

Alchemy 1311

Chapter 1311: A Quick Trip to the Orchard

Alex trained his newfound technique and started making pills.

On his first try, he made a pill that reached 8 veins just as he had hoped. However, after making subsequent pills, he ended up with a slight problem.

The problem wouldn't be much of a bother to him, but to others, it would definitely be a major problem.

The energy in the cauldron was no longer potent enough to make a 100% pill all the time. As long as Alex was careful when making the pills from the very start, he wouldn't have much of a problem in this regard.

Even when he made a pill that didn't have enough energy to reach 100%, he could simply add a single World Defying Mushroom into the cauldron, and he would have more than enough energy to reach what he wanted.

As for others, they would have no chance from the start since they didn't have any World Defying Mushroom.

Alex was running out on his reserve of the mushroom, so he left for the City of Many Flowers along with Linlin and Ronron who wanted to come as well.

Alex had Ronron put on a veil that covered her face for the most part and made it hard to see through. He wanted to give her a mask to wear as well, but Ronron refused it saying that she did not find masks fashionable at all.

"This place we're going to, it's full of flowers right?" Ronron asked.

"Yes, your Highness," Linlin answered. "The City of Many Flowers is known for its exquisite beauty and flowers that grow at every corner of the street."

"Aww, I want to see it too," Ronron said. "My senses are barely large enough to see anything."

"You'll have to make do with it," Alex said.

Ronron grumbled slightly. "Whatever," she said.

"Have you been learning everything about the continent?" Alex asked. "Who are the important figures in the City of Many Flowers?"

"Huh? Oh... that's... Qiu Hanyu of the Flowerhall sect and... Jin Tianma of the Alchemy Association?" Ronron asked.

"Good, you've been studying well," Alex said. They arrived sometime later at the City of Many Flowers and got off their ship. Another ship close by stopped as well as a handful of guards flew out of it and surrounded Alex and the two girls, protecting them.

Alex had insisted that he didn't need any protection, but the Elders refused to let him go anywhere without the guards. The Scale Legion of the Eastern Continent was still around, so they took every precaution they could.

Given that none of them were even in the Saint Soul realm, Alex doubted they could be of any help if he truly needed one.

"Your majesty!" a few people walked up to them and bowed deeply.

"Sect leader Qiu, Association leader, how have you two been?" Alex asked.

"We've been doing great, your majesty!" the two answered one after another.

"You haven't met my daughter yet, I assume," Alex said. "This is Maron."

"Princess Maron," the sect elder Qiu spoke immediately. "It is our pleasure to see you in the flesh."

Ronron felt a little awkward but she was used to people calling her that and had learned the proper etiquette before.

She bowed slightly, saying nothing while doing so.

"I hear the Orchard opened in my absence," Alex said immediately, not letting her feel any more awkward being in the focus. "Any sign when it will be opening next?"

"The pollen burst has been slow as of yet, your majesty," the sect leader answered. "I doubt it will open within the next year."

"I see," Alex said. "I guess I have no choice but to open it myself then."

The group present nodded. Both of them wanted to take Alex to their respective place to serve him, but Alex wanted none of that.

Instead, he decided to simply go to the orchard. He was a little too busy after all.

Arriving on top of the platform in the middle of the lake, Alex could feel the spatial pocket hiding right in front of him.

"Can you sense it?" he asked his daughter.

Ronron tried a bit, but she couldn't tell anything. "No, Spatial Sense is still off for me. I can only tell when there is a change in space or there is spatial manipulation. I can probably tell there has been a change once I'm inside though. As for being like you, I will need the Dao."

Alex nodded. "Later, after you enter the Saint realm," he said. He had explained the reason to Ronron already so Ronron was staying passively without asking for any help.

Gaining a Dao in the True realms made you strong, but it also made breaking through difficult with the Inner Demon and the Lightning Tribulation.

At the very least, Alex did not want Ronron to learn any dao until she reached the True Emperor realm.

Alex reached out and made a cutting gesture in front of him. The space tore itself into two, opening a pathway into the orchard.

He walked into it, and looked back, keeping it open for the others to walk in. It wasn't just him or Ronron and Linlin that were going to enter the orchard, but also quite a few of the people from the Flowerhall sect and the Alchemy Association that had been ready to come here ever since Alex let them know that he was coming.

One by one people entered. Ronron and Linlin entered first, followed by the royal guard. Only after that did the members from the sect and association come in.

Harry walked in as well and greeted Alex. They talked for a while before Harry had to go and find whatever ingredients he could.

Unlike the normal openings, when Alex opened the orchard, it stayed open until he wanted to. So, if he came here for a single ingredient, then they had that amount of time to look for whatever they could find.

Alex took his time. It had been a while since he had such free time, so he spent as much time as he could on the inside, just enjoying the Forbidden Orchard.

Whisker was out as well, looking at everything around them. He spent more time with the family, so he had come here with Ronron rather than Alex. When he saw different ingredients, he jumped down to collect them from time to time.

The only person who couldn't truly see everything was Ronron, who was annoyed a bit whenever someone made any sound of getting amazed by something far away.

Alex went around with the rest, gathering what he thought was necessary, leaving the rest for Whisker to gather. He went through the field of Spirit Cleansing Lilies, went past the jungle with the Divine Devil's fruit, and arrived in the damp land next to the river where the World Defying Mushroom grew.

He kept the people far away so as to not pollute the mushroom, while he used his Space dao to cut it and gather it.

He did it slowly, taking his time. After he was done, he took a long way back to the gate and waited for people to gather. Once they were all there, he opened the spatial door once again and they all walked back out.

Chapter 1312: Alter and Combine

After the Pill Splitting Qi, Alex decided to focus on his various techniques to not just improve them, but also alter them to make them more impactful.

As of yet, there was really only just one method of alteration that he was hoping to do. That was combining two techniques into one.

There were complicated procedures when trying to combine two techniques into one. So, to have as little difficulty as possible, Alex started with the two techniques that were close to each other.

He wanted to combine the Iron Fist technique and the Golden Spears technique. Given that both of the techniques had something related to Creation major meridian, and that creation coming from a Metal spiritual root made it easy to combine the two techniques.

He had been training how to do that for a few days back in the Western Continent, but he had to stop due to his work there.

There was not much point in training in the Central continent either. After returning to the Southern Continent, he had been busy elsewhere, so he was only getting to go back to it now.

Alex had improved both techniques to the peak, so all he needed to do was combine them.

To combine them, he needed to go through the same process he had with the Pill Splitting Qi. He needed to separate the technique into individual steps that it had and then combine the parts he needed.

From the Iron Fist Punch technique, Alex didn't want to keep the fist shape of the attack, but he wanted the force that came at the end that sent the attack flying.

For the Golden Spear technique, he wanted to create all four of the spear but instead of having to control them, he wanted them to automatically shoot off in front of him at the target.

After subtracting one part from the first technique and adding the other part to the second technique for nearly 3 weeks, Alex came up with a new technique.

He practiced it on the Immortal Puppet in front of him.

He punched into the air while using his technique. All of a sudden, 4 spears made up of Metal Qi formed in the air and instantly shot toward the puppet in front of him.

