hey! Bow in front of the Emperor," one of them said. As soon as that one spoke, the rest followed along, saying the same thing as well.

Helen naturally started bowing, but Alex stopped her before she completed her full bow. Just half a bow would suffice in her case. In his case, he wouldn't even bow.

The ministers and court officials got even rowdier seeing that Alex was completely ignoring the lot of them and was simply smiling toward the front at the emperor, who couldn't think of what to do.

In the end, Alex sighed. "I'm assuming the guard that was supposed to be bringing you the message of my arrival didn't give you the one that I wanted to pass along, did he?" he asked the emperor.

"What... what was the message?" the emperor asked.

"It doesn't matter, your majesty," one of the officials spoke. "No message can stop someone from respecting you as you deserve."

Alex ignored the cries of the ones around him and simply stared at the emperor who sat on his throne.

"I am Alex, King of the Southern Continent," he said simply.

The sound from around the room vanished completely for a few seconds before laughter burst into the scene from every direction. None of the people could believe at all that Alex was the king.

The princess couldn't understand what was happening at all. She didn't laugh as the ministers did, but just the same as them, she didn't believe his words either.

King of the Southern Continent? How was she to believe such a thing? There was no way to go to the Southern Continent in the first place.

The Emperor was in a similar situation as the princess, except, he knew a thing or two more than everyone else, and that made him want to believe what Alex was saying.

Alex turned to look at the people that were clearly laughing at him while mocking what he was saying. He smiled back at them and suddenly his cultivation aura burst forth throughout the room.



The people around him were tossed out of their seats and sent crashing into the wall. Only the princess and emperor were exempt from his attack. His aura kept the officials stuck to the wall, while he simply looked at the Emperor in front of him.

"Do you trust that I am the King of the Southern Continent?" he asked the emperor. The emperor didn't even have to look around to nod. He felt slightly terrified at the aura that was around the room.

The strength hidden behind the cultivation base that Alex had just shown was not something he could hope to compete against.

"King of the Southern Continent," the emperor called out. "Would you be kind enough to let go of my subjects?"

"Sure," Alex said and loosened his cultivation aura. As they fell, however, he grabbed onto each one of them and tossed them out of the room.

Once everyone was out of the room, he closed the door and looked at the emperor. "Finally, we can talk in private," he said.

The emperor didn't know what to say. "Congratulations, your majesty," he said.

"Thank you," Alex said. "Although, I'm surprised you believed me so easily. Are you not doubtful?"

"I wouldn't dare be," the man said. "Anyone who is so close to that person can't be lying about something important like this."

"That person?" Alex got a little curious. "Who are you talking about?"

"The one you came with you all those years ago," the emperor said. "The one that stole my daughter's healing crystal."

"Ah, brother Shen," Alex thought before his eyes narrowed. "You know what he is?"

The emperor nodded.

"How long have you known it for?" Alex asked.

"Ever since he revealed himself to me all those years ago when we first met," the emperor said. "He showed me exactly who he was, and it was then I remembered the words my father left behind back then that we are not the true rulers of this land."

#### Chapter 1285: Status of the Sects and Clans

Whenever the emperor of the Luminance empire changed, there was one thing constant. They were always told that they were not the true ruler of this land.

This land did not belong to them or any other human. In fact, it belonged to the beast. It was a truth that every emperor learned when they became an emperor. However, there wasn't much use to learning this truth as the beasts never came to retake their land.

However, 30 years ago, Bai Jingshen had arrived in the Radiant City to find Alex, and during that time he had revealed himself to the emperor.

The Ruler of the entire Western Continent, the White Tiger, the one whose land the emperor ruled, was none other than he himself.

"I see you have found out the truth as well," the emperor said to Alex. "You don't seem surprised."

"I found out half a month ago," Alex said. "Didn't you have an oath telling you to not reveal who he was?"

"That oath ended years ago," the emperor said. "I am free to divulge his information as I wish. Of course, I am not stupid enough to go for it. Speaking of which, I would like to apologize for what happened to you back then. I should have been more forceful and authoritative to stop those people from attacking you."

"Just because I couldn't reveal who had your backing, those people got ahead of themselves and attacked you," the emperor said. "And for that, I'm sorry."

Alex gave no reaction to the apology. It was something he deserved after all. "I heard the beasts attacked these sects and clans. How are they doing now?"

