

## Alchemy 1291

Chapter 1291: Spirit Search

"You bastard! Kill me," the man shouted. "Kill me if you dare."

"Ssh! Did no one ever teach you to keep quiet while someone is reading close by, old man?" Alex asked and ignored the old man while reading the Spirit Search book.

'Hmm, it's a little more complicated than I had assumed,' he thought. 'So I'm not really searching through one's memories, more so forcing them to recall stuff and see what they recalled, huh?'

He had some idea of how this technique worked, but reading the explanation directly from the source made it much clearer.

"Hmm, I can't upgrade this or even do anything with it, can I?" he thought. "Spiritual energy has an entirely different way in which it functions."

He continued reading for a little longer before he closed the book. "Alright then, let's give this a try," he said and walked toward the old man.

"Huh?" the old man was confused for a second. He had stopped struggling against the golden spear a while ago as he couldn't free himself from it. He had tried different attacks, but the spears were way too strong somehow.

He could only guess that it was thanks to Alex's absurd ability to fight realms over his cultivation base which was causing all this.

"What are you doing?" the old man asked as Alex got closer and closer.

"What do you mean?" Alex asked. "I told you, I'm going to use the Spirit Search on you. You're the little lab rat that I'm going to experiment with."

"What? But how can you use it?" the man struggled. "You only just got the book today."

"Yes, and I learned it," Alex said. "Is that so surprising?"

The old man felt his heart beat faster and faster. Was what he said true? Had he really learned a technique that was sent down from the heavens in less than an hour?

'Just what sort of monster did we offend?'

Alex placed his palm on the old man's head and smiled. "Try not to block it, or you might end up hurting your spirit," he said.

In the next moment, the old man felt a splitting pain in his head as if someone had grabbed his brain from two sides and was ripping it apart.

The pain was unbearable for a few moments, and then everything disappeared.

The old man felt his mind grow serene. He slowly looked around at the open sky and realized he had appeared inside his own Spiritual sea.

Not far away from him, Alex had appeared as well with a body formed entirely of spiritual energy.

"Hmm, I'm surprised how small this is," he said as he looked around.

"You! You dare use my own technique on me?" the man shouted. "Now that you are in my spiritual sea, don't even think of leaving."

The man started launching a barrage of attacks that came flying toward Alex. Alex put up a simple Swirling Water barrier that blocked all of the attacks.

He then sent out one of his own, a metal fist attack.

The fist-shaped attack flew toward the old man and hit the barrier he had put up. The two attacks collided and Alex won, but his attack lost so much energy that it didn't harm the old man at all.

Still, the old man's eyes went wide in shock. "This... Metal?" he couldn't help but speak with a shocked expression.

"You! How did you do that?" the old man asked. Even in the face of danger, his curiosity took over him.

"Hmm? Do what?" Alex asked.

"How do your attacks have an elemental affinity?" the man asked. "That should be impossible."

"Ah, right," Alex thought as he remembered. "It does have that, doesn't it?"

It had been a long time since he had fought a human inside his spiritual sea, so he had forgotten that his spiritual energy was quite unique to others.

Even when normal people used attacks in their spiritual sea, the only energy they could use there would be spiritual energy. As a result, those attacks would only be attacks with normal spiritual energy, even if visually they looked different.

However, for some reason, Alex was able to affect the elements of the attacks he was using. Neither the old man nor Alex could understand why.

Alex wasn't as surprised as the old man, so he sent out a barrage of attacks this time around. He kept an eye on the energy level of the sea below him to see when he could go for the man.

After attacking for a while, the old man was finally at the end of the road with no more spiritual energy to use.

Alex also was close to being out of spiritual energy, but he still had enough to survive or maybe even go out if needed.

Finally, he arrived in front of the old man who couldn't keep his body straight. His mind was hazy with little to no thoughts at all. He could barely tell what was happening around him, let alone do something about it.

Alex finally grabbed the man's head and used the Spirit Search technique. Immediately, he started seeing a hazy world in which he was grabbing his own head.

'It's working,' he thought. He was seeing what the old man was seeing.

"Who is your father?" Alex asked as a test question.

A vision of an old man floated into his mind. The old man was truly old and almost decrepit when he entered closed cultivation. That was the last thing the old man remembered about his father.

"Who do you admire the most?" Alex asked again.

Alex saw the image of a young man. He looked somewhat similar to Fu Tao, but quite different at the same time. He saw the young man wave goodbye and fly away somewhere.

Alex got a little curious.

"Who is this person?" he asked.

An answer came to his mind. This young man was his older brother, one that he had never seen again after that moment.

Alex was a little surprised when he realized who the man exactly was. 'That's the first Emperor of the Crimson Empire, isn't he?' he thought. 'The man that unified the Shattered kingdoms that were left behind by the other continent's war on this land and formed the empire.'

Alex hadn't expected to see that person.

"Do you have any secret treasures?" Alex quickly asked another question.

He got an answer, but it wasn't a very good answer. There were some things back in the Fu clan's treasury, but nothing of what he saw could make him want any of it at all.

Alex asked a few more questions to the man, who could only think about the question to answer.

'This does drain quite a bit of energy,' Alex thought. 'I can't do this any longer.'

Since he had no more need from the old man, he let go of his head and grabbed him by his throat. He squeezed the man as hard as he could until the old man's spirit simply died and disappeared in a bunch of glittering light.

The spiritual sea started crumbling as soon as the spirit died, and Alex quickly left the place, going back into his own body.

## Chapter 1292: Ashes

Alex stood up and looked at the old man's body in front of him. The old man had died, his spirit completely gone.

However, his body was still alive. His blood still flowed, his heart still beat, and his dantian still held a golden core in it.

All that was different was that his consciousness no longer was present in his mind. It was like the body was in a coma, except for one which he had no chance of returning from.

'I wonder how long it will take for his body to die without a mind,' Alex thought. A life without an Intent, even an unconscious one would certainly not live for long.

Zexi had died by the time Alex had woken up after devouring him. As a saint realm, the old man's body would most likely stop functioning in just a few days as well.

He shook his head and sighed. He wasn't going to wait for that long.

With a flick of his wrist, a small tongue of fire landed on the man's body and immediately started burning with a heat that could melt even the Starforged Tungsten easily.

The body turned into nothing in just a few seconds, leaving behind not even the ashes of the dead man.

Once he was done, Alex turned around to leave the room.

Just before he left, however, Alex noticed the door to the side of the room and remembered something. He walked through the room, arriving on the other side.

There, he found a skeleton corpse that he had left behind all those years ago.

The corpse of the 8th Undying God.

Alex remembered the face of the illusory man that had helped him during the inheritance. He remembered the person whose memories he still held.

He couldn't help but bow to the corpse before walking into the room.

"I'm sorry I left you here like this, senior," he said softly and picked up the black-robed skeleton. "You must have known you were dying back then, didn't you? You wouldn't have left the inheritance behind otherwise given how much it harms one's spirit."

He carried the skeleton out of the cultivation room and into the main chamber. He used the script on the wall and teleported out of the Time Palace.

He sensed Scarlet in the distance but didn't call for her. He wanted to give a small funeral to the 8th Undying God and he wanted to be alone while he did so.

He flew into the forest to gather up a few sticks and branches. Once he had enough, he arrived outside of the Undying Hall on top of the 5th mountain where he placed the many woods in a simple pyre and placed the Undying God's corpse on top.