Each spear was strong on its own, so 4 attacking at the same time had quite the strength behind it. At the very least, it was no different than being attacked by 4 Iron Fist punches at once.

Alex was more than happy with the technique he had come up with using the two old ones. He called the new technique Golden Spear Punch and moved on to other similar techniques.

There weren't many techniques that were similar enough to the two to combine them.

Alex combined the sword strikes Elusive Heavenly Sword with the Static Slash he had acquired from the Palace treasury after becoming the king. He only formed a single slashing technique that shot out a lightning slash, which Alex called the Heavenly Static Slash.

Alex made up a fire technique that he could shoot forward. He improved it to its peak and combined it with the explosion technique he had learned from the dao and created another new technique, which he called the Bursting Blaze.

Alex made up another technique using the 21 Sword Array as a base. He found it hard to change the technique when he tried adding swords that broke the array's sequence. The sequence he found was the number of swords that needed to be put in each layer.

3, 6, 12, 21, 33, 48... and so on was the sequence he needed to follow. Alex got up to the 6th layer, which in total asked for 123 swords. However, he found it hard to collect that many swords for now, so Alex moved it down to the 5th number, which used a total of 75 swords.

75 Sword Array was what Alex came up with as the name for the technique. He moved on from it once he was done with it.

Alex tried to take the Golden Spear Punch and mix it with his Penta-Sword technique of his, but the two techniques were a little too different for him to possibly combine them at once.

Once he was done with similar techniques, Alex moved on to converting techniques into different techniques that did the same thing but used a different Elemental Qi instead.

There was a very easy technique for Alex to start with in this one. He had the 5 Elemental Barrier, which formed a barrier using the 5 normal elements. All Alex wanted to do was add Yang and Yin into the barrier as well, turning it into the 7-Elemental Barrier.

It took him a month to go through various possibilities before adding the two elemental Qi into the barrier to form it. Alex had succeeded, but that was only the beginning

He had made the barrier, but the barrier was in no way as strong as it could be.

The strongest defensive barrier technique Alex had was the Swirling Water Shield technique which spun a bunch of water Qi in a curved barrier that instead of just stopping an attack, it deflected it, making the barrier use up much less energy and stay intact that much longer.

Now, Alex had to try and slowly made a spiral barrier for each element and then add it all together to form a single technique.

This was the hardest task Alex took on since the Pill Splitting Qi. It took him such a long time to complete it, that in the meantime, the Sundering Sanctum opened and closed.

There was no winner this time around, and Alex had to go there himself to get everyone out as the formation at the top of the artifact was broken and no one could come out on their own.

After sending everyone out, Alex spent some time talking with the spirit in there and some more time refining the playground. It was going to take a long time before he got anywhere at all with it.

Alex returned back to the palace and completed the technique that he had been trying for so long. After months, the technique was finally perfected, with all 7 elements working together in a swirl to form a barrier.

He named it the All Swirling Elemental Shield.

Once he was done, Alex tested the shield around a bit and noticed that it was strong against all elemental attacks, with the strength varying depending on the strength of his own Spiritual roots.

After that, Alex decided to focus on making more Blood Beasts. He was handed over some Saint beast cores by Bai Jingshen upon asking and also had gathered his own from throughout the Southern Continent.

He had been gathering his blood during all these months, so there was no doubt that he had enough blood to form dozens of blood beasts, but he worried that it was going to take a lot of time.

There were only so many months before the people from the Eastern Continent would arrive to take them. Before that, Alex had to go to the Western Continent to meet Bai Jingshen as well as Pearl.

As Alex thought that, he looked over to his left arm instinctively to check on Pearl's tattoo.

To his utter dismay, the tattoo on his arm had completely vanished.

Chapter 1313: Pearl

The moment Alex saw that the paw print on his left bicep was gone, he immediately jumped into action.

He spread his spiritual sense in a wide area, locating many of the important people in the palace. "I'm going away for a while. I'll be back soon," he told them.

Then, he teleported away, arriving on top of the teleportation platform behind the palace. He activated the script without hesitation and in the next moment he was gone.

Alex arrived in the northern desert of the Western Continent and immediately flew away from there, moving in the direction of the Beast realm.

His speed was far faster than any boat artifact he could use, and as such he would arrive by the Beast realm in just an hour.

Alex checked his arm again, to make sure he wasn't mistaken. He even hoped he was. However, the mark was still gone, which meant... Alex didn't want to think about what that meant.

He continued flying for a while, keeping all thoughts away from him at the moment, and arrived by the teleportation platform outside of the secret realm.

He flew down and quickly asked the beasts there to let him in. After contacting someone inside, Alex was finally taken in.

As soon as Alex arrived in the underground palace, he had to follow a beast who was taking him to Bai Jingshen. Alex was in a hurry, but he couldn't overstep his boundaries.

He wasn't taken to the Throne room, but rather to the palace hall where he arrived and entered. As soon as he entered, he saw Bai Jingshen in his massive beast form, sitting on top of a large chair.

Next to him were his 7 women who were sitting to the side, seemingly waiting for Alex to come.

Then, Alex saw the 9th beast in the group.

"Pearl!" Alex called out as soon as he saw the white-furred beast with golden eyes.

"Brother!" Pearl shouted and ran off toward Alex. He jumped onto Alex, hugging him in the process.
"You finally came, brother."

Alex hugged the giant Pearl with his arms not even reaching halfway around his body. "You scared me," he said, holding him tightly. "I thought you were dead."

Pearl let go of Alex. "Dead? Why?" he asked.

Alex quickly showed his bicep. "Your beast space is gone, so I thought you had died," he said. "I was so worried, but you're still alive, so everything is fine."

"You only noticed it was gone now?" Bai Jingshen was gone.

"Ah, brother Shen," Alex quickly spoke. "Greetings." He turned to the others as well as greeted them.
"My apologies, I was in such a rush that i—"

"It's fine," Bai Jingshen said with a bit of a chuckle in his voice. "I would have been worried if you weren't so emotionally occupied with seeing Pearl."

Alex nodded and looked back at Pearl. He stared at him for a few moments with a confused look on his face. Pearl's cultivation base seemed to have gotten a little better, and his aura seemed stronger, but there were no other changes that were apparent to him.

"He... evolved, didn't he?" he asked.

"He did, but he didn't change physically," Bai Jingshen said. "It's a common occurrence in beasts that have a very strong impression of who they are. So, when they evolve, they remain the same."

"But mistake not, this Pearl is completely different than the Pearl you used to know. His strength, skill, talent, everything is on a level beyond that of a regular beast. After all, he is now a bonafide Heavenly beast with a bloodline comparable to that of the progenitor of the White Tiger."

Alex felt a chill pass through him when he remotely realized just how important that made Pearl.

"So everything is fixed, right?" Alex asked. "His bloodline is great and his spiritual root is fine?"

"His bloodline is greater than ever, and his spiritual roots are back to being how they were before he ruined it in the Central Continent," Bai Jingshen said.

"I see, that's a relief," Alex said and a small smile formed on his face. "You did it, Pearl. I knew you could do it."

Pearl gave a smile as well.

"Were you busy? Why didn't you come sooner?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"I was busy," Alex said. "I only recently became free and was going to move on to my next work, which was when I noticed that the tattoo was gone."