"The Broken Ravine sect and Glory's Edge sect have fallen from grace. They are no longer the powerhouses they used to be," the emperor said. "The Han clan, Zhou clan, and to some extent, the Jin clan have managed to get back to their original standing. They had some losses in the financial investment after losing so many saints at once, but they managed to carry through those tough times."

"The Song clan and Fu clan, however, have not recovered at all. In fact, the Song clan was ambushed by their enemies on multiple occasions and had to suffer a lot of losses."

"Those two clans aren't even considered one of the big clans anymore," the Emperor said.

"Oh, have any other families taken their place then?" Alex asked.

"There are a few that are close, but none can be said to have replaced them just yet. Those families have to beat each other as well before they are considered one of the big ones."

"I see," Alex said. He had thought he would be happy to hear about the downfall of these families, but to his surprise, he didn't even care at all. In fact, he might even have felt a little bad about the rest of the people in those families.

After all, they were the ones being punished for a crime they had nothing to do with.

"I can't say I want any revenge now, not that I can since almost every that tried to kill me is now dead," Alex said to the Emperor.

"It probably wouldn't suit you, if you really are the King of the Southern Continent," the emperor said.

Alex smiled a little. While the emperor said he believed, it was clear that he still had doubts that he was the King just as he said.

"I don't know if it would suit me or not," Alex said. "What do you say, Scarlet? Would it be wrong of me to try and get my revenge now if I could?"

"I don't see anything wrong with that," Scarlet spoke. "Why should you not get your revenge just because you're stronger? One of the reasons people get stronger in the first place is to get revenge on those that have wronged them in the past."

"I agree with her," Alex said to the Emperor.

The Emperor looked curiously at the bird on Alex's shoulder. He had seen the bird since the moment they had entered. However, because he could barely sense any cultivation base of hers, he had assumed it was a weak bird.

However, when he heard it speak, the contradicting information made him confused.

The bird was weak, but only saint realm beasts could talk like a human. What exactly was going on?

"What is this bird? if I may ask," the emperor slowly questioned.

"Oh, I'm sorry I didn't introduce her sooner," Alex said. "This is Scarlet, a Vermillion Bird. Just like Bai Jingshen, she is the Ruler of the Southern Continent, the one that made me the king."

As if on command, Scarlet flew off Alex's shoulders and quickly grew to her natural size. Her fiery body was covered in phoenix flames, glowing the entire room. Her aura revealed itself and the emperor couldn't help but feel his nascent soul tremble in her presence.

He was already a 2nd realm Saint Soul cultivator, and yet the cultivation base of the beast in front of him seemed like a peak he could not hope to climb in his lifetime.

He slowly got up from his seat and fell to his knees before kowtowing in front of Scarlet.

"My deepest apologies for not recognizing you sooner," the Emperor quickly spoke. He quickly gestured for the princess to bow as well, and she did.

Scarlet seemed unimpressed. "Don't mind me, I'm just here to sightsee," she said and turned back into her small form, the flames on her body disappearing at the same time as she landed on Alex's shoulders.

The emperor knelt for long enough before getting back to his throne. "I am humbled by your presence in my throne room," he said.

"Speaking of which," Alex quickly interjected. "I came here to ask you to do something. If it helps, it's a direct order from the White Tiger."

The emperor's eyes narrowed. "What is it that he wishes for me to do?" he asked.

"You know about the Players, right?" Alex asked.

"Yes, I'm aware of them," the Emperor said.

"Good. The order is to pass along a message to the rest of the empire so that you can gather all of these players by the northern forest as soon as you can."

"Gather the players?" the emperor was surprised. "May I ask why?"

"That's because we're sending the players back home," Alex explained. "That is the message you will be passing along. Any player that wishes to return back to their home can gather up north by the Riverweed City."

"There is a teleportation formation there that will take them all back home, just like how they were teleported here in the first place," Alex said.

The emperor couldn't help but put on an amazed expression. The princess was quite surprised too.

"The players... they actually have a home they came from?" the Emperor asked.

Alex nodded. "There is a small piece of land in the Central continent where a small population of mortals lives on their own, ignorant about the outer world. That is the place where all of the players came from. That is where I came from."

"And now, I'm here to take them all back home."

#### Chapter 1286: Apology

After explaining in detail how it all worked with sending the players back to their home, Alex and his mother were requested to stay in the palace for the night.

Since it was already dark, the two decided to take the emperor up on his offer.

The princess took away Helen while Alex remained to answer a few of the Emperor's questions while the emperor himself answered a few more questions of his own.

Alex was simply curious about what was going on with the Luminance empire to see if there were any big changes that he would be interested to hear about.