Then, he burned one edge of the pyre and stepped back to watch it all catch fire. The black robe caught flame soon enough which burned away to reveal the skeleton inside.

Alex fed the flames his Qi so that it burned hotter and turned the skeleton into ash as well.

After about half an hour, everything had burned to ash. Alex gathered up the ashes and spread them down the valley toward the forest in the distance.

He watched as the wind blew the ashes throughout the demon realm.

"Who was that?" Scarlet spoke from behind him.

"A senior," Alex said without explaining much about their relationship. "He died a long time ago when the Eternal War was still a thing. I decided to give him a funeral today."

"I see," she said. "And the other thing you wanted to do. Did you do it?"

"Yeah, I took care of it," Alex said. "How is the secret realm? It's good, right?"

"It's alright," Scarlet said. "It could be better."

Alex couldn't help but smile. "It's hard to please someone that lived in the immortal lands, isn't it?" he asked.

"Whatever! Are we leaving now?" she asked.

"Uhh, sure," Alex said. "But, I have one more thing to check."

Alex quickly flew away with Scarlet following behind her. He arrived at the 6th mountain of the demon realm, the one known as the North Mountain.

This was the mountain that had allowed him to teleport away from this place and save his life, the mountain that sent him to the Northern Continent.

However, when he arrived at the location, his eyes went wide in surprise. The mountain was no longer there. Everything seemed to have been destroyed, most likely by some saints.

Alex sent his spiritual sense and looked inside the rubble to check for the script inside. As he expected, the script had been completely destroyed.

"No wonder you can't teleport back," he spoke softly. "If this script was fine, I could've come back here a long time ago."

"Is that the teleportation script?" Scarlet asked. "Is there any way to fix it?"

"No, not without a ton of work," Alex said. "You will need to resonate the two scripts to link them, and without knowing the resonance of the script in the secret realm in the Northern Continent, it's impossible."

"I see," Scarlet said. "So, this place is bound to stay this way forever huh?"

"I'm afraid so," Alex said. "At least it's bound to stay this way for the foreseeable future."

After roaming the secret realm around them a little more, Alex activated all the scripts he had shut down previously and let the teleportation aura send him out.



He arrived outside with Scarlet right next to him. He took off the medallion and stared at it for a few seconds.

"Do I need it?" he wondered himself. "There's little to no chance that I will ever be returning here, so I can't imagine needing this."

Still, in a way, Alex owned the demon realm, so he didn't want to give away the medallion just yet. If it was ever necessary for the future, he wouldn't want to regret having thrown it away.

"No point in caring right now," he thought and around. He brought out a boat from his storage ring and flew away with Scarlet, not even glancing at the things he had left behind.

He flew straight into the mainland, wasting absolutely no time anywhere. Looking at the sun, he could tell that it wasn't even noon right now.

He had been quite early with his work today, so he had enough time to do something else before he returned back to his mother.

"Let's take a little detour," Alex said and changed the direction of the boat. Scarlet wondered where they were going, not that she cared for any place specific. She was just here to roam, so any place was a welcome one for her.

As for Alex, he had a destination in mind, one that apparently had weird things happening there. He was curious as to exactly what was happening, so he was going to have to check it out for himself.

As such, Alex and Scarlet arrived outside the Lightborn city, landing at the bottom of a massive span of mountains that spread far and wide.

This mountain range held one of the bigger sects of the Empire, the Broken Ravine sect. It had something weird happening recently, so, Alex was more than interested to see what was happening inside of this sect exactly.

## Chapter 1293: Broken Ravine Sect

The guards at the front got alert when they saw Alex walk up to them.

Alex introduced himself as someone who came on behalf of the emperor to check on the mysterious deaths that were apparently happening inside this sect.

The guards quickly called for someone important and that person arrived a few minutes later.

"Greetings, fellow Daoist. I am the third elder Yuo Jianshuang," the new person introduced himself. "I hear you were sent by the emperor to investigate the deaths. Were the past investigations not conclusive?"

The pale-faced man was quite lean with thin hair that he had tied in a bun. He wore a robe that shifted from green to blue from up to down.

"If it were conclusive, it wouldn't still be mysterious deaths, would it?" Alex asked while his eyes narrowed curiously. "And I wouldn't have to have come here either."

"I suppose that makes sense," the man said. "Are you from the royal family? You don't seem like a Lightsworn to me."

"I asked the Emperor for a favor and he asked me for one, that's all," Alex said with an unfocused face. He seemed to be searching for something.

"Ah, is that so?" the man was surprised. He moved his two hands to gesture to Alex to go inside. "Please come with me—"

Alex's hand suddenly moved and grabbed the man by his wrist. The man tried to pull away, but Alex's grip was tight.

"What? What are you doing?" the man's face changed. "Let go of me."

The guards saw the situation and tried to move it, but for some reason, a golden barrier appeared in front of them, stopping them from advancing.

"Don't move," Alex told the third elder. "I'm searching for something."

He closed his eyes and tried his best to feel something. "It's hidden quite well," he said to himself. "Is this the cause of the deaths?"

"What- what are you talking about?" the man asked.

"There's something inside of your body that will kill you very soon if I don't deal with it," Alex said. "I'll be sending my Qi into your body. Don't resist me or it will only hurt you."

Alex used the man's veins on his wrist to send in his Qi. The third elder felt a warm energy flow into him. He tried to instinctively resist this alien Qi, but he quickly got a hold of himself and let him do what he wanted to.

The third elder could already tell just by his grip that Alex was too strong for him and resisting him wouldn't be a good idea at all. Instead, he had called for help just in case something bad happened.

People were already rushing in his direction.

"Hmm?" Alex suddenly made a sound. "Ah! It's hiding inside his dantian."

Suddenly, the man felt something move inside of his dantian and flow out from him. It hurt a bit as it was rushed out completely from within his body.

It came out of his wrist, a vile inky-black Qi that simply disappeared into Alex. As soon as this black stuff was gone, color returned to the pale-faced old man.

The man felt as if life had flowed back into him, his breathing getting a lot easier, his body invigorated.

"What did you do to me?" he couldn't help but ask. "What was that black stuff?"

"Do you know about death aura?" Alex asked the man.

"Death aura?" the man shook his head. "There's an aura of death?"

"Basically," Alex said. "It was festering inside of your dantian. Cultivate with it enough and it will slowly spread to all parts of your body. Or rather, it already had. You will need to consume a lot of healing pills afterward or the death aura might return."

A group of people flew out of the sect, with a woman in the lead.

"Who dares attack one of our own?" the woman shouted out loud as soon as she arrived.

"Sect leader, it was a mistake," the man turned around to explain. "He wasn't attacking me, I was mistaken."

The woman's face changed slightly. "Huh? You said you were in danger," she said.

"I did, but it turns out I was not. Fellow Daoist here was trying to help me, and I mistook his grace for hostility," the man said.

"Third elder!" the woman shouted suddenly. She felt embarrassed that she had come with so many people, only to threaten someone who was helping her people.

"My apologies, fellow Daoist," the woman said. "We were under the impression that you were here to cause trouble."

"I'm not offended," Alex said and looked around at them. He tried to feel the death aura from this group as well, and to his surprise, if he focused hard enough, he could sense it in them as well."

"You!" one of the people in the group called out suddenly. "Are you... Yu Ming?"