"So," he turned toward Bai Jingshen. "Can you tell me why the tattoo is gone? Not only that, but I also can't feel Pearl even though he is right in front of him. Is it why I think it is?"

Bai Jingshen shrugged. "You seem to have realized already. It's simple, isn't it? You two lost your bond."

Alex knew that was most definitely the answer, but he was still surprised. "We both lost our bond?" he asked. "I didn't initiate it, so does that mean Pearl broke the bond with me?"

He found it hard to believe Pearl would do something like that.

"No," Bai Jingshen said. "You could say it happened on its own, or if you want someone to blame, blame the heavens."

"I... don't understand," Alex said, hoping for a better explanation than that.

"Simply speaking, your bond was with Pearl, the White Cat. What he became after evolving was a White Tiger. Since he's an entirely different being, the Pearl you were bonded with no longer exists in Heaven's eyes. So, the bond broke. Does that make sense?" Bai Jingshe asked.

"Uh... yeah, actually that makes a lot of sense," Alex said. "So Pearl really did evolve into something else other than what he was before, huh?"

He smiled and pet Pearl a little. As he did, he noticed something.

"Huh?" Alex got curious. For one thing, Pearl's muscles were far stronger than they were before, but that wasn't what surprised Alex. What surprised him was Pearl's skin.

As he pet him, he noticed the skin underneath the fur, which didn't seem to be some plain skin at all. Instead, it looked like there was some black pattern across his skin.

It was only on his body, and couldn't be seen that easily even with the fur moved. The markings were also quite disconnected, so it didn't seem like they were something recognizable.

"What is this?" Alex asked Bai Jingshen.

Bai Jingshen looked closely and shook his head. "I don't know. This is the first time I saw this," he said trying to understand what it was.

The female beasts looked at the black spots and were surprised. "Maybe his skin got the black stripes of a tiger, but not entirely?" one of them asked.

"It could be the black spots or patches of a normal leopard or a clouded leopard," one of the women said. "Maybe from his father?"

"Maybe it was something in this young man's blood that affected the evolution process," another one answered.

Not a single one could truly come up with a satisfactory answer, so they all gave up in the end.

"If we don't know, then there's no point in figuring out. I'll have them look up what it could be later. For now, since you are here you might as well tell me when you are leaving for the Eastern Continent," Bai Jingshen asked.

Alex thought for a bit and answered.

"There should be less than half a year before we leave."

Chapter 1314: The Treasury

"Half a year, huh? I guess we don't have much time then," Bai Jingshen said. "Come with me, you two."

Bai Jingshen walked outside with Pearl and Alex following behind him. As they walked through the hallway, Alex checked Pearl's cultivation base. He was very much close to entering the Saint Foundation realm.

Pearl had his cultivation base slowed down due to having to spend a decade and a half in a place without any cultivation potential. Due to the evolution, his cultivation base had shot up, but he still had to continue from then on.

'I wonder how fast his cultivation speed will be from now on,' Alex wondered.

There were a few other tests he wanted to do with Pearl as soon as possible, with the main one being if Pearl cultivating still forced him to body cultivate or not. The obvious answer was no, but he still wanted to test it before being certain.

"Here we are," Bai Jingshen said, arriving in front of a large door with a formation carved onto it. "You recognize this door, don't you?"

Alex felt awkward at the question and gave a small smile instead.

They had arrived in front of the treasury, the very same one Alex had found Godslayer in, and had proceeded to destroy his way through the palace that very nearly led to Ren Xiao's death.

"You wanna try opening it?" Bai Jingshen asked.

Alex quickly shook his head.

The white tiger laughed and placed his palm on the formation before pouring Qi onto the seal. "You wouldn't have been able to open it even if you wanted to," he said. "This formation requires the person to have a very strong concentration of White Tiger's bloodline in their system."

"You made it through last time, but this time around, it would be impossible for you," Bai Jingshen said.

Alex nodded. His Qi was capable of running any formation and script regardless of whether or not he was pouring his Qi as it was required. While others would need to use a token of some sort, he could activate a formation or script without it.

However, when it came to formations with seals on them that asked for a specific thing, he couldn't do anything even if he could activate it.

That was why despite activating the treasury door back in his own palace, he still needed the crown's help to open it.

After Bai Jingshen, Alex and Pearl walked in.

The last time Alex had come, there were only two swords in this place, of which he had taken one. However, this time around, the treasury was completely filled up with many different items and objects.

"Woah!" Alex said, quite surprised at the stuff inside the treasury. He had been inside his own treasury, but it was nowhere near as good as this.

"There is so much stuff," he couldn't help but say.

"I brought a lot of things back with me when I was gone," Bai Jingshen said. "Most of these things are for the others. There's nothing here that I would truly count as... incredible."

"Ah, is that so," Alex couldn't help but say.

"Oh, wait," Bai Jingshen said and looked around. "There is one thing that I brought back for Pearl. I forgot I kept it here."

He reached for some corner and pulled out a box. He opened the wooden box and pulled out something metallic from inside of it.

It was a sort of bracelet, which he tossed toward Pearl.

Pearl caught it and looked at it curiously.

Alex looked at it too. At first, he couldn't see what was so good about this bracelet. Was it a defensive item maybe that Pearl was going to use?

As he thought that, his eyes caught on something blue or violet. "Hmm?" he looked closely at the small blue crystal. He felt like he knew what that was, that crystal.

"No way!" he shouted the moment he realized. "Is that... a space stone?"

"We just call it a storage artifact, but yes that stone in it is the Space stone," Bai Jingshen said.

Alex looked at the ring on his own finger. "They are of separate color, huh?" he asked. "I remember the senior saying the color was a result of corruption or something. Is the color random?"

"The color isn't random," Bai Jingshen said. "It's usually a good measure of how much of the space in the space stone you've managed to turn into usable space in the ring."

"If I'm not wrong, it starts off with colorless or white where it is full of space aura and no space. Then it goes yellow, green, blue, purple, and red. There are some people that say black is the highest grade one, but I've never seen one," Bai Jingshen said.

"So, blue stones are average huh?" Alex said. "Senior said even red ones weren't very good though."

"Honestly, Space stones are a mystery to me. I only know it has space energy which can be turned to normal space," Bai Jingshen said and helped Pearl wear the bracelet.

"You'll have to spend your days refining it okay? I took it from the treasury without asking, so I don't know who it belonged to before. You will have to take care," he told Pearl.

Pearl nodded and looked at the bracelet on his arm with fascination. What was even more fascinating was that the bracelet slowly changed color, turning transparent until it looked like the white fur on Pearl's arm.

"Alright, now where is it?" Bai Jingshen looked around again and found the sword that he had been looking for. "Come."

Alex went along with him and arrived in front of a small pedestal that was kept in the corner of the room. On it was a thin and long sword with a red handle, silver crossguard, and a fully black blade.

The blade itself, now that Alex was looking at it, was made up of not metal, but rather some form of crystalline rock. He had never really noticed that before, but now he did.

On the base of the blade itself was a small indentation made by something that was carved on it.

The Azure Imperium's Insignia.