From what he heard, almost everything was the same in essence. Of course, things had changed underneath the veil, but overall the empire functioned the same.

The only thing of interest Alex even heard about was something mysterious going on in the Broken Ravine sect. Apparently, people there had been dying a little too often these days. However, when sent to check what was going on, the Lightsworns couldn't find anything, so the Emperor was just as puzzled as anyone.

"Hmm, I'll check it out," Alex half-promised and left after that. He followed the princess who had come to take him again and went toward the guest room that was prepared for him.

The princess was curious herself and started asking questions too. Unlike her father, however, there were no reservations about the questions that she asked.

Alex wasn't offended by the questions at all. In fact, he found it relieving that someone was overlooking his status as a king in a non-disrespectful way and asking him stuff that people would otherwise be afraid to ask.

Her very first question was regarding how Alex became a King, which even the Emperor hadn't questioned.

Alex gave a short answer, satiating her curiosity. Or so he thought. Answering her question only made the princess more curious, which caused her to ask even more questions than she had planned to ask.

Alex was answering her questions when he paused for a second and look in front of him.

In the hallway they were walking in was a man standing in front of them. He wore a purple robe that belonged to the Wei royal family, but Alex knew this man was not from the Wei family at all.

Which was why he was so confused to see the man here in the first place.

"Is that you, brother Zhou?" Alex asked.

Zhou Ren stared in absolute awe as he could not believe that he was looking at the man he had once assumed dead.

"Alchemist Zhou, what are you doing here?" the princess asked.

"I..." The man couldn't find it in himself to answer the question as most of the logical side of his brain was busy searching for an answer as to why Alex was alive at all.

"Did you come to greet him?" the princess asked.

"Huh? Ah, yes," Zhou Ren quickly said. He cupped his fist and gave a deep bow toward Alex. "Greetings, brother Yu. I'm happy to see that the news I received wasn't a lie. You truly are alive."

"I am," Alex said mysteriously, not giving away almost any emotion on his face.

Zhou Ren went from a formal bow to an informal one quickly, only this time instead of a greeting, he apologized.

"I will like to apologize for what my family did to you on my father's behalf," the man who seemed to have aged quite a lot despite reaching the Saint realm said.

"Your father is dead, isn't he?" Alex asked.

"He is," Zhou Ren said without hiding. "But that does not clear the wrongdoings he did against you."

Zhou Tianqiu, along with a few more saints from the Zhou family had been part of the people that had attacked Alex back in the Demon Realm all those years ago. Despite his father's part in it, however, Zhou Ren had nothing to do with the attack.

The entire time, he was busy trying to further himself inside the Demon realm and had only later learned about what had transpired without him realizing.

By the time he had realized, the beasts had launched their attacks on the families and sects involved, and his father had left the clan to run away as far as he could.

Even then, the beasts had found him and delivered his torn-apart corpse back to them.



"You sound sincere enough, brother Zhou," Alex said. "I shall accept your apology. I did not expect to get an apology, so this is quite refreshing. Don't worry, I wasn't planning on attacking your clan or anything in the first place."

"I don't care," Zhou Ren said. "I've left the family already. I only wished to apologize for what was clearly wrong."

Alex was a little surprised to hear Zhou Ren speaking like this. Had he always been like this, or had time changed him to be a better person?

"Why did you leave your clan?" Alex asked. "I would've assumed you would be the clan head after your father's death."

"My uncle, the Saint Alchemist, is the new clan head," Zhou Ren said. "Besides, I couldn't live there with all those hypocrites."

"Hypocrites?" Alex asked.

Zhou Ren nodded. "My father couldn't attack you without the other ancestors and family elders' approval. The fact that so many elders had gone to the Demon realm in the first place was because the family as a whole had come to the conclusion that attacking you to extract your knowledge was the right choice."

"However, when the tables turned, those very same ancestors turned on my father to ask him to die for their sake. Because they did not want to face the wrath of the beasts, they made my father out to be a scapegoat while they remained there happily as if they had no part in it at all."

"After I found out the truth a few years after my father's death, I couldn't live there at all," Zhou Ren said. "So, I left the family and went out to do my own thing. One thing led to another, and I'm not one of the Royal alchemists for the royal family."

"I see," Alex said. He was surprised to hear Zhou Ren's story and perhaps even a little sad for him. He hadn't been part of everything as he had explained, and yet he had suffered from it as well.

He was a victim in all of it as well, even if not as big as Alex himself.