The moment the words 'Yu Ming' flew out of the man's mouth, the entire group flinched. To these people, the name Yu Ming was like a curse.

It was because of this Yu Ming that their previous sect leader had taken away so many of their talented elders, only to be slaughtered in the Demon realm.

It was because of him that their sect leader was slaughtered right in front of their sect by a beast while they could only stay back and watch.

It was because of him that their sect had gone downhill the past couple of decades and was having a hard time getting back on track.

"Yu Ming? Isn't he dead?" the woman asked. She looked closely at Alex and realized that his face did in fact look similar to the young man that she had learned was dead.

Was that not true?

"Are you really Yu Ming?" she asked.

"I am," Alex said. "I would appreciate it if you used my real name Alex though as I've introduced myself to your guards."

The woman wasted no time and quickly bowed toward him. "I would like to humbly apologize to you for what our sect master did in the past. You did not deserve what had happened to you. Please tell us if we can do anything to help."

Even if everyone in the Broken Ravine sect believed that everything bad had happened because of Yu Ming, they still wouldn't openly offend him.

They were way too scared of the beast that had Alex's back.

"It's alright," Alex said. "Your sect leader died, so I have no grudge against the other elders and disciples."

Alex slowly looked at the man that had recognized him first. The man had a sunken face with dark circles around his eyes as if he hadn't slept for days. His body looked like it lacked sustenance as well, while his head was completely shaved as if to hide his thinning hair.

"Oh, I almost didn't recognize you there, brother Guo Chiang," Alex spoke with a surprised expression. "How have you been doing?"

3 decades back, Guo Chiang used to be the strongest person in the younger generation. During their quarterfinal battle, this was the man that had defeated Alex in a single attack using his Sword Aura.

He always looked pale and deathly in the past, and so did his master that was the sect leader back then. It was only now that Alex realized that it was because of the death aura inside of them.

#### Chapter 1294: The Ravine

'They are all suffering by death aura for some reason,' Alex thought as he looked at everyone that had now landed next to him. The amount of death aura in each person was minuscule in comparison to someone like the Mad immortal who could fuel Godslayer to become a powerhouse for a single attack.

But, the death aura had hidden so deep inside their dantian that normal pills couldn't help them relieve it at all. Every time they cultivated, they would draw from that death aura, passing it along to the rest of their body.

That was why everyone from this sect looked so deathly in the first place. They all were cultivating with death aura without realizing it.

"I'm here under the Emperor's request to check the mysterious deaths. Would you mind taking me inside?" Alex asked.

"Of course," the sect leader quickly said. "You all can return. I will take care of our guest."

The group all flew away, leaving behind only Alex and the sect leader.

"What would you like to do now, fellow Daoist?" she asked.

The woman was only in the Saint Foundation realm and hadn't even entered the Saint Core realm yet. She was rather weak when compared to the previous sect leader, which was one of the reasons why the sect was slowly degrading over time.

"I am not exactly sure," Alex said. "Would you mind explaining about the sect and how the people that had died until now are connected?"

"Of course," the woman said. "It's no secret anyway."

She soon started explaining the history of the Broken Ravine sect.

The history of the Broken Ravine sect was one that even the sect leader couldn't tell was true or not. It was a story passed down since long time ago, but there were no records of the story, so it was hard to verify it.

According to her, before the sect ever came into existence, this place used to be a normal mountain range. At some point in the past, however, a fight took place close by that was of proportion that had never been seen in this world in present times.

That was a fight of Immortals.

No one knew who exactly the two figures were, but one of them was said to be a swordsman. And, he had killed his opponent right here in this mountain range using an attack that had destroyed half of the mountain range.

In a place of what should be tall mountains, all that remained was a deep ravine carved out by the attack of said Immortal.

The sect had formed on top of this mountain range many, many years after and was thus named the Broken Ravine sect because of the geography of this place.

Alex remembered learning something similar a long time ago only in less detail. The woman continued her explanation of how the sect was and how the disciples were. She went into some detail about the Outer sect, Inner sect, and Core sect.

Alex nodded as he listened while looking around the sect as they walked in to question some elders and disciples if they knew anything. The gate lead directly to all three different disciple sects, which made it easier for everyone.

As Alex walked, he noticed a young woman walking by with the smallest hint of death aura inside her. Another disciple walked past and they had the same too. Everyone had a death aura, and Alex needed to figure out where it came from.

As he walked, he noticed someone that did not have a death aura at all.

"Oh?" he stopped and looked at the young man. "Young man, can you come here?"

The young man turned and saw the sect leader with Alex. He quickly bowed and walked up to the two. "How may I help you senior?" he asked.

"How long have you been in this sect?" Alex asked the young man.

"12 years, senior," the young man answered after thinking for a few seconds.

Alex turned to look at the sect leader. "Is that a long time in the sect?" he asked.



"That's... about average for a disciple. They usually spend about 20 to 30 years before graduating, so he must be a new Inner Disciple," she said.

"So, he's not a new disciple, is he?" Alex asked. "Can you tell me a bit about yourself in this sect?"

The young man introduced himself and told Alex about what his daily life was like in the sect. The young man was a formation expert and wanted to become one of the best in the sect.

He worked hard every day and rarely ever trained to be anything other than a formation expert.

The young man walked away, leaving the two of them there afterward. "Did you learn anything from him?" the sect leader asked.

"Not really," Alex said. "Let's ask some other ones too."

As the sect leader brought him deeper and deeper into the sect, Alex learned more and more about the disciples and what they did. Some of them had a death aura in them, some had not.

Soon, the commonalities amongst the ones that did become so clear that the sect leader herself felt fear for her entire sect.

Every single person that had ever gone down the ravine to train had been affected by it. Everyone that did go down there was the best of the best of the sect.

"The ravine is the problem?" the sect leader refused to believe it. "But we've been training there since centuries ago. It can't be true that it is causing all the problems, can it?"

"All signs point to it being the problem," Alex said. "I will find out for sure after I go check it out myself. Can you tell me why you send people down to the ravine in the first place? Are there resources down there? Or is the Qi denser there?"

"None of that," the woman said. She hesitated a little bit, unable to come to a conclusion on whether she should answer it or not.

"I can't help you if you don't tell me anything," Alex said.

The woman sighed in the end and explained. "The Ravine is filled with a sword aura left behind by the immortal figure of the past. We use it to train our cultivator to form their own Sword Intent, Qi, and hopefully, Sword Aura."

"Hmm, that's right," Alex remembered. "Brother Guo Chiang used Sword Aura against me during our battle to defeat me with a single strike. He wasn't even a Saint back then. Was this where he learned it all?"

"Guo Chiang is one of our strongest right now," the woman said. "He's our 2nd Elder in the sect."

"Is that so," Alex said. "Anyway, I'll have to go to the ravine. For the time being, call back everyone so they don't burden my investigation."

"Sure," the woman said. "If the ravine has some problem that is harming our elders and disciples, then I couldn't be happier to help."

Soon, the order went out and people came out of the ravine in droves. Some complained, but with the sect leader handling the process, the complaints died down soon enough.

"It's ready," she said.

Alex arrived at the edge of the cliff and looked down at the massive ravine that was in front of him. It was here that he was going to have to find the source of the Death aura and destroy it.

Alex jumped down into the ravine, the sword aura moving around him. He could feel the intent behind the attack that had left the sword aura. It was a mixture of killing intent with cutting intent.