This was the sword that had been in Pearl's mother's body when they had somehow arrived on the Western Continent. This was the sword that Alex had pulled from her body to let her die. This was the sword that let them know who exactly their enemy was.

"It's time for you to find who the owner of the sword was," Bai Jingshen said. He turned toward Pearl. "It's time for you to find who killed your mother."

Pearl was surprised but he quickly got serious and nodded. "I will definitely find them," he said.

Bai Jingshen grabbed the sword and tossed it at Alex.

Alex caught the sword reactively, not letting it fall to the ground. As soon as he grabbed it, he felt a force on him that came from the half-formed spirit in the sword, not unlike his own Midnight.

Alex poured some of his Qi into the sword to calm it down fully. It took a while, but Alex got it to stop struggling so much.

The moment the sword stopped struggling, Alex noticed something else about the sword.

"Space aura?"

"Space Aura?" Pearl asked when he heard Alex speak.

"This sword has space aura in it?" Bai Jingshen asked with a curious look.

"Yes," Alex said. "It's faint though, very faint. If I wasn't holding it, I wouldn't even have noticed."

Alex wondered what the reason was for the sword to have a space aura. Unable to come up with any reasonable assumptions, he stopped thinking about it.

"Even with the spirit somewhat tamed, it's still quite heavy," Alex said, moving the sword around. "Although, I get a feeling that this sword isn't very much used for fighting."

"It has the insignia of the Azure Empire, so I would assume it's more of a celebratory sword than an actual one used for fighting," Bai Jingshen said. "Still, we can't dismiss the fact that it could be a sword used for fighting."

Alex continued looking at the sword. "I don't think I can just ask the Dragon Emperor who this sword belongs to, can I?" he asked.

"No, I suppose you cannot," Bai Jingshen said.

"Hmm, this might be annoying then," Alex thought. "To begin with, if the emperor himself is the one who owns this sword belongs to, then... wait, what do I do then?"

"Kill him," Bai Jingshen said.

Alex gave an awkward smile. "I don't know if I'm capable of such a thing just yet," he said. "I assume the Dragon Emperor would be a strong Saint Transformation figure at the very least."

"Maybe," Bai Jingshen said. "As far as I can remember, it has been nearly 10 millennia since he became the Emperor. If he is still healthy enough to rule a continent, then his strength cannot be underestimated."

Alex was a little surprised. This was the first time someone had mentioned how long ago the Dragon Emperor had taken up the crown.

"You once told me that you knew saints who lived 10 thousand years. Was that in this realm or the Immortal realms?" Alex asked.

"I was speaking about the Immortal realms," Bai Jingshen said. "There aren't nearly any good elixirs in this realm that can aid your longevity that much."

"Then how is the Dragon Emperor living so long?" Alex asked.

"Body Cultivation," the White Tiger said non-nonchalantly. "He has a strong body on top of having a high cultivation base. That's the only way for someone to live so long and remain healthy."

"I see," Alex said, understanding a little more.

"Let's leave."

They walked away from the treasury that closed behind them. They walked and went back to the palace hall where Bai Jingshen's women were still seated.

They talked for a bit as Alex talked about what he had been doing while he was away. Alex explained what he could, Luo Beihan that there was a technique that could help them make perfect pills.

"Wait, do you think I could learn that technique as well?" she asked.

Alex didn't even hesitate. "Of course," he said. "I'm not really sure if beasts can do it or not, but you should be able to."

He brought out a talisman and handed it over to the tiger. The tiger was beyond excited to learn that her alchemy skills were going to get much better with just that one technique. After all, it was a technique belonging to the Alchemy God himself.

He had already given a few pill recipes, but he still wanted to give them the Saint Poison Neutralizing pill so that the beast could remain safe.

In return, Bai Jingshen gave him something as well.

He placed his energy into Alex's body as he settled a technique in there. Alex watched in surprise and remembered the roar from so long ago that had saved him from the attack that the dead 8th Undying God's remaining spirit had launched on him.

"How do you do that?" Alex asked with a slightly surprised face.

"It's simple," Bai Jingshen said. "You just leave a bit of your energy in the other person with an intent attached to it. If your Intent is strong enough, you can do it."

"I see," Alex said. "What will this thing you left in me do?"

"It's a Defensive skill," Bai Jingshen said. "It should defend you from almost anything in this world, even if Immortals themselves were to descend."

"A Defensive skill, huh?" Alex thought. "What about an offensive one?"

"I can't," Bai Jingshen said.

"A problem with your Intent?" Alex asked.

"Hah! I wish," Bai Jingshen said. "At least that way I would have a way to change it and get better. No, the problem is with my oath. I made an oath not to harm any humans or demons in this world."

"If I were to leave an offensive Intent in you and it were to accidentally attack someone, that person would die. In that case, I would be in a lot of trouble," Bai Jingshen said.

"Ah, that makes sense," Alex said. "If there were no such clause, you would have been able to get your revenge. That's a shame."

"It is no shame at all," Bai Jingshen said. "I don't want revenge. I just want the killer to pay for it. As for revenge, I'll leave it to Pearl since he is more directly involved in all of this than I am."

Pearl's face grew resolute. "I'll definitely get revenge for Mother's death," he said. "Even if that is the last thing I do."

Bai Jingshen patted him on his head. "That shouldn't be the last thing you do. That should be the first of many things that will do in the future," he said.

Pearl nodded slightly.

Alex waited for the heartwarming moment to end before speaking. "I should be leaving," he said.

"Leaving? So soon?" Bai Jingshen was surprised.

"I think I have spent enough time already. I have many things to do as well before the people from the Eastern Continent arrive in a few months," Alex said.

"I see," Bai Jingshen said. "So you're going to leave without even forming a new bond with Pearl?"

"Ah!" Alex remembered. "Right, I nearly forgot."

He turned towards Pearl and asked, "Pearl, do you want to form a new bond with me?"

"Of course," Pearl said, with an almost angry look on his face that Alex even thought to ask.

"Uhh..." he looked toward Bai Jingshen. "What do I do exactly? I only know how to make a master-servant bond. All the other times I've gone through a bond of Equals has been when I'm unconscious."

"It's simple," Bai Jingshen said. "Bring out a single drop of your Essence and give it to Pearl. As long as you provide your blood, Pearl can choose to bond to you on his own as an equal."

"I see," Alex said and reached out to his forehead. A small cut appeared from where a single drop of blood flew out. His forehead closed back and Alex presented the blood to Pearl.

Pearl licked the blood midair and suddenly Alex felt his spirit stir a little. His left arm itched a little while he started feeling Pearl through a new connection again.

When the large paw print returned to his body on his left bicep, the bond of Equals was completed.

Chapter 1316: Arrival

"Same place huh?" Alex thought, looking at the paw print through his spiritual sense. The mark was a little different though with the paw having sharp fingernails coming out this time around.

Pearl disappeared into it for a moment before coming back out. "It is done," he said. He looked toward Bai Jingshen who nodded.

Ren Xiao came up and licked Pearl. "You were worried, weren't you?" she asked. "See? There was no reason to worry. It always works."

Pearl nodded as well.

Ren Xiao looked toward Alex and handed him a talisman. "We've tried our best to think of as much as we can about the Eastern Continent, especially the Beast Paradise there. However, whatever we remember are all from over 5 thousand years ago, and we haven't been able to send anyone since our lord has returned."