"You must have perfected your alchemy, even more, to be accepted as the Royal Alchemist," Alex said.

Zhou Ren gave a small smile. "Aside from you, I was already one of the best alchemists in our generation. There was not much for me to improve," he said.

Alex smiled back as well. "That's good to hear," he said. "Anyway, I'm glad to have met you again, Brother Zhou. This might be our very last meeting, but I'm happy to see you are doing well."

"Thank you," Zhou Ren said. "I'm happy to see you are doing well as well."

"Farewell."

Alex left Zhou Ren and walked away with the princess to go to his room. Come the next morning, he would leave, and it would be a very long time before he saw this man again.

Chapter 1287: Meeting Qin Shan Again

Alex asked what had happened to Xue Meirong and Gu Zhanrou.

Xue Meirong was the daughter of Xue Mufan, the other of the two Saint Alchemists that were around when Alex was here over 30 years ago.

Gu Zhanrou on the other hand was someone who had managed to beat Xue Meirong in a small competition Alex had held and had managed to become the Royal Alchemist after him.

They had both shown tremendous talent in the Alchemy competition that Alex had won, so now that he learned what Zhou Ren was up to, he wanted to learn what the other two were up to as well.

It turned out that Xue Meirong was an elder in the Falling Lotus sect, working along with her father to make the sect the best Alchemy sect in the empire.

Gu Zhanrou had returned back to her own sect, which was also trying to compete against the Falling Lotus sect to become the best Alchemy sect.

As of now, the Falling Lotus sect was winning, but it wasn't ahead by that much.

Alex also asked about a few other people and learned about them.

The gardener, Wei Ruoran, who had taught him how to grow plants and rear for them had ended up overcoming his Qi deviation and had broken through to the Saint realm in what was the biggest spectacle anyone had produced to enter the Saint realm.

Because he had learned a dao, the man had to go through lightning tribulation to successfully become a Saint realm expert.

Alex wanted to greet him and thank him for what he had done for him, but unfortunately, it turned out that the man was currently in closed cultivation.

Aside from him, Alex asked a bit about the various prince and princesses that he had gotten to know during his stay. After he got everything he wanted, he let the princess go and cultivated for the night.

Tomorrow morning, he left the royal palace with his mother and made his way to the Dawnspring city that was to the southeast.

It took him nowhere near as much time as it had taken him when he had come to the Radiant city from the north.

Due to the short distance, Alex and Helen arrived outside the city before they even knew it. Along the way, Alex saw the Han family's ancestral ground with many people currently training outside in the sun.

He wondered how Han Daiyu was doing. The beefy young girl who liked using her hammer had most likely entered the Saint realm, given how close to it she was all those years ago. Since the Han family was one of the ones that attacked Alex however, he did not wish to go meet them directly.

He skipped the city as well, flying over it to go to the Flowing Brush sect. They arrived at the top of the mountain peak where the gate was and landed.

The few people there were surprised to see someone come and got a little hesitant and apprehensive.

Alex walked up front and everyone looked at him. However, no one remembered what Alex looked like, so they didn't react in the way Alex expected them to.

On the other hand, when his mother walked forward, they all immediately greeted her, calling her elder Hei in the process.

Alex was surprised to see that there were people here that remembered her amongst the guards even though she had already left the sect over 2 decades ago. She must've been pretty popular in her sect before she left.

But, they didn't recognize Alex at all.

They waited outside for a few minutes before the two of them sensed a group coming flying toward them. They both looked in that direction and saw 5 people, of which only 2 were in the Saint realm.

"Disciple Hei greets master and elders," Helen spoke immediately, bowing toward the people that had arrived.

Alex recognized none from the group except for Qin Shan, who was his mother's master. The last time he had seen him was when he left his mother in the sect before he made his way to the Demon realm.

"Lin'er, you're back?" Qin Shan couldn't help but ask in surprise. "Are you alright? Did the beasts kick you out?"

Helen smiled softly after hearing her master's worry. "No, master. I came at my own discretion. It had been so long and I wanted to meet you."

"Is that so? Then I have nothing to—"

Qin Shan's eyes moved toward Alex who was a little further away. Because he couldn't sense any aura from Alex, he had completely overlooked his presence. However, now that he had noticed him, his shock only grew exponentially.

"Aah! Yu Ming? That's you, right?" Qin Shan asked.

"It's good to meet you again, senior Qin," Alex spoke, bowing slightly toward his mother's master.

"You... you survived?" Qin Shan asked, unbelieving of his own eyes. "Lin'er, your son came back. I-I can't believe this. I'm so happy for you."