The swordsman that was responsible for this had cut down the entire mountain range to form a ravine with just his Sword, so it was overflowing with sword aura.

Even generations later, the ravine still lingered with the same aura, albeit far weaker than what was probably used all those years ago.

"Can you sense the death aura?" Scarlet asked.

Alex slowly landed down in the ravine where the sunlight only reached the ground because it was noon. The cliff-like walls protruding from the mountains cut up mountains around him and wouldn't allow for sunlight to reach here at any other time.

His vision shifted so that he started seeing more than just the ordinary world. Colors flooded his vision, one of every shade. However, the one that was most prominent was the white one.

The sword aura was the only thing he could see.

"I don't think I can find it," he said while trying his best. "The Sword aura is much stronger than the death energy, so it's quite impossible unless I'm close to the source."

He quickly reached into his mind and called out to Godslayer who was sleeping.

"What?" Godslayer asked in an annoyed voice. "Why are you bothering me?"

"Are you still absorbing the energy you took from that replica of yours?" Alex asked.

"You woke me up just to ask that?" Godslayer's voice sounded even more annoyed.

"No. Look at where we are," Alex said. "This place is overflowing with sword aura, but there is something that is producing Death aura in here. I need your help locating it. You are more attuned with death aura than I am."

"Hmm, death aura?" Godslayer's attention was finally piqued. "Where?"

"I need your help to find it," Alex said. He explained the general present situation to Godslayer, who could only come up with a single answer.

"If it's hiding death aura inside people's dantian, then it has intelligence," he said. "You have to be careful."

Alex nodded.

The ravine was narrow with barely 20 meters of width at the base. However, it was very, very long, with numerous cracks along the side that one could stay in.

Alex quickly flew over to the very end of the ravine further than which there was no sword aura. Then, he turned around and slowly made his way to the other side.

There was a small stream in the ravine, barely deep enough to reach one's shin. There were very few insects and absolutely no animals. Plants grew along the side of the walls, of which very few seemed to hold any special properties.

Due to the abundance of sword aura, life simply wasn't thriving as much as it should have.

Alex continued down the river, his senses heightened to the extreme.

"It's quite weird now that I think about it," Alex said and asked Godslayer. "I mostly just find Death aura. Why is Darkness aura so hard to come by?"

"Death is a common occurrence. Everyone dies including beasts and plants. As they die, the Qi in their body slowly changes, turning to Death aura, which makes it so easily available," Godslayer said. "But darkness, on the other hand, isn't easy to come by because it can't have many sources."

"Is it because most places aren't truly dark?" Alex asked. "Because most places have light, darkness cannot fester."

"No, that's just what darkness truly is," Godslayer said. "What you're describing falls more under shadows than darkness."

"True darkness is not the absence of light in a physical sense, but the lack of kindness, morality, or even justice. It is the aura of human corruption."

"True darkness can only grow in the hearts of ones who have been wronged, and those who seek to right this wrong by giving up that which made them kind and moral. When these people let themselves be corrupted by evil, that is when darkness truly forms."

"That is also why the presence of an absurd amount of darkness corrupts people, why they forget themselves and become evil," Godslayer explained. "Darkness once acquired is easily fueled. Once corrupted, anyone can feed the darkness, which makes them stronger than they ever were."

"It then becomes a power that powers itself, and that is how anyone that is corrupted by darkness usually ends up dying. Because they don't realize that something cannot be created from nothing."

"The darkness that powers them comes from themselves. When nothing is left in their body to power the darkness, the corrupted individuals die," Godslayer explained. "That was why I had to continue changing hosts so much back when I was corrupted by darkness too. Because I always ran out of the fuel to power my darkness."

"Darkness brings them down to death's door, which inadvertently also powers me."

"That is also why you can't find Darkness aura so easily, for anything that has unrestrained darkness usually ends up burning itself away to death," Godslayer explained.

"I see," Alex said. Understanding what Godslayer said gave him a new perspective on life. "Darkness isn't something to vie for, is it?"

He continued walking through the ravine with Scarlet on his shoulders. Scarlet was on the lookout for anything, but due to her lack of understanding of Death aura, she couldn't be of much help.

Thankfully, Godslayer was looking out just the same as well.

"Stop!" Godslayer shouted all of a sudden, surprising Alex. A second later, Alex sensed it as well.

He barely noticed it from the corner of his vision, but a small black aura had weaved itself through the sword aura and entered his body.

Before he could react, it had settled itself into his dantian.

"What the hell?" he couldn't help but be surprised. "How was it able to conceal itself so well until the end?"

"I don't know," Godslayer said. "Is it strong?"

Alex closed his eyes and looked into his dantian. With a thought, the golden core in his dantian produced a bit of Qi that it was holding. This Qi was fully yellow in color and was the most potent Yang Qi Alex had produced in a long time.

In the next moment, the death aura simply vanished, like a drop of water on a red-hot iron.

"Scarlet," Alex called out. "Let me check your dantian."

"Huh? Why?" Scarlet asked.

"You might have been infected by the death aura too," Alex said. With Scarlet's allowed, he checked her dantian using his Qi and spiritual sense.

A moment later, he cleared away the death aura in Scarlet's body. "It might be better if you went away for a while, Scarlet. I can handle death aura, but I can't protect you from it," he said.

"But you need me," Scarlet said. "I'm stronger than you."

"If it's strong, I'll call you out," he said. "For now, you need to hide."

Scarlet grumbled for a moment and quickly disappeared into the tattoo that was her beast space. Once she was gone, Alex finally focused on his surrounding.

"It came from nearby, didn't it?" he asked.

"Yes, it's nearby," Godslayer said. "Move around a little. We should be able to find it soon."

## Chapter 1296: Creation

Alex walked around the area for a little while before Godslayer finally tracked down the source of the death aura.

"There, in that crevice. There's something there." With Godslayer's message, Alex quickly looked in that direction. Sure enough, he could also sense something in there.

A flash of black would appear in his vision from time to time before hiding itself. Alex finally released his Demon Eyes and looked at the crevice with normal vision.

Since whatever inside was most likely conscious, he had to be careful in his approach.

He took slow steps when moving toward it, concealing himself as much as possible so that he wouldn't stand out in the sea of sword aura.

He walked into the crevice itself and finally, he could clearly sense the death aura.

'So strong,' he thought. The temperature in this place was several degrees lower than what was outside due to the abundance of death aura, which was nothing but Yin Qi in the first place.

"Hmm?" Alex noticed something in the crevice, not on the ground or the corner, but attached to the wall about 2 meters above him. It was a small object that seemed to be made of stone, metal, and wood all at the same time.

The texture was smooth and rough at the same time, making it look very weird to Alex. 'What's going on?' he couldn't help but ask himself.

The object wasn't changing at all but to all of his senses, it did.

As he looked closer, he saw its shape more clearly. It looked like a statue of a man sitting crosslegged with his palms together in a praying pose, carved to perfection.

It was small, but at the same time, it was full of Death aura.

Godslayer looked at the thing closely, feeling the death aura himself. He could tell something was up with the idol that was stuck to the wall. But what?

Was it the death aura in the idol? He didn't think so. Was it then the idol itself that was giving him some weird feeling?

'What am I missing?' Godslayer thought. Then, he noticed something that even someone from the immortal lands wouldn't recognize so easily.

The idol he was looking at somehow both existed and didn't at the same time.