"As such, that is all the information we could gather for you," she said.

"Right, there was this thing as well," Bai Jingshen said. He was so uninterested in anything that had text in it that he had nearly sent them away without giving them the talisman he had asked his women to prepare a long time ago."

"Information on the Eastern Continent?" Alex's eyes widened slightly and he grabbed it. He looked through it briefly, checking the topics if nothing else.

There were a few topics on the structure of the empire, the many prolific houses, the amazing sects, and the various regions that had been separated, each of which was ruled by a ruler of their own.

Even just a glimpse of the continent was enough to let Alex know just how old it was, and just how strong the continent was altogether.

There was also information on the family of beasts that Pearl's grandmother was married into. The information in there was a lot, but it was all from 5 millennia ago. Alex had to remember that every time he read it.

He stopped reading and placed the talisman into his ring. He now had the information about the continent, the sword that was the key, and the reason why they had to go there.

Now, all that was remaining was to go back and prepare.

After a heartfelt goodbye, Alex and Pearl left the secret realm and flew past the Cardinal City, going straight north to where the teleportation formation was.

"Woah!" Pearl couldn't help but shout when he flew on his own in the air for the first time in a very long time.

Even when flying on his own previously, he had to be helped by others, or others had to slow down for him. His cultivation base was in truly poor conditions and so he had to make do with what he had after destroying his spiritual root and bloodline.

However, now that he had gained both, he could feel the speed and strength that came with a proper cultivation base.

Pearl wasn't fast enough that he could outspeed Alex. He couldn't. The gap between them was just too much.

He was only fast when compared to his own previous self. And the difference in speed was very stark.

Alex watched Pearl enjoy his flight as he slowed down for him. Instead of an hour or two, it took them 3 hours and some to reach the very edge of the Western Continent.

Alex handed Pearl a token and they both entered. After a short burst of light, they teleported to the Southern Continent.

Alex walked off the platform, thinking not much about it as he wanted to go tell his family and friends about Pearl's return.

However, when he realized that Pearl hadn't moved, he stopped and looked back.

Pearl stared around the place, looking at the trees, the garden, the metal dome, and the palace not far away.

"So this is where you stayed, huh brother?" he asked, looking around. "This is what the Southern Continent is like."

"Oh... right," Alex thought. Pearl had never been to the Southern Continent. He had been with Pearl to the other continents and had come back, so Alex was mixing up his time in the Southern Continent, and his time with Pearl was almost similar.

"Hehe," he chuckled a little. "Come, there's so much more for you to see."

Alex took Pearl into the Palace. The elders, Linlin, and a few guards had already gathered and come to find him when they realized he had arrived back.

However, when they saw what was next to him, they froze.

"Your Majesty," Linlin was the first to call him out. "You shouldn't go out like that without any protection. What would we do if something were to happen to you?"

"I was only in the Western Continent," Alex said. "Do you fear that Commander Jianyu and his fleet would get me there as well?"

"No, but... whatever," Linlin gave up. "Anyway, who is this?"

"This is the one that I've told you guys about for a long time," Alex said. "Meet my brother and beast, Pearl."

The group looked at Pearl with surprise as they realized who they were looking at. "This is Pearl? The cat you told us about?" one of them asked.

"Exactly!" Alex said. "I told you I would get him back sometime soon. He was who I went to get this time around."

"I see," one of the male elders said. "But... why did you say he was a cat?"

"Because he is a cat," Alex said without thinking much.

"But... he looks more like a tiger than a cat," someone said. "Are you sure he's a cat and not a tiger?"

"What?" Alex quickly looked at Pearl. "What are you guys talking about? He obviously looks like a ca— actually, wait."

Alex surprised himself when he noticed something. He moved slightly further away from Pearl and looked at him entirely.

To his eyes, he could still see that Pearl had the features of a cat, but overall, he had started looking more like a tiger than anything.

"Wow!" Alex said.

Pearl looking like a tiger had more to do with his body than his face. Before evolution, his body was slim and slender like a cat. However, after evolution, his body had a lot of muscles and it showed through the fur.

Despite having a cat-like facial feature, his overall body made him look more tiger than anything.

"You guys are right," he couldn't help but say. "From a distance, you totally mistake him for a tiger."

"I am a tiger," Pearl said. "I'm no longer a cat, aren't I? If anything, I'm a tiger that looks like a cat."

Alex slapped his forehead as he had forgotten something so simple. "Right. You're a White Tiger now, not a White Cat," he said.

"White Tiger, huh?" A voice came from in front of them all where the doors of the dome had opened silently. Scarlet flew out and landed next to Pearl.

She was still taller than Pearl overall, but their sizes could be considered to be the same.

"I must say congratulations are in order for both of you two and a welcome for you," she said to Pearl.

"Scarlet," Pearl turned and smiled toward her. "How are you?"

Scarlet gave a small smile. "You should add 'big sister' to that," she said.

"Big sister? But weren't you born after me?" Pearl asked. "I should be big brother, shouldn't I?"

"No, I was reborn. Not born," Scarlet started saying.

Seeing the two larger-than-life beasts —one the ruler of a continent and the other the great-grandchild of another ruler— bickering about who was older, made the tiny humans feel something terribly off about the entire situation.

"Stop it you two," Alex got in between. "Pearl is older in physical age, and Scarlet is older in mental age."

"Oh, so it's a tie?" Pearl asked.

"No, Scarlet had a higher cultivation base than you, so she's the senior. She's also the ruler of a continent, so call her big sister," Alex said.

"Aww... okay," Pearl said and turned around with a massive smile on his face. "I'm happy to see you again, big sister Scarlet."

Scarlet lost all anger in her thought after seeing that dumb smile on Pearl's face. She chuckled a bit and smiled as well while petting him with her wings.

"I'm happy to see you too," she said.

Alex smiled after seeing the two reconcile. "Come on Pearl. You have many more people to meet."

Chapter 1317: Preparation

It had been half a year since Pearl's return.

His family and friends had been more than happy to see Pearl back and Pearl was happy to see them too. While Alex was away, busy with his own things, Pearl spent his time with the others, just like Whisker.

Alex didn't waste his time either. Since they were going to the other continent soon, he spent most of his time making pills that would be helpful. He also improved the techniques he had combined to the greatest possible level and practiced them with Scarlet.

Scarlet won easily as Alex had nowhere near enough strength to even harm her, but the difference in strength and speed did help him get more and more used to the power.

He did various other things as well, such as learning the many skills that used spiritual energy, all of which he had brought back from the Western Continent. He had made quite a few more blood beasts as well and finally had improved his cultivation base to the Saint Core 6th realm.

Whisker and Pearl had also shown quite the improvement in the time he had spent by himself.

Pearl entered the Saint Foundation realm fully and was on his way to the next realm. Whisker had also entered the Saint realm as well.

Alex had taught him a little about making Saint pills, but his overall Qi wasn't strong enough to handle most Saint ingredients, so he had refrained from making them after the first few.

Around a month before the promised date, Commander Long Jianyu arrived at the palace to help prepare for the exchange.