"Yes, master," Helen said with a bright smile. "Not only him, I found my husband as well, and I also have a granddaughter now."

"What?" Qin Shan's surprises were truly unending.

The other elders were surprised to hear what Qin Shan said as well since they knew who Helen's son was. Immediately, they started congratulating the two as well and brought them inside the sect.

Helen and Qin Shan immediately started asking about each other, trying to learn what had happened to each other in the time they were separated.

Alex was brought into the conversation a few times as well and was asked how he survived at all with the Saints trying to kill him. Alex told them that he was teleported away from this continent to the next one.

The people there were surprised to hear that there was a way to visit other continents. Most of them had to even make an effort to remember there were other continents. Because of how uncommon the topic was, it had been centuries since the last time they had to think about that knowledge.

"Oh right, Lin'er. You are a player, aren't you?" Qin Shan asked. "There is news going around that the players can be sent back home. Apparently, if you go to the Lightsworns in the city, they will help you go back to your home. I don't know how true that is, but you and your son should try that."

Helen smiled. "I know that, master. I and my son were the ones that had the emperor spread this message," she said.

"Oh... is that so?" Qin Shan was surprised. "Then... do you not plan on staying here for long?"

Helen shook her head. "I only came for a small visit, master," she said. "I don't know how long I'll stay, but at most, it will be a day or two."

"Is that so," Qin Shan was a little disappointed.

"Yes, I'll be going home, master," she said. "After that, it's unlikely that I will be returning to the Western Continent for a long time."

"I see..." Qin Shan got a little sad. "Well, I suppose I can't expect you to come back just because you're my disciple. As long as you are happy, that will be enough for me."

#### Chapter 1288: To The South

Alex came to learn a bit about Han Diayu of the Han family and Liang Qiu of the Heaven's Peak sect. Both were girls that Alex had done some business with before while he was in the Dawnspring city as they were the ones that had brought him the pill recipes that improved his Earth Spiritual root.

Liang Qiu was also the girl that had taken second place in the tournament whereas Alex had taken third place.

From what Alex learned, both of them had entered the Saint realm about 10 years ago. Qin Shan wasn't aware how much stronger they were now as he hadn't met them in a while since both of them were now elders of their respective families and sect.

He didn't doubt that they were both stronger than the public believed them to be as they were some of the most talented individuals this empire had seen in a long time.

Another person that Alex didn't expect to hear about, but simply did because of Qin Shan's long talk was Tian Ye. The fatty Talisman expert was more talented than his mother when it came to talismans, and was the person that made Alex call him Uncle.

While Alex didn't care about the man particularly, he was still happy to hear that he had become the sect leader of the Demon's Whisper sect, which was considered the best talisman sect in the entire empire.

Alex and Helen spent the entire day talking with Qin Shan and the other elders of the sect.

During that time, Alex gave his mother's master a few talismans that contained more knowledge about talismans than the Luminance empire most likely did.

Even more than that, he gave them knowledge about scripts, which was clearly missing from the empire. With the help of scripts, they would certainly become a household name throughout the empire with people seeking them out from far and about.

Around evening, Alex and Helen finally caught a break from all the catching up and were sent to guest houses that were more glamorous than any building Alex remembered in this sect.

They had certainly upgraded a few things in the time he was gone.

Alex cultivated for an entire night, fixing the few problems his cultivation base still had due to him sprinting through the first few realms of the Saint Core realm.

The very next morning, Alex left the Flowing Brush sect and made his way south. He had been looking forward to going there as soon as he could, and having to waste 2 days on other things hadn't made him happy at all.

Without his mother, Alex flew as fast as he could with Scarlet by his side. She looked at the world around them as they flew past everything in the blink of an eye.

"It's not that different from the Southern Continent," She said to Alex.

"Yeah, but there's nowhere near enough Qi to help Saints grow," Alex said.

"I wasn't really talking about how dense the Qi was," Scarlet said. "But you're not wrong. With how weak the Qi is, it's a surprise it can sustain so many saints. The sects and clans must have dedicated Saint spirit vein under their territory."

"Most of them do," Alex explained.

As they flew, the Scarlet saw the ocean on the left side get closer and closer to them the further south they got.

"Are we moving east?" Scarlet asked.

"No, the land is just narrow towards the south compared to the north. So, even while we have been relatively straight this whole time, we've still gotten close to the ocean," he said.

"Hmm, even the ocean is much weaker around here," she noticed.

