

Alchemy 1341

Chapter 1341: Hanjue

Alex stayed with the alchemists, clearing some of their confusion while telling them what to do tomorrow.

After talking with them, he had a small conversation with Hao Ya and gave her the map of the capital to copy so that she could do her thing.

The conversation lasted for a while before Alex decided to head back. He left the school with Elder Yao and Shufen, going back toward the Dragon Palace.

As he did, he looked at the schools that he was passing by, the Royal School of Music and the Royal School of Puppetry. According to the map, these were the two schools between the palace and the Royal School of Alchemy.

Next to the school of Alchemy on the northern edge of the Dragon Capital were the other two schools, the Royal School of Talisman and the Royal School of Formation.

On the other side of the city in the east were the rest of the 5 schools. Starting from the one next to the palace were the Royal School of Cooking, Royal School of Painting, Royal School of Artifacts, Royal School of Beast Taming, and Royal School of Poison.

"Huh? They have cooking as a school too," Liang Shufen commented. "And it's right by the palace too. Do you think they make these people make food for them?"

"I don't know," Alex said. "But the chefs in the palace are most certainly from this place."

Alex wasn't surprised with most of the school, even though some had certainly been unexpected. The only ones that he was surprised had a Royal School for were Painting and Poison.

Painting didn't make sense to him a whole lot just because... what was the point? It was just colors on a canvas to him. That wasn't to say he didn't see the point of paintings, just that he didn't see the point of paintings as a subject that needed to be taught in a Royal school since it did nothing to help cultivators.

Poison also didn't make a whole lot of sense to him since wouldn't it be bad if everyone in the continent had access to knowledge about poisons? What would happen if a decently large fight were to break out? Wouldn't most people resort to poison?

Maybe Alex wasn't seeing the entire picture here.

"Still, I'm surprised there aren't many direct combat-based schools at all," Yao Ning said. "A school for Swords, Spears, Axes, Bows and Arrows, and other such weapons would help the continent a lot, wouldn't it?"

"Hmm," Alex thought. "Maybe, but I think it was more so that those schools would be redundant in a way. After all, sects and the army exists. They can learn to fight there."

"You're right, your Majesty," Liang Shufen said. "Maybe there was a backlash too from the various sects. If they started a combat school, they would lose all their disciples to it after all."

Alex shrugged, half agreeing to it, and half not caring why it was what it was.

"Let's just get tomorrow over with, and then we can go around sightseeing the various schools," he said and the two elders nodded.

After they arrived at the palace, the two Elders were led to the Swan Courtyard while Alex was taken somewhere else where the Dragon Emperor had been waiting for him.

He walked through the hallway, led by the old man Guqing. Right as he was about to arrive, a young man walked out of the room and stopped when he saw Alex.

He was a head smaller than Alex with youthful features that made him look quite naive and innocent. His clear eyes blinked twice while looking at the two.

He had almost no facial hair, and his eyes seemed a soft blue. His long black hair covered the front of his forehead and flowed along the side and back to his shoulders.

He looked at Alex for quite a while before looking at the old man Guqing.

"Your Royal Highness, this is King Alex of the Southern Continent," the old man introduced them quickly. "You should greet him."

"Oh," the prince straightened up and bowed toward Alex. "Greetings, your Majesty, King Alex. I am the third prince of the Empire, Long Hanjue."

"Greetings." Alex smiled at the young man. "How old are you, Prince Hanjue?"

"I'm 17, your Majesty," the young man said.

"Ah, 17 and entering the True realm. You are quite talented, young prince," Alex said. "I'm sure you'll grow up to become strong very soon."

The prince gave a small embarrassed smile and bowed before walking away.

Alex watched the young prince leave and turned around to enter the room with the emperor.

He entered and greeted the emperor before sitting opposite him. "Why did you call me? Did you want to have a talk?" he asked.

"I wanted to know if you've made your decision," the Dragon Emperor said.

"I've yet to decide," he said. "I told you, it's not a decision I can make lightly."

"But you have—"

"I know, I have until tomorrow," Alex cut him off. "I can guarantee you, I'll come to a decision by the time tomorrow's event comes to an end."

The emperor nodded. "I will thank you in advance for your decision," he said.

Alex's eyes narrowed. The emperor had already thought that Alex was going to hand over the information to him without him having to do anything.

"If that is all you called me here for, I would like to leave," Alex said and got up.

"I hear you're looking for a queen," the Emperor suddenly spoke.

Alex stopped in his tracks and turned around. "That is what I'm doing," he said as he turned around to look at the emperor. "Why? Did the prince already gather up a list?"

"May I ask why you want it especially to be players?" the Dragon Emperor asked.

"No reason," Alex said. "They just happen to be young like me. I wouldn't mind meeting up with girls that aren't players that fit the criteria."

"Why do you want a strong queen?" he asked. "Isn't it better to have a weaker queen?"

"How is it better to have a weaker queen?" Alex asked, curious.

"A strong queen will constantly be in a discourse with you, try to tell you what to do, refuse your orders when she feels like it," the emperor said. "Even when you tell her to do something that is for her benefit, you can't control her actions, and in the end..."

The emperor stopped talking as Alex heard a single sniffle.

The Dragon Emperor quickly wiped away whatever tears were forming in his eyes and took a deep breath. "My apologies. I shouldn't have said what I said. Please excuse me."

The emperor stood up and walked away in the other direction, disappearing into the hallway.

Alex stood there, stunned for a while as he realized that he had just seen the Dragon Emperor get emotional. Was that fake by any chance? To win him over maybe?

But it didn't feel fake. It felt real.

From what Alex could tell, the Dragon Emperor loved his first wife quite a lot and her death had affected him on a deeper level than Alex could have expected.