"We can leave anytime you wish, your Majesty," the man said. "We have ships ready to live with us if you wish to, or you can take the teleportation formation as well. Our people in the empire will be ready to accept you."

"Thank you, commander Jianyu," Alex said. "As to which mode of transportation we will be using, we'll have to think. While teleporting would be the better choice, I really do wish to see how one travels the ocean as I must say I'm inexperienced in that regard."

"Whatever you choose, we can accommodate to your wishes, your Majesty," the man said.

"Please enjoy your time in the capital. I'll send someone to message you when I've set the date," Alex said.

After the man was gone, Alex gathered his elders and started to discuss what they should be doing.

"There's no way there is an ambush waiting for us, is there?" Alex asked. He was partly paranoid because he himself was going to find someone in the royal family that was most likely responsible for Pearl's mother's death.

Also, he hadn't had a pleasant experience when someone wanted to make use of his alchemy skills previously, so he wanted to be sure that there would be no danger.

"I... don't think there's much danger, your majesty," the elders said, a bit unsure why Alex was even thinking as such. "This is an inter-continental exchange program. If they dared attack guests from our continent, they would have to fear the wrath of Her Majesty."

"Hmm, you're right," Alex said. Even though Scarlet wasn't as strong as she was an Immortal, the other people didn't know that. So, even if she couldn't help him, she could be a threat to anyone that wanted to mess with them.

"Still, I'm planning to go through the ocean so that I know everything before I get to Dragon City," Alex said.

"Hmm, it would be wise for sure," one of the elders said. There was also the problem that without the Central continent as a connecting hub, the direct teleportation to the Eastern Continent was far enough that it would suck out enough energy from the Saint Spirit vein to immediately kill it.

It would no longer be capable of drawing in Qi on its own and instead would become a mine of spirit stone.

They started making plans on who got to go next. It was quickly apparent that everyone wanted to go to the other continent as not only would they be free from work, but they would also be able to treat it as a vacation.

"Are you guys sure you want to go?" Alex asked. "You will have to look after me since there's no telling when I'll decide to sneak away into the cities and maybe even far beyond that."

As soon as they heard that, the elders got hesitant. They did not want to look after Alex at all as he gave them a headache with his impulsive acts.

After a bit more discussion, two elders were chosen to leave with Alex.

Elder Yao Ning and Elder Liang Shufen were chosen to go with him to the Eastern Continent. Both of them were female elders, but each one was chosen for a different reason.

Elder Yao was chosen for her strength. She was the oldest, wisest, and most certainly the strongest of them all.

Elder Liang Shufen was on the lower side when it came to age, but that helped with making her one of the more pleasing elders to look at. As such, they decided to send her with them in hopes that her beauty could be of some help... somewhere.

After the elders were chosen, Alex made a trip to the Royal Alchemists to see who would be going.

He was going to take exactly 20 of them, with Jai Heiyun being the group leader. He thought for a bit and asked her to gather Alchemists from all cultivation bases that were at least in the True realms.

Jai Heiyun arrived at the palace a few days later with the information in hand. She had chosen 3 of each from each of the True realms, 2 from Saint Condensation, 2 from Saint Foundation, and herself from the Saint Core realm.

She saw no point in choosing anyone from the Saint Soul realm, and neither did Alex.

"This will do," Alex told her. "I've decided on the date. Tell everyone, we will be leaving in exactly 15 days, so have them prepare. It will be a long time before they will be back to their friends and families."

"Yes, your majesty," she said and left.

Alex spent the remaining time with his own friends and family as well. Most of them were still blind, but that hadn't hurt them at all in their daily lives.

Thanks to a few cultivation methods that the senior Yang had given most of them, almost every one of them had increased their cultivation speed by leaps and bounds.

All except for his father.

"I'll find something for you too father," Alex told the man. "If nothing else, I will make one for you after all of this is over."

"Don't worry about me," Graham said. "I already have everything I can ask for. Focus on yourself."

Alex nodded. He spent the next few days in delight, talking to his family. Then, it was time to leave.

He gathered up the 20 alchemists early in the morning and gave them a few instructions and a bit more before bringing them all to the teleportation area where Jianyu was already ready to take them to where his soldiers were at.

Chapter 1318: Take Off

The Alchemy exchange was going to last a total of 20 years. That was the time that had been set between the two continents.

At this time, the 20 alchemists that Alex had taken with him would work together with the alchemists from the Eastern Continent, teaching each other and growing together.

Alex was sure how many of those 20 years he would be spending there, but he would spend as many as needed. After all, he had 2 tasks he had to do over there.

First, he had to figure out who the person that had killed Pearl's mother was.

Second, he had to find his cousin Hannah.

"Don't worry, Aunt Liz. I'll definitely find her," Alex told her while he was with his family, saying his goodbyes.

Everyone was present, except Scarlet. They needed Scarlet to remain hidden so they could keep the fact that she wasn't as powerful. If Commander Jianyu saw her and realized that she was in fact only in the Saint Transformation realm, he couldn't imagine what would happen.

He was dealing with the same person that had planned to rob the Western Continent after the White Tiger there had died. If he realized the Phoenix was weak as well... well, Alex didn't want to let him find out that.

He said his heartfelt goodbye to his family and subjects, promising to come visit them soon again.

Helen cried as she had only found her son again after being separated for over 30 years, and he was going to be away for another 20 years once more.

After all, had been said and done, Alex got on the teleportation formation, along with the two elders, 20 Alchemists, and 20 alchemist assistants. The assistants were there to help the alchemist and learn from them to become proper alchemists themselves.

They were also there to guard them, but that was more of a secondary task they had to do, aside from assisting.

The ones for Jai Heiyun and the other 4 Saints however were definitely more guard than assistant.

After Commander Jianyu got onto the teleportation formation, Alex gave the command and they all teleported.

They arrived at Eastwatch city, the main city where travelers from other continents came from. Alex looked around, reminiscing a bit about the place he had come to so many years ago.

This was the place where the Huang family was situated, and this was where he had stolen from the family head back then and run away. The person in charge had already been changed, but the Huang family still feared Alex, desperately hoping that he didn't hold any grudges.

"I had once seen your people roaming this place, searching for something," Alex said, turning toward the commander. "You've never mentioned who or what you were searching for. Can you still not tell me?"

"I'm afraid I cannot, your Majesty," the commander said.

Alex nodded. He didn't press the man as he had most likely been asked by the Dragon Emperor to keep everything a secret. Still, he wondered what they were searching for that they couldn't find in the dozens of years they had been here.

"Are you still searching, or will every one of your soldiers be returning along with us?" Alex asked.

"Most will be staying," the commander said. "I hope that doesn't anger you, your majesty."

"No, no, it's alright with me. As long as you follow the law and remain civil, I have no qualms," Alex said. They were already being kept an eye on anyway.

"This way, your majesty," the commander showed him the way. "My men are waiting by the shore."

Alex and the others walked for a while, surrounded by normal citizens who recognized his gold-laced royal robes and started chanting his name.

He smiled and waved as he went past the people, making his way to the beach where 2 enormous ships had been waiting for them.

The ships were colored in bright azure blue with a golden dragon wrapped around a sword, that was the insignia of the Azure Imperium.