"Holy.... Shit!" Godslayer couldn't help but say when he finally realized what the Idol was. "Is that... a Divine Creation?"

"A what?" Alex asked. He couldn't tell what Godslayer meant, but it did sound amazing. Having Divine in its name, it was most likely not something so simple.

"But how can such a thing have aura attached to it? It's not supposed to accept any aura at all," Godslayer spoke to himself. As he did, he realized something. "Wait, didn't you say someone was killed here previously?"

"Huh? Yeah, some immortal killed another immortal, or so the legend goes," Alex explained.

"Hmm... maybe it was not the immortals that fought that day," Godslayer said. "But rather... Divinities."

"What?" Alex suddenly freaked out. "A divinity? That thing up there belongs to someone in the Divine realm?"

Alex moved back a bit. The Divine realm was something he couldn't even hope to reach as he was right now. He hadn't even reached the Immortal realm, while the Divine realm was even higher than that.

The only person from the Divine realm he had ever seen was senior Yang back in the Central continent, and there was no doubt as to just how strong he was.

"How is this possible," Godslayer continued speaking to himself. "A Divine Creation should not hold any aura in it. It's not supposed to work like that. In the first place, how can it be still here if its creator died."

The facts contradicted each other, or so Godslayer thought. When he slowed down and thought about what were facts and what were rumors, the answer became clear.

It was a fact that what he was looking at was a Divine Creation. It was a fact that the Idol held death aura in it. It was a fact that when the Idol's creator died, it disappeared as well.

What was not a fact but only a rumor was that the Immortal that was said to have created this ravine had killed his opponent.

But what if... what if he had not? What if his opponent was still alive?

Of course, it would be impossible for someone to remain as they were without their Divine creation. When separated from their Divine Creation, someone would lose all concept of themselves, and be nothing more than a zombie acting only on instinct. Such a person would certainly die every single time.

To make sure that sort of thing never happened, Divinites had to never let out their Divine Creation outside their body, or at least keep it close by.

Or... in the case when they lose their body...

"They have to hide inside their Divine Creation," Godslayer slowly spoke to himself.

"Young man," he called out to Alex when he was certain as to what was going on. "Be careful. That idol up there, it holds within it the spirit of a Divinity."

Alex's face paled when he heard that. Without hesitation, he stepped out of the crack in fear and tried to run away just to be safe.

"Stop," Godslayer said. "You don't have to leave."

"Are you sure?" Alex asked, stopping some distance away. "If what you're saying is true, then I have to leave."

"I'm certain what I'm saying is true," Godslayer said. "But, things might not be as serious as it sounds."

"What do you mean?" Alex asked while calming down a little.

"If what I said was to be taken at face value, and the spirit held any sort of intention to harm us, it would have killed us already," Godslayer said. "That, or the spirit would've tried to take your body or any other humans that have come here."

"You're not wrong," Alex said. "It's only sending some Death aura into everyone that comes across."

"It's probably doing so instinctively. It's either a defense mechanism to kill anyone who comes by or it's trying to send its spirit into them, but all that's coming out is Death aura."

"There's probably one of two things happening right now," Godslayer said. "The first possibility is that the divine spirit is hiding within its creation, bidding for the time it can come back alive."

"However, I don't believe that's the case. A divine spirit, even if it were hiding would have died to Heavenly Judgment a long time ago in this realm."

"What I think is really happening is that the divine spirit is all but dead. It has lost its concept of self and is only hanging along to life because it's inside of its creation."

"That also explains why there is so much death aura in that idol. Something is quite literally dying inside," Godslayer explained.

Alex thought for a moment about what Godslayer had said and asked, "How certain are you about this?"

"Trust me. I know a thing or two about death," Godslayer replied. "That spirit inside that Idol is dying. If we can kill it completely and isolate that Death aura so that it doesn't run wild, then it can become the perfect food for me that should last me a long time."

Chapter 1297: A Vessel

"Destroy the Divine spirit, huh?" Alex asked. "I think it's better to call Brother Shen here. We might need him in case something goes wrong."

"No, no need to call anyone," Godslayer said. "You can do it yourself."

"But it's a Divine spirit. Isn't it better to be careful when we're trying to mess with it?" Alex asked. "Besides, I doubt I can get rid of it on my own. Even weak, it must be much stronger than me."

"No, it's not strong," Godslayer said. "Rather, the spirit should be so weak that you can get rid of it without even trying."

"No way!" Alex said. "We can't be that lucky right?"

"We're not," Godslayer said. "The real problem comes after we erase the spirit. Because a Divine creation disappears after its creator dies, we will have a massive amount of concentrated death aura on our hands without a vessel."

"More likely than not, it will immediately spread throughout the ravine and even further away to the point it will cause a major catastrophe," Godslayer said.

"So... we need a vessel for the moment when the spirit and the creation disappear, right?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Godslayer said. "Do you have any idea what we can use?"

"I have a few swords made from Starforged Tungsten. Will that work?" Alex asked. "They're nowhere near as good as Midnight though."

"A sword, huh?" Godslayer thought for a moment. "It could work— no, it won't work. We need something else."

"Huh? Is the Starforged Tungsten, not a good enough material?" Alex asked.

"No, it's a good material, but the sword simply won't be good enough to hold all the death aura left behind here. We will need something that is either stronger or larger. What else do you have?" Godslayer asked.

"I have some ores, but I was planning to make some swords with it. Should I smelt it?" Alex asked. There was Memory that was most likely large enough, but he didn't want to use it if possible.

"You have so many things from the immortal lands, right? Bring something out," Godslayer said.

"Even if you say that..." Alex hesitated a little. What could he bring out exactly? Most of what he got from the Immortal lands were knowledge or skills. There were barely any items that could be used.

His first thought was the sword that Godslayer had been in, but that sword was still somewhere inside his soul space, so that wouldn't work. His second thought was to use the Stone sword that contained the Spiritual Providence technique.

The stone sword was large and was made up of a material that was chosen by the Weapons god. It was certainly not something so simple.

However, Alex didn't want to use it. He had already made a plan to return it to Senior Yang since he had no more use for it, and the senior could use it when he returned to the Sky God's palace in the future.

Any little thing that could help him be forgiven would help Ronron just that much more in becoming the next Sky God.

But then again, was there something else he could use?

'Urgh, I left the puppet behind with Ronron,' Alex thought. 'Maybe that could've been used.'

In the end, there was nothing he could use at all. He owned nothing that could—

"Wait a second," he thought to himself. "Could it work?"

He quickly brought out something, which floated in front of his eyes, through which Godslayer saw the item as well.

"Oh, that's perfect," Godslayer said.

What floated in front of them was the Blood God's Manual. As an artifact created by the gods, it was certainly made with one of the best materials.

Also, with how large his Soul space was, the chances of the artifact with death aura contaminating the other things in his soul space was virtually non-existent.

He could also easily pull out the artifact in case it caused trouble inside his soul space.

"Hmm... I hope it won't ruin the artifact though," Alex said.

"It won't. The artifact isn't a living thing that can be affected by death aura. If it does end up causing problems, we can change it later on," Godslayer said. He seemed overly excited to get started with the things since the death aura in there would feed him and help him grow back to his original strength for a long time.

Alex took a moment to come to terms with using the book artifact. The book itself was only used as a storage artifact for his blood beasts. It also conveniently fixed any weaker beasts just by him pouring some blood of his into it.