"Is that so?" Alex was surprised to hear. He checked too and it was true.

He had always thought the ocean had more Qi than the land, but now that he had some other oceans to compare it to, he realized that even this ocean was very much weaker by comparison.



"Where are we going exactly?" Scarlet asked. "You haven't mentioned anything yet."

"Have I not?" Alex asked. "We're going to the Demon realm. The one I teleported from to the Northern Continent."

"Ah, that place."

Alex had learned after asking Qin Shan that the last time the Demon realm had opened was 2 years ago. Which meant that it had been over 32 years exactly since he had left the Western Continent.

That was a long time he was away from his people, but that also helped him improve as a cultivator. What had happened to him back then was both a boon and curse at the same time.

"There it is," he said when he saw the small island with its small granite monument in the center. Scarlet didn't see it yet, but she believed Alex due to how good his eyes were.

Soon enough even she saw it.

A few kilometers past the main continent, there was a small island full of green grass that humans rarely visited.

The most they came around here was for about 10 days every 10 years, which was 2 years ago, so no one had visited this place in a long time.

Alex landed on the island and looked around, smelling the salty scent of the ocean, brought in by the fresh breeze that blew past the morning haze.

"Let's go," Alex said and walked over to the monument that had scripts carved all over it with a single 'Demon' written at the top.

He took out the Demon realm's authority medallion and wore it. Then, he placed his palm on the monument and poured Qi into it.

As soon as he did, a strong spatial aura blocked him from teleporting away. Alex found it quite weird. 'This happened last time too,' he thought. 'So I really can't just wear it, huh?'

In the next moment, he started pouring a little Qi into the medallion as well. As soon as the medallion got hold of his Qi, it activated, putting out a small force that removed the spatial lock that was placed on him.

Then, the teleportation aura grabbed onto him. Alex extended it a little and put Scarlet within it as well.

In the next moment, the two of them were teleported away to inside the Demon realm.

"Oh," Alex spoke before he even carefully looked at where he was. "I just had to activate the medallion to stop the formation huh?"

He found out that the medallion was linked to every single formation, and all he had to do was think to stop it or start it.

Alex thought it and the spatial aura around them that would force them to teleport away were gone. Now, the Demon realm was no different than the ten days when it was open.

"Can you take a tour of this place on your own?" Alex asked. "I have something to do of my own."

Scarlet didn't ask and simply flew away.

After Alex was free, he too flew away, going in the direction of the third mountain. He arrived at the top of the mountain and looked at the script below him.

After a simple wave of his hand, he was teleported inside to the hidden chamber where there still remained an enemy of his that needed to be taken care of.

## Chapter 1289: Fu Clan Patriarch

The Fu Clan patriarch had been stuck inside the room for a month, still seething in a fury over his grandson's death. He hadn't even gotten the opportunity to bury his grandson since he was stuck inside the chamber.

He had tried attacking his way out, but to his surprise, the defenses of the room were way too strong for him to do so. He could only seethe in fury and wait for something to happen.

The first day he was inside, he tried his best to call for aid. The second day he continued calling for aid as well, but along with that, he tried other means to get out.

After a week or so passed with him being inside, he hoped the Demon Realm would send him out since it was about time for the Demon Realm to close again. When that happened, everyone was sent outside.

However, even a day past the destined day, nothing happened. The old man had since then stopped doing anything and simply sat down to cultivate.

He would cultivate in the room next door, but the corpse there unsettled him. It also made him wonder if he was going to just die here, like him. Would his body turn to bones before someone found him too?

Just to keep these sorts of thoughts off his mind, he had to stay out of that room. He also worried about what happened to his people outside. Had the beast they were capturing been freed? Hopefully not.

Hopefully, someone had managed to catch the young man and used him as a barter to not get attacked by the beast. If no one, the old man had faith that the Song Family's patriarch could do it. She was unnaturally strong thanks to her blood aura usage after all.

So, the old man got rid of most thoughts and started cultivating. He was used to deep cultivation that would go on for years on end. Spending a year or two just cultivating was pass time for him.

So, he did the same here too. He closed his eyes and focused on cultivating. However, after just half a month had passed since he started his deep cultivation, he felt a disturbance in the Qi in the room and opened his eyes.

Just as he did, he saw the black-robed youth teleport into the room.

Alex arrived inside the chamber and was immediately weirded out by the massive amount of Time aura in the air around him.

"It's so thick," he thought as he felt the aura. "No wonder time moves so slowly here."