"Two ships?" Alex asked. "Surely a single ship has enough space for us, right? There are not even 50 of us."

"We had two prepared in case Your Majesty wanted to leave on a separate ship from the others," the commander replied.

"Thank you for your thoughtfulness, I don't mind being in the presence of my people. We can use just one ship."

The commander nodded and walked up to the ship that was sitting in the sand and with a flick of his wrist, he put it away.

"Your majesty, we are ready to take you all on board," the commander said.

Alex nodded and flew, with the two elders flying behind him. The other 40 people followed behind them and one by one landed on the ship's deck.

Everyone looked around at the metal ship which looked almost as if everything was made from a single sheet of metal. The deck of the ship was about 20 meters wide at the widest part and 5 meters at the narrowest.

The entire ship was about 100 meters long and was tall enough that Alex didn't doubt there were more places to stay below deck. The small rooms that he could see on the deck were only the start of it.

There were formations that were clearly carved onto the metal ship, some of which Alex recognized, some which he had never seen before.

He could stay there and try to decipher the formations, but he decided to do so later.

"Let me show you to your quarters," the commander said and took Alex into the living quarters that were prepared for soldiers to live.

There were a few fancy rooms where the VIPs were kept under the deck, and Alex was taken there. The elders were given rooms on either side of his and they were shown the various functionalities of the room.

There were formations to change the temperature of the room, to turn the side of the wall invisible to see everything outside. There was a Qi gathering formation where one could put space stones to generate Qi to use it.

There were also surprisingly recording talismans with recordings already in them that could be used to entertain oneself while they were there.

'This is quite the place,' Alex thought, looking around.

"The ship will take off in 5 minutes, if that is alright with you, your majesty," the commander said.

"Please, do it whenever you see fit," Alex said.

"Then, you can relax here or go to the upper deck whenever you feel like it. I will return back to work," the commander said and left.

Alex nodded and decided to stay back for a moment. There wasn't any reason for him to stay here other than cultivate, but there was something important he thought he had to do before he could feel safe.

He needed to find out if there were some formations or scripts that were there to spy on him while he was there. He wouldn't feel free to do whatever he wanted inside here unless he knew for a fact that he was free.

He called out Whisker and had him look around. While Alex's eye could see a whole lot of things, Whisker's whiskers were infinitely better.

A Seeking mouse could see, hear, sense, and even taste things through their whiskers. It was all different from when they did it with the respective organs, but it was close enough and worked quite well.

Temperature, Air density, Humidity, Concentration of Qi, the smell of the air, the taste of whatever was on it; Whisker could take in every piece of information.

Alex usually didn't accept this information being sent to him through their bond, but this time he did. And together, they searched the room for any hidden formations or scripts or even hidden compartments.

After searching for a while, Alex found nothing at all. The room was safe for him to be in. He sat on the bed, finally relaxed, knowing that he was free.

Suddenly, Alex felt the ship lurch. A formation activated, surprisingly making him unable to feel the effect of inertia. He also activated another formation, one which made the metal wall next to him invisible.

Alex saw the ship lift off the sand and slowly go high into the sky. "I can't remain inside to watch this," he said and got off the bed.

Whisker jumped onto his shoulders and sneaked into his robes where he hid.

Alex wished Pearl could come out as well, but he didn't want to tip off anyone that he had a White Tiger with him. Even mistakenly, he didn't want them to know that he had a White Cat with him.

Alex wasn't sure which of the people from the Azure Imperium were responsible for his mother's death, so he had to go in expecting everyone was involved. That included commander Jianyu who he spoke so pleasantly with.

The commander was far stronger than Alex, so he couldn't ask him anything, lest he spoke something wrong that brewed conflict with them.

Conversely, he also didn't want to give them man something he could hold against him either in the form of a favor or blackmail. That was also one of the reasons why Alex had told all the alchemists and elders about finding Hannah but had no plans of asking the Dragon Emperor to help him do so.

Alex arrived on the deck of the ship again, where a few alchemists and assistants were already gathered.

They were all watching the ship take off and go beyond into the ocean, which was something they had until now thought as untraversable.

Chapter 1319: Tens of Millions

The ship took off, flying into the ocean at a reasonable pace. The speed could be comparable to what a peak Saint Foundation realm expert could fly in.

While that was slow by Alex and most other stronger people's standard, it was still fast enough that no one had any problem with it.

Alex tried to look in the distance through the ocean but he couldn't see anything else in the far distance. Close by, there were quite a few small islands they were passing through, but the distant lands hid themselves in a haze that Alex couldn't see even with his Demon Eyes.

If he activated the eyes, it would make it harder to see as all he could see would be colors and nothing else.

He heard 'wow' and 'woah' coming from the alchemists and assistants that had clearly never been around the ocean, let alone fly on top of it.

They were as close to the edge of the ship as they could be without disturbing the many soldiers that were standing around the deck of the ship on either side.

They were intimidating, and no one dared get too close to them. Fortunately, they were far apart enough that the people could see even past them.

"Your Majesty, did you decide to watch us take off too?" the commander asked as he walked up to Alex. He had finished giving his orders, so there wasn't much to do at the moment.

"Yes, I assumed it would be enjoyable," Alex said.

"If you haven't been on the ocean, I can guarantee it will be enjoyable," the commander said. "Please come to the front. You can watch more clearly from there."

The commander took Alex to the bow of the ship from where Alex could see everything far more clearly without any obstruction to his view.

The scenery didn't move him as it did the others who had never been to the ocean. Still, he couldn't deny the majesty of seeing the world at such a height.

"I hope we are properly concealed," Alex asked.

"You do not have to worry, Your Majesty," the commander answered. "We have illusion, noise canceling, and concealment formations working all the time. Anything outside of this ship won't even notice we're there as long as we keep this speed."

"Keep this speed?" Alex asked with a slightly curious look.

The commander nodded. "We discovered a long time ago that there is a sweet spot at which the ship's speed, the amount of spirit stones necessary and the forces acting against the formations is just what we want," the captain said. "I won't bore you with the details, but I will say that this is the most efficient speed."

"Hmm," Alex thought for a moment. "So will we have to change the speed if some weather anomaly were to occur on the way?"

"We will, but that won't be due to the formations. Its just for the safety of the crew," the commander said. "The forces that act against the formations are pockets of Qi in the air that is something brought along by the air in the sea. It sometimes disrupts the formations, and can give us away."

"Which is why we have to slow down so that we can instead divert all the spirit stones into the formations to keep use hidden," the commander said.

"Ah, I see," Alex said, finally understanding a little. "And at this speed, how long do you think it will take us to reach the Eastern Continent?"

"Approximately 2 weeks," the commander said.

"2 weeks?" Alex was a little taken back. He knew all continents were far apart and that the speed of the ship wasn't necessarily that fast, but the commander's words still came as a surprise.

The commander noticed Alex's surprise as well, but didn't say anything. "Most people spend their life in their own continents, never going out to the deep water, so they don't know just how large the ocean is."

"If I had to make an estimation based on the Southern Continent, you should be able to fit at least 5 of your continents in the ocean reaching to the Eastern Continents," the commander said.

"5 huh?" Alex finally got a mental picture of how large the oceans were and even then he wouldn't truly be able to tell unless he saw it all on his own.