He wasn't worried about the blood beasts, however. What he was worried he would ruin were the 3 pages that he still had to unlock. Because he didn't know what they did, there was a chance.

In the end, however, he had nothing else he could use to contain all of the death auras, so he could only agree.

"Fine, let's start," he said. "What do I do first?"

"Bring the idol out of the wall for now," Godslayer said.

Alex nodded and walked back into the crevice before appearing in front of the idol. He floated in the air next to it and reached for it with his hand.

The idol seemed to react to his arm, hiding what little death aura it was producing. Alex grabbed onto the idol and pulled it out.

Surprisingly, the idol had quite a weight. At the very least, it was as heavy as Midnight was.

'Is it true weight? Or is it just how it's reacting to me?' he wondered.

"Alright, the next two steps are crucial and you can't mess them up," Godslayer said. "Send your spiritual sense into Creation and destroy the spirit that is inside. As soon as that happens, constrain the aura to that region and place it into the Manual."

"You must make sure it happens at once or we could lose some of the death auras," Godslayer said.

"Don't worry, I think I know what to do," Alex said.

At once, he used his Dao of Space to separate the space surrounding the Idol and him. With that separation, he used his spiritual sense on the Idol itself.

He didn't know what he was to expect, but when his senses entered the Creation, he realized just how much death aura was inside of it.

If it were something physical, the pressure buildup would have caused it to explode by now.

'Find the spirit,' he thought and went through the death aura to search for what the spirit could be.

At the center of the dark death aura, there was a small crystal-like fragment that seemed to be on the verge of disappearing.

'Is that the spirit?' Alex wondered. He poked it with his spiritual sense and found the fragment moving away as if to protect itself.

'This is it,' Alex thought and used the full force of his spiritual sense. The tiny fragment of crystal suddenly broke into a million pieces with no difficulty at all.

At the same time, the idol he was holding vanished into thin air as if it never existed.

The very next moment, a battle started between Alex and the death aura that was released all of a sudden.

The Blood God's Manual appeared in the center of it all as Alex started forcing the death aura into the book.

Using two Daos at once was hard. Using two Daos that had nothing to do with each other at once were many times harder.

While Alex used his Dao of Space to separate the space around him, he also had to use his Dao of Death to control the aura in front of him.

The Blood God's Manual started shaking all of a sudden. Alex could feel something inside the manual rejecting this onslaught of Death aura that he was trying to push into it.

'Shit! I forgot about the spirit inside the book itself,' Alex thought. Now, he had to split his attention to calm down the spirit as well.

He tried to use his spiritual sense to calm it down, but it wouldn't listen to him at all. His intent didn't work and his connection with the manual certainly didn't.



Alex started getting frustrated as he couldn't even think what exactly he could do. 'God, I hope this works,' he thought.

Suddenly, he placed his palm onto the book's cover and started bleeding. As soon as the sweet blood touched the leather cover of the Blood God's manual, a mouth opened up on the front cover and started sucking away the blood.

While the book was distracted, Alex forced the Death aura into it, which as he had hoped worked. He did this for a few minutes before pulling back his arm.

He thought the book was satisfied with his blood. However, the moment he let go, the spirit in the book started whining again, rejecting the blood aura.

Alex had to unfortunately let it suck more of his blood to quell its anger.

Dao of Space, Dao of Death, and now feeding his blood to a book, Alex worked on multiple tasks at once, putting quite a strain on his focus.

At the next moment, he had to use one more Dao.

He used the Dao of Blood Aura to transform his Qi into Blood aura so that the new blood his Undying physique was creating could also be just as tasty for the book.

Alex had to continue performing these 4 tasks all at once for nearly half an hour before all of the death auras inside of that space were fully gone.

Only then was the job done and he could finally stop.

#### Chapter 1298: Return

Alex was breathless for a few moments while he held the book in his hands. He was also severely lacking in Qi and blood at the moment, which made him feel even more tired.

'It ate so much blood that I thought another page would open up for a moment,' he thought.

The Blood God's Manual now held an unimaginable amount of death aura, which it wasn't letting go of at all. It was the perfect vessel to keep it contained until necessary.

"Amazing," Godslayer said. "Let me know when you find some Darkness aura too. I can only consume the two of them together and grow. Alright, I'm going back to sleep now."

Godslayer's excited voice quietened down, leaving Alex alone in the ravine.

Alex spent a few minutes cultivating to get back what little Qi he could for the time being. Once done, he called out to Scarlet to let her know that he was done.

"What was it? How did you do it?" Scarlet got curious.

"It was just some object with a lot of death aura. I took away the death aura, and it's fixed now," he said.

He had to lie about the Divine creation as mentioning it would cause more problems than solve it. If by some chance it led to the discovery of Godslayer inside of him, the senior from the Central continent might end up destroying him while he was weak.

As much as a problem Godslayer was to others, he also solved a lot of things for Alex. Also, in the years he had lived with him, he had come to appreciate the sword spirit which had grown quite a lot.

"Let's leave," he said and flew out of the ravine. The sect leader and many other elders were patiently waiting for him to come out. When he did, they silently waited for him to say something.

"It's done. You guys should be free to learn the sword aura without killing yourself now," Alex said.

The sect leader gave a deep sigh of relief. "Thank you so much," she said. "I can't imagine how I can ever repay you."

"You don't have to do anything," Alex said. "As I said earlier, I'm doing this because of a favor I owe the Emperor."

"Ah right, gather up your disciples and elders so I can get rid of the aura inside of them."

A few minutes later, there was a line of people waiting for him to help them.

Alex cultivated while he worked on their death aura. About a few of the way through, he had already started realizing that he wasn't needed here at all.

In fact, the death aura was starting to disappear. Perhaps it was because of the disappearance of the divine spirit that the death aura no longer seemed to hide inside their dantian as well.

So, Alex decided to not help the one that did not need his help urgently. He called the ones that were on the death door and started treating them only.

Alex left the Broken Ravine sect sometime late afternoon after he removed the death aura hiding in everyone.

He stopped by the Lightsong City which was close by to see what was happening with the players.

Once he learned that they were all properly being transferred, either using massive boats or in burst with the teleportation formation, he made his way toward the radiant city to meet the emperor once more.

It was evening once more when he arrived at the Radiant City. The sun had gone down when he was led to the Throne room.

"You're back already. I thought I wouldn't be seeing you for a long time," the emperor said.

"I was planning on coming a few days later initially, but I decided to move that forward a little bit," Alex said. "I got rid of the problem in the Broken Ravine sect. There was something that was causing them to die early. It has been fixed now."

"Oh," the Emperor hadn't expected that. "Thank you."

Alex nodded and reached into his robes before bringing out a handful of storage bags. He judged the number for a bit and decided that much was right.

He tossed it at the emperor who swiftly caught it and gave it a curious look. "What... are these?" he asked, looking at the 20 different storage bags.

"Look inside," Alex said and waited for the emperor's reaction.

As expected, the emperor's eyes went wide when he suddenly stood up. "This!" he shouted out loud.

He had expected to get some pills or alchemy recipes given who Alex was, but what he saw was something he would never have expected.

He looked at another one and another one. By the time he was done with all 20, his surprise had disappeared and all that remained was fear.

Fear that he was about to get into a debt that he couldn't possibly repay.

"Why did you give me 20 Saint Spirit veins?" the emperor asked. "Do you want something in return?"