He only had to simply think while activating the medallion and the script controlling the time aura immediately vanished. To Alex's surprise, he didn't only deactivate the time scripts for this chamber, but also the many sped-up cultivation caves that were in the 3rd mountain.

"You!" the old man immediately stood up when he saw Alex come in. "Did the others send you to free me? Unfortunately, I have no plans on leaving here with you alive. You killed my grandson, so you will die all the same."

In the old man's mind, there was only one reason Alex would come here right now. He had lost and was captured before being forced by the ones he was captured by to free him.

'It must have been the Song family patriarch,' he thought. 'I will have to apologize to her later for killing someone with blood as strong as his.'

He did not care that the Song family patriarch was going to get angry with him for killing him. His mind was completely taken over by his anger to make any wise decisions.

All he wanted was to kill the one that killed his grandson.

"Who's Fu Xiran to you?" Alex asked the old man.

The old man's eyes immediately narrowed when he heard that. "How do you know my granddaughter's name?" he asked. "She already died a decade ago."

"Technically, she died 40 years ago," Alex corrected him. "And the reason I know about her is that I killed her."

The old man couldn't help but get confused when he heard that. "You... killed Xiran?" he asked.

"I cut her body in half when she was escaping with her talisman," Alex said. "Didn't her separated body get teleported outside?"

The old man's anger returned, only this time with more intensity. "Are you saying you killed Xiran too?" he asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "So, you have two grandchildren to avenge now. Come kill me."

"You bastard!" the old man's fury reached its peak as even without his intention, a wave of spiritual attack flew out of him, attacking everything in every direction.

It was a rolling wave of energy that moved like a wave in the ocean, sweeping away things that were in its path.

Alex simply stood still as the attack crashed onto him. He felt a burden on his mind, but it wasn't something he could handle.

All he had to do was enforce the spiritual energy in his own spiritual sea and the attack wouldn't affect him at all.

The old man dashed forward with every intent to kill Alex. He didn't use any weapon he simply punched Alex in the chest as hard as he could.

His original plan with Alex did not involve killing him at all. There was so much more he wanted from Alex just like everyone else did.

However, those wants could not stand in front of his need to take revenge for his children. So, he punched Alex in the chest.

A True Emperor 4th realm cultivator like Alex wouldn't even have any bones remaining after such a strong hit from someone in the early Saint Core realm. Or so the old man thought.

However, when the punch landed, all that happened was the old man felt his own bones crack. Alex on the other hand wasn't even pushed back at all.

"Is that all you've got?" Alex asked with a sneer on his face.

The old man ignored his fist which was in pain and looked at Alex with a horrified face. What was it? A formation? A talisman? Some sort of defensive artifact? What was it?

How was someone so weak capable of stopping his attack? No, not just stopping, how was someone so weak capable of hurting him back?

"How?" he couldn't help but speak out loud.

"How?" Alex repeated. "Well, let me show you."

The veil that concealed his cultivation base lifted at once as the Saint Core 5th realm aura spread throughout the room at once.

The old man's body shuddered when he felt a cultivation base that was not only stronger than him but far more potent as well.

While his senses told him this was a Saint Core realm cultivation base, the pressure it put on his body was completely different.

"H-how? How are you so strong?" the man asked. "You... have you been hiding your cultivation all this time?"

"Are you hearing yourself, old man?" Alex asked. "Do you think I would run from here if I was so strong?"

"Then... how?" he asked.

"It's been 3 decades since you've been stuck here, old man," Alex said. "You were strong back then, so I had no choice but to leave you here."

"However, now that I'm stronger, I've come back for my revenge," he said. "Since you've made me wait so long for this, I'm going to have to get some interest on top of that too."

#### Chapter 1290: Truths

The old man couldn't believe that over 30 years had passed since he was trapped in this room. No, he refused to believe it.

After all, he had only spent no more than a month here.

"You're lying," the old man said. "There's no way such a long time could have passed without me realizing it."

"I told you already," Alex said. "It's been 40 years since your granddaughter died and 30 years since your grandson died. I've grown strong in that time. Whether you believe it or not, I don't care."

Alex started moving, going closer to the old man.

The old man took a step back in fear, however, his steps were heavy and slow because of Alex's aura that stopped him from doing anything sudden.

The old man's survival instincts kicked in pretty soon and he started sending out a barrage of attacks at Alex. However, not a single one of those attacks landed on him at all.

Alex simply swatted them away before they even reached him.