There had only been one time when he had actually flew across at least half the continent and that had been back when he had run away from the Sunborn Sanctuary when he wasn't even a king.

It was at that time that he had realized how wide the continent truly was. On a ship where the speed was far smaller than what he could output back then, he could understand why it was going to take them so long.

The commander told Alex a few more small, but definitely not unimportant trivia that he had gathered throughout his time in the Scale Legion.

The shortest distance between any of the four continents was between the Ivory region of the Eastern Continent and the Shuang province of the Northern Continent. If the Central continent was to be counted, it would obviously be the Central Continent to the North of Wasteland.

There were tens of millions of islands on the ocean, which came as quite the surprise to Alex. He would've expected tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands. But hearing that there were tens of millions of them was truly mind blowing.

The only reason no one knew about this was because none of these islands were inhabited. At least, not by humans. There were many islands that had monsters that occupied it as their own reason, which the humans obviously wouldn't know about.

The commander promised that he would see a lot of islands even far from the continent, as islands didn't always cluster around the continents.

There were even islands bigger than the Sunless lands, which always made it into the Southern Continent's maps.

Another thing Alex learned was that the ocean had more Qi than any land. Alex was surprised about this fact too, but giving it some thought, it felt obvious to him now.

There was more ocean than land in this realm, and while Spirit veins had been sought and used up in most cases, the ones underwater had remained untouched for the most part.

The water also was capable of holding in Qi far more than the air, making the depths of the ocean far more infused with Qi than any other.

"You can enjoy your time here, your Majesty," the Commander said. "You won't have to worry about anything attacking us thanks to the concealment, but if something somehow manages to see us, I have the soldiers looking out for an attack at all times."

'Is that what they are doing?' Alex thought, looking around at the soldiers that were standing at the edge of the boat, looking down.

"You can go back to doing what you have to, commander Jianyu," Alex said. Once the commander left, Alex walked back to the center of the deck and sat next to Jai Heiyun and her female assistant.

"So, have you come up with any good plans yet, Sister Hao?"

Chapter 1320: Sailing through the Storm

Hao Ya had arrived in the Southern Continent some 4 months ago and had spent her time away from the palace to not arouse any suspicion.

She had spent the past 4 months learning some alchemy on her own so that she could have a purpose on the ship on the way to the Eastern Continent that would not immediately arouse suspicion.

She had somehow managed to hide her cultivation base to a degree that Alex couldn't sense through at all, and she also had her face changed to an extent that made her unrecognizable.

Alex had thought she had used some sort of pill to change her appearance, but it had turned out that she was actually using scripts to change it.

When Alex asked a bit more, he was surprised to learn that she had scripts drawn all over her body using Qi, which was giving her this new appearance. Given that the scripts were drawn by a Divine realm cultivator, it wasn't something that would so easily be destroyed either.

Alex was also surprised to learn that it was the same method by which all the Players had different features from what they truly looked like. There were also many other such scripts that the man had put on them before he sent each one outside.

The only difference between that and this was that while he was using some sort of formations or scripts to create the scripts on those players, for Hao Ya he was directly making it himself.

So, it would stick through a lot more than just those 'ready-made' scripts and work a lot better too. It wasn't just appearance scripts that the senior had put on her, but a whole lot more.

As it stood, it seemed that the senior had spent most of the Divine Qi he had managed to gather in the past few decades since he had last spent it all getting rid of the Yang backlash from when he had eaten the fruit.

Alex sat and spoke to Jai Heiyun, but he secretly spoke to Hao Ya as well, who was next to her, acting as her assistant.

"I have no idea," Hao Ya said. "The last time I went there, they didn't even let me see the Emperor, so I don't know how to see him. If only I knew whether it was the Emperor's choice not to see me or the other people's."

Alex nodded in response. That would indeed be quite a bit of help if he knew what the Emperor was like from the start.

If anything, he had to go in expecting a petty emperor who got angry at every little bit of remark he thought of as disrespectful. He had to tread carefully in the future.

On the outside, he talked with Jai Heiyun about how excited she was to go to the other continent and what she was looking forward to. On the inside, he went through whatever plans that Hao Ya had made.

Their plans, in the end, could be defined in two separate points.

One. Find out if the Emperor is a good man.

Two. If he is, ask him to let the Players go. If not, bribe him with something he might want.

Alex was visiting as the king of a Continent, so he couldn't do that, so Hao Ya had to be responsible for it all. She was senior Yang's messenger, and as it was he that screwed everything up, he had to be responsible.

Hao Ya had brought a few artifacts and talismans that the emperor might want. They weren't sure how much it would help, but they had to try with those.

After talking there for a bit, Alex moved on to the other alchemists and talked with them so as to not arouse any suspicion.

After he was done talking, he stood close to the edge and watched the water and islands move past them.

Soon, the sun went down the horizon and as night came on, they saw the clouds fill up the sky, ready to rain.

Many of the alchemists went back indoors, and after looking around for a while, so did Alex.

He wasn't afraid of lightning or anything, he had fought lightning far stronger than these ones every day. However, he was still aware of the fact that such weather phenomena could cause problems in the ship's concealment, which could attract monsters, so he left the deck for the soldiers and commanders to work freely without having to worry about him.

Alex simply went back into his room and watched the storm from the transparent wall.

The storm lasted for some time, with lightning strikes falling all around them, but never on them.

Alex had recognized a formation that created a barrier that did not attract lightning at all. It was its sole purpose, and it seemed it was working.

The storm lasted even as morning came around. This time, it started raining hails. The hails pelted the barrier and the side of the ship, but they were small enough that it didn't matter.

Alex saw a cyclone in the distance, and once he even saw two beasts fighting within the storm. Although, he couldn't see what exactly those two beasts were.

He had also seen various other beasts in the many islands that he flew past. The islands were surprisingly large, just as the commander had mentioned them.

There were islands that were as small as just a small mound of land with 2 trees growing on it, but there were also islands that were large enough where the entirety of the humans in the Central continent could live in.

There were other islands that were in clusters, which were named archipelago according to the commander.

Whenever he was above deck, Alex would talk to the commander, trying to understand whatever he could about the ocean.

The commander, whether because Alex was polite, or because he was a king, he always gave a generous bit of information.

"I wonder if there are experts that are living on one of these islands," Alex said.

"There most likely are," the commander said. There was no doubt in the way he spoke, even though his answer itself wasn't a confirmation.

"There are many experts that go missing, who had most likely made home in one of these islands," the commander said. "At least the ones from the Eastern Continent do."

"Also, I wouldn't really say they come this far out into the ocean, but they certainly will remain in close cultivation in islands that are close enough to the continent so that they can go in if they needed help."

"I see," Alex said. "You really do know a lot, don't you commander?"

"Haha, it's just something I've learned while on the job. I've been in the Scale Legion for quite some time, so it's obvious that I would learn a lot."

Alex nodded after hearing that.

"Scale Legion," Alex spoke. "That's... one of the 5 Legions of the Azure Imperium, isn't it? I tried to find information on the Eastern Continent, but all I ended up with was information from 5 thousand years ago when the teleportation between continents halted."

"I was wondering if the general information about the Eastern Continent I have from back then still applies."