Alex chuckled a bit. "No, I need nothing," he said. "I'm simply returning them to you since it belongs here."

The emperor was a little confused. "It belongs here?" he asked. "What do you mean by that?"

"Ah," Alex realized something. "You don't know about the war from over 4 thousand years ago, do you? If I remember correctly, the Wei clan became the royal family only over a thousand years ago."

"War?" the emperor asked. "What war?"

Alex gave a small explanation of the war that had ravaged this place in the past and how they had lost almost all of their Saint Spirit veins.

It was only after the explanation that he fully understood that Alex was returning it to him.

"Why?" he asked. "You could've kept it and made use of it to improve your own kingdom."

"Yes, but I wouldn't feel right doing so," Alex said. "In a sense, I always felt indebted to the Western Continent, both this and the other empire. So, if I had made use of those spirit veins, I would've only ever felt guilt."

"Instead, I'm returning them to you, and with this, the debt I feel I owe will have been paid as well," Alex said.

With this, he will have cut off most of his connection to the Western Continent.

"Do whatever you want with it," Alex said. "My job here is done."

The emperor himself showed Alex to the gate from where Alex swiftly departed. Late evening, Alex arrived at the Flowing Brush sect and met up with his mother who was with Qin Shan.

After talking for a while, Alex gave him a Saint Spirit vein as well.

"This is for all you've done for my mother in my absence," he told the old man. "Thank you, senior Qin."

Qin Shan couldn't help but be surprised by what he had received. He was sad that his disciples were going to be leaving for a long time, but he had gotten something in exchange that would help improve the rest of his sect's disciples.

Alex and Helen stayed there for the night, and the very next morning, they said their farewells and returned back to the Beast realm.

#### Chapter 1299: Loss and Gain

Alex arrived back in the Beast realm and told Bai Jingshen that he had done it.

"Alright, I will have beasts stationed and waiting for the people to come," he said. "Once there are enough for them, we can let them in."

Alex nodded. He looked to the side, trying to sense Pearl's connection to him, but perhaps because of what was happening to him, he couldn't sense it at all.

He felt like he had no need to ask what was going on with him, but he still did as hearing would help him feel relieved.

"You're going to return to the Crimson Empire?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"Yes, I have some tasks to complete there. Speaking of which, are the materials I asked for ready?" Alex asked.

"My wives should have the. I'll ask them to get it to you," Bai Jingshen said.

"Great," Alex said. "Do we know how the migration is going for the players in the north?"

"Hao'er came here yesterday and I've sent some beast to aid with the migration. I can't tell how long it will take, but it shouldn't take that long, maybe 2 weeks," Bai Jingshen said.

Alex thought for a bit. "2 weeks huh. I hope Pearl can get out by that time," he said.

"What will you do if he doesn't come out in time? Will you wait for him?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"No, I'll leave," Alex said nochalantly.

Bai Jingshen was a little surprised by that attitude. "I thought you cared quite a lot about Pearl," he said. "Why do you want to leave suddenly?"

"Because I can come back at any time to get him," Alex said.

"Hmm? How? Are you planning to ask the senior from Sky God's palace to send you here?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"I could do that," Alex said. "But I won't, since I have my own plans. Anyway, I think I will finish making the pills for you first, Brother Shen. I should be done in a week. After that, I can go back."

"I'll send your mother back first then," Bai Jingshen said. "She can go spend some time with her family."

Alex nodded. "I will get started with the pills then."

Alex quickly left for the alchemy room with the ingredients given to him by one of Bai Jingshen's wives and started making the pills.

A few minutes later, lightning bolts struck the palace multiple times. Bai Jingshen had seen it before, but he still was surprised to see someone in such a weak realm manage to form pill clouds.

He counted the number of lightning bolts that fell from heaven. Previously, after 5 lightning bolts, the pill clouds would disappear.

However, this time around, even after the 5th lightning bolt struck the palace, the pill cloud still hung around.

The White Tiger felt gleeful knowing that the next lightning bolt was coming down as well. As the 6th lightning bolt struck the palace, he was happy to know that most of his pills were going to have 6 pill veins.

The most a pill could have was 9 pill veins. As such, a pill with 6 pill veins was more than half as good as the most perfect a saint pill could be.

And his beasts were going to grow using these very pills.

However, as he thought that, the White Tiger's face changed as shock filled him. He quickly looked up in surprise as he realized the pill clouds hadn't disappeared at all.

"Another one? 7th pill vein?" the tiger looked flabbergasted.

7 pill veins were just 1 more pill vein than 6, but 1 pill vein was that much harder to get and made that much more impact. With 7 pill veins, the pill was that much closer to the perfection that was physically possible for a Saint pill.

The 7th lightning bolt struck the palace, surprising anyone that was keeping track of the numbers.

"That young man... just 10 days ago he was making 5 veined pills, and now he's making 7—"

The tiger's words stopped in his mouth when he slowly realized that the pill clouds had yet to disappear.

"What? How is this possible?" he could only say in surprise.

As far as he was aware, the strength required to stop the lightning bolts was either half of that realm or over that realm.



A Saint Condensation realm cultivator, if he formed a pill cloud, required the 5th realm of cultivation to stop a single lightning bolt. To stop the 2nd lightning bolt, he needed to reach the Saint Foundation realm.

Similarly, the 3rd lightning bolt required Saint Foundation 5th realm, and the 4th one required cultivation above the Saint Foundation realm.

Considering that, the 6th pill vein required a cultivation base higher than the Saint Core realm. The 7th pill vein required a cultivation base of Saint Soul 5th realm.

As for the 8th one, it required a cultivation base above the Saint Soul realm.

It required the Saint Transformation realm.

"How... how does the young man have a cultivation prowess of Saint Transformation realm?" the tiger couldn't help but ask himself. It simply didn't make any sense that someone who had just reached the Saint Core 5th realm could have such a high cultivation prowess.

There was no way Alex could just have an entire cultivation realm and a half with what he strength he had currently.

Then...

"His Blood aura?" Bai Jingshen wondered. That was the only possibility that remained, and after giving some thought to it, he came to the conclusion that that was indeed the case.

The 8th lightning bolt fell onto the palace and disappeared. A moment after, the pill clouds disappeared as well.

As long as the final lightning bolt had been stopped, Alex will have made an 8-veined pill.

In the absence of the very best, one couldn't find a pill greater than this.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alex took a deep breath after he finished making the 8-veined pill. He sighed in relief after realizing that he hadn't made a mistake with the risk he had just taken.

On the 7th lightning bolt, he was already surprised that his Qi alone could stop it. So, he decided to give the next bolt a try with his Qi and Blood aura.

The combined power his Qi and Blood aura produced was barely enough to protect the pill. Had he not added the Qi, his blood aura alone wouldn't have been capable of stopping the bolt alone.

"I probably shouldn't try the 8th bolt if I end up making double lightning each time," he thought in slight fear.

Still, it was quite a surprise to learn that his blood aura had become this strong. After all, when he had first given the White Tiger's blood essence back, it had reduced to a point where it was barely any stronger than his Qi.

And now, it was reaching heights that calling its current power stronger than the peak of the Saint Soul realm wouldn't be a lie.

"The prophecy said that I would lose a power that someone else would gain. That was probably it talking about Pearl and me," he thought. "The prophecy makes it sound like I was going to come out of it worse than I started. However, I instead became stronger than ever."