The old man tried to run into the other room, but he found himself unable to move through the door. Even though the door was open and there was nothing stopping him from entering, he was still blocked by something invisible.

"Don't bother trying to run. I've already cut off the space in this room so there's nowhere for you to go," he said. "Now, I don't have much time, so I will need to speed up my revenge."

He reached into his storage ring and pulled out a pill bottle. He took a pill and walked next to the frozen old man before grabbing his face. He opened his mouth forcefully and shoved the pill into him.

Once the pill started taking effect, he let go of the man.

"What did you do to me? Did you poison me?" the old man asked. "Bastard, I'll kill you."

"What's your wife's name?" Alex asked.

"Han Yinxue," the man answered immediately before realizing what he had done. "What... what did you do to me?"

"Alright, the Saint Truth Seeking pill has taken effect," Alex said. "It will wear off fast, so I will have to quickly ask my question."

"First of all, how many Spiritual energy-related books did you find during the meteor shower over a millennia ago?" Alex asked.

The man tried to place his hand on his mouth so he couldn't answer, but his mouth moved on its own.

"2!"



"What are the names?" Alex asked.

The old man tried to stop himself, even going so far as to bang his own head on the floor. However, no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't find himself able to stop answering the questions.

"Spiritual Rolling Waves and Spirit Search," the man answered.

Alex's eyes narrowed when he heard the answer. 'That's it,' he thought. 'That's what I'm looking for.'

"What is Spirit Search?" he asked.

The old man struggled, but he gave the information in the end. "It's a technique that allows you to read through someone's memories as long as you are inside their spiritual sea as a spiritual avatar."

'Bingo!' Alex thought.

"And where is the book or talisman for this technique?" Alex quickly asked.

"With me," the man said. He could not even think of stopping himself this time around.

Alex only smiled at the revelation.

The old man realized what was going to happen next. Alex was going to steal from him and take away his book on Spirit Search.

'I won't let him,' he thought. He immediately reached for the storage bag on his waist. At the very least, he was going to destroy it so Alex couldn't get his hands on it.

However, before he could do anything, four golden spears flew at an incredible speed, each of which hit all 4 limbs of the old man.

The spears sent the man into the wall, pinning him there. Alex made a simple gesture and took away the old man's storage bags.

"You bastard! If you're going to kill me, then just kill me," he shouted. "Stop humiliating me."

Alex looked at him and made a thinking face before shaking his head. "Nah, that would be too simple," he said. "I told you, I'm here for revenge with some interest on top. Killing you right away wouldn't be as satisfying."

He took the storage bag and opened it. Inside were various stuff from simple pills to formation flags. He ignored most items and searched for books or talismans.

As he did, he found the first book. He skimmed over a bit to see what it was about and learned that it was an advanced book on formations that even Saints could learn from.

"Oh," he was a little surprised. "I forgot you had quite the knowledge on formation too. That's right, your grandson was the one who taught me how to activate non-metallic formations in the first place. Not that I needed it thanks to my physique."

The old man grunted in pain. He tried to pull his arm away from the wall, but the golden spears were stuck in the wall quite tightly.

Alex put aside the formation book for now and searched for the others. He found the Spiritual Rolling Waves technique pretty soon. It was a technique that allowed one to send out a massive wave of spiritual energy, like the one the old man had used just moments ago.

It was a good technique as it would allow him to use his spiritual attack in a wide area, unlike Heaven's Impact which only targeted a single person each time.

"That's a nice technique," Alex thought and put it aside as well. He continued searching through the storage bag until he finally found it.

"There it is," he spoke out loud, letting the old man hear it as he brought out the book called Spirit Search.

Alex was quite familiar with this technique as he had been the victim of it twice until now.

The first time was because of Fu Zexi who had kidnapped him after the annual tournament in the Cardinal City and had taken him to the forest where he had looked through his memories.

It was only thanks to Zexi's weak avatar and his own devouring ability that Alex had managed to survive through that.

The second time had been when Fu Tao had tried to sneak a peak into his secrets when he was attacked in this very secret realm. Alex had allowed him to see what he wanted to and then subsequently killed him by devouring his avatar.

Both of these instances were ones that Alex had hated for different reasons. For the first one, he was helpless and had barely made out alive. For the second one, he felt like he was betrayed by someone he thought he could call his brother.

However, enough time had passed by now that those events were nothing but distant memories to him. All he remembered at the moment was the impression the skill had made on him.

And now, he had the same skill in his hand. To top it all off, the perfect lab rat was waiting for him to try out the technique on right in front of him.