'Losing someone close to you, while time can heal the wounds, it can't remove the pain, can it?'

Chapter 1342: Kings and Queens

Alex and the Dragon Emperor left the palace in a carriage, while the rest of their people followed them in a different carriage.

The roads were open and empty as if cleared for this very occasion. There were lanterns flying in the sky even in day time and people from far and wide were cheering for them as they watched them go toward the Royal School.

Today was the day of the show match, so the most important figures of the capital were visiting there. The rest of them that weren't allowed in were going to watch what happened through the Newsboards throughout the continent.

The carriage stopped outside the school as the two monarchs got off at the same time. Barely any people were allowed to be around the two except for their personal guards and subjects.

Elder Yao and Elder Liang stayed a step behind Alex while Guqing as well as another woman stayed behind the Emperor.

They walked into the school and were greeted by the many people that were present in the open field. The headmaster and vice headmaster greeted both of them and showed them the way to a stage that was prepared for this particular event.

There were two main seats, with many other seats beside them. Alex and the Emperor sat beside each other while the other four stayed behind them in the 2nd row of chairs.

There were four different rows of chairs, each with about 10 different chairs in a row. Now that 6 of them were filled, the others were time to get filled as well.

The Crown Prince arrived with a woman in tow. The woman wore a beautiful green dress, with black hair filled with gold and jade. Jade earrings hung from her ears while a simple green veil that did nothing to hide her face lay over her face.

The Crown Prince greeted first and then the woman. The Crown Prince then proceeded to introduce the woman to Alex.

"Your Majesty, this is my soon-to-be wife, Zhan Luoyang," the Crown Prince said. The girl bowed as he said it.

Alex saw a golden badge on her shoulder now that she had come forward. It had a single number written on it.

9.

"Oh, a Level 9 Alchemist. It's a pleasure to meet you, lady Luoyang," Alex spoke.

"Haha, she's one of the other 2 level 9 alchemists in the school," the Crown Prince said with a proud look on his face.

"I must congratulate the both of you then," Alex said. "Please, sit."

The Crown prince sat on the other side of the Dragon Emperor while his fiancée sat beside him.

The next person to walk in was a group from the Azure Kingdom which was where the Dragon Capital was located. The king of the Azure Kingdom was a young man with a thin face and silky black hair.

He greeted himself with the name Long Weiyuan. Alex understood that this man was from a branch of the main royal family, most likely a cousin to the princes.

He went and sat on one of the two empty seats on the other side of the emperor.

The next person to introduce himself was a gigantic man that went by the name of Jin Xiaojian. He was the King of the Emerald Kingdom that lay to the east of the Azure Kingdom.

From the Silver Kingdom of the West hailed a queen with peach-colored hair. She introduced herself as Mao Yingtai and sat next to Jin Xiaojian, who was already sitting next to Alex.

From the Gold Kingdom that lay to the north of the Azure Kingdom came a man with a lean body and thin mustache. There was an air of elegance around him as he introduced himself.

"I am Tan Qiu of the Gold Kingdom, your Majesty," he said and bowed toward Alex before walking over to one of the 2 empty seats that were beside Alex.

A white-haired woman in a dazzling white robe landed gracefully on top of the stage. Her robe fluttered in the wind while her hair full of jewelry stayed where it was. She looked young enough to be in her 20s, while also looking old enough to be a grandmother.

Next to her arrived a man in a black robe. His muscular body was the first thing everyone noticed about him as he was nearly three times as wide as the woman he had arrived with.

"It is a pleasure to finally meet you after seeing your image for the last 2 days, your Majesty," the woman spoke. "I am Song Meifen, Queen of the Ivory Kingdom."

"I am Wan Deming, King of the Ebony Kingdom," the man did a short greeting.

"Greetings. It is a pleasure to meet you both," Alex said and bowed toward the two Kings. The kings went on to seat on either side of the row as those were the only two seats empty now.

People continued coming one by one, but they left as soon as they introduced themselves to Alex.

Many sects and family names were thrown at Alex which he didn't bother remembering at the moment.

Heavens Cleaver Sect, Huang family of the Silver Kingdom, Beast Supremacy Sect, Realms Beyond Sect, the Northern Jin family, Cloud Iron Sect, Spears Peak Sect, Immortal Saint Pavillion, Tian family of the Gold kingdom, Ice Mist Palace, and many more.

Those names were thrown at Alex one after another as he failed to understand the importance of the people as much as he did the sect itself. The names for him at the moment were just names, so unless he understood what was important about them, it would be hard for him to feel surprised by any of the names.

There were also commanders of the various legions of the army, as well as heads of the other schools that were present for the event.

As this was the first inter-continental for almost everyone in the Eastern Continent, it was treated as quite an important event. As such, all the important figures that could come had come.

More figures were staying amongst the crowd as only so many could sit on the stage.

Alex couldn't help but be surprised by a single fact that he should have gotten used to by now.

He was the weakest person that was there.

Each of the school headmasters, legion commanders, family heads, and sect leaders was all well into the Saint Transformation realm. Even the Crown Prince's Fiancee was in the 1st Saint Transformation realm.

'That's quite the strength,' he thought. There weren't as many people back in the Southern Continent that had this sort of strength.

The Dragon Emperor looked around and spoke, "Manyin, everyone that needs to come has come. Call in the participants. It's time to start the event."

"Yes, Your Majesty," the Headmaster said as she stood up and walked to the front of the platform, looking toward the open stage in front of her where the various staff of the school were ready to accept the participants.

"Bring them in!" she said.

The audience that was on either side of the stage looked towards the side where two separate doors opened, and one by one people started streaming out of it.

Chapter