"Maybe I shouldn't give the prophecies much thought at all. They probably aren't painting the full picture in the first place."

Alex felt a little better after thinking about it in that way. Even if the prophecy was correct, it most likely never held the entire truth in it.

He smiled and got back to work again.

For the next week or so, he continued making pills one after the other. The palace resounded with lightning bolts almost the entire time, with only a few long breaks between them when Alex had to cultivate.

The lightning bolts either dropped 7 times or 8 times, depending on whether only one lightning bolt was falling or two at once.

After the week had passed, Alex finally walked out from inside the room with a bag full of pills.

"Here," Alex handed the pills to the lady Tiger that seemed to have been waiting for him.

"How many did you make?" the tiger couldn't help but ask.

"Uh... I lost count," Alex said. "About 1200 pills I believe. About 30% of them are above 95% in harmony. Of the remaining, they have 7 and 8 pill veins. As for the number, it should be half and half."

"I see," the Tiger could barely show any emotion but surprise. She had barely ever produced a pill with pill veins, and here was a human child that wasn't even a century old and could make over 800 pills with pill veins.

"I will take them," she said. "You can go and meet our lord in the garden. He has the materials you were looking for."

Alex nodded and walked away from the underground to the garden where Bai Jingshen was staying with Scarlet. It had been over a week of cloudy days and nights, so they were ecstatic to find the sun shining bright in the sky.

"You're finally out?" the White Tiger asked.

Alex nodded. "I hear you have the materials I asked for," he said.

"Here," Bai Jingshen tossed it to Alex. "What are you going to use it for exactly?"

"I will keep it a secret for now since I'm not sure I can succeed or not," Alex said. "But if I do succeed, it will make things so much simpler for the both of us."

"Oh?" the White Tiger looked curious. "Alright, I'll wait for it then."

### Chapter 1300: Old Figures

Alex walked out of the teleportation formation and was surprised to immediately feel a lot of cultivation bases around him, albeit very weak ones.

With a wave of his spiritual sense, he saw quite a few humans already gathering outside, not very far away from them.

'They're already here, huh?' he thought.

He flew away from the location to go back to the Scarlet City. However, just a few minutes after flying, he remembered something.

'Oh right, the Emperor wanted to talk to me, didn't he?' he thought. 'Since he's so close by, I should go and meet him.'

Alex immediately changed his direction and flew in the direction of the Cardinal City, which took him no more than a single hour to reach.

As soon as he arrived, he flew directly to the palace with no one stopping him at all. He practically intruded on the palace, but he still remained outside the main building waiting for someone to come.

The guards gathered and were ready to attack, but none of them could do so without any orders, which required someone big.

A man walked out of the palace and arrived in front of Alex. He bowed a little in front of Alex and asked, "Greetings, senior. May I know who you are? And why you have come to our palace?"

"Oh, if it isn't the crown prince," Alex said with a somewhat surprised tone. "Your father requested my presence some time ago. I was busy back then, so I could only come right now."

"His royal majesty did?" the crown prince was surprised. "And... your name?"

Alex simply smiled. "Just come out. You should have recognized me already," he said.

A moment later, the Emperor of the Crimson Empire, Fu Zexian walked out of the palace.

"When Brother Feng had told me, I couldn't believe it, but you really have grown strong. So strong that I can't even tell how strong you are," the emperor spoke while constantly trying to gauge Alex's strength and failing.

The man himself had only just reached the Saint Foundation 7th realm, so he really couldn't feel Alex's cultivation base even if he wanted to.

Alex wanted to start up a small talk when he sensed two different spiritual sense land on him, each one of which was stronger than the emperor.

Alex's eyes went slightly wide in surprise as a smile formed on his face. "Now that's interesting," he said. "I had always wondered back when I was around as to what happened to you two. As expected, you haven't kicked the bucket yet."

The emperor felt a bit afraid when he heard how Alex was talking.

"Please, let's go in," he quickly said and took Alex inside.

Alex walked through the palace of the royal family of the Crimson Empire. He remembered how incredibly fascinated he was the first time he had come around.

And now, there was nothing here that made him even raise an eyebrow.

He was taken to a room at the end of the hallway that was the fanciest room he had seen in all of the palaces.

He wasn't even brought here the last time around when he had stayed here for a week or so.

After he entered, he met with two men that had been waiting for him.

One of them was an old man with gray-white hair that looked quite old. The other was a man with some gray hair, but mostly he looked middle-aged at best.

Both of them had a cultivation base just below the Saint Core realm. They seemed to have been lacking the Qi the breakthrough to the next realm.

Alex nodded a little toward the two men and looked for a seat. Somehow, this seemed to have offended the man with the gray hair.

"Young man, shouldn't you properly greet your seniors?" he asked. "You aren't allowed to sit until you do."

"Oh? Is that so?" Alex asked and sat down on the empty chair. "What are you going to do if I don't?"

The gray-haired man got angry, but the half-gray man quickly stopped him from speaking any further. "Father, it's alright. Just let it be," the man said before turning around to Alex.

"I'm sorry about my father. He's just a little angry that the last kid that came here not only disrespected him but also defeated him easily when he asked for a battle," the man quickly said.

"What? I didn't lose!" the man shouted. "That fight didn't count since I couldn't even touch her."

"Grandfather, please," the emperor spoke. "Do not disrespect the guest."

The old man finally calmed down.

The gray-haired old man was Fu Qiong, the man who unified the Shattered Kingdom into the Crimson Empire.

Alex still remembered the younger version that he saw in the Fu Clan head's memory more than a week ago.

This was the man that was supposed to be the Fu clan's head, but fate had brought him over to this side where he still had managed to make something out of himself.

The other man was his son, the previous emperor of the Crimson Empire.

Both of them were people that were only remembered in history books. Almost everyone believed they had died for some reason, but here they were, healthier than ever.

"Ah, so he met up with sister Hao Ya too, huh? Well, you would be stupid to try and fight her. She's in the Saint Soul realm after all," Alex said.

The three men suddenly gulped in response. "S-saint soul realm?" the emperor asked. "Wasn't she in the Saint Core realm?"

"No," Alex said. "Well, it's the same thing to you guys anyway. It was stupid to try and fight her."

The two men looked at Fu Qiong who could only look down in shame.

"So, what did you call me here for? You sent someone to find me a while ago," he asked.

"Oh, we just wanted to meet you," the emperor said. "Brother Feng told us you were strong, so I got curious. Also, given that the last time you came around, you introduced the concept of medicinal pastes and also gave the sects the recipes to make pills that restored one's limbs and other body parts, I was hoping if you had something like that."

The emperor for sure was expecting something from him.

Alex chuckled a bit. "I have nothing of value that I can give you that I haven't already given to the Hong Wu sect. Wait for a month or two, and the new pills should be surfacing soon in the market," he said.

"Is... is that so?" the emperor got a little disappointed. He was expecting a bit too much apparently.

"Although," Alex suddenly spoke, causing him to look back in anticipation. "I do have some things I can give you, which you should like much more than any pills I can give you guys."

"Oh? What is it?" the emperor asked.

Alex quickly brought out the many storage bags and tossed them at the emperor and his father and grandfather.

Each one of them held the bags with a confused look. Then, they took a look inside.

"You now have 30 Saint spirit veins that can improve the cultivation base of this empire by a lot," Alex said. "That should be plenty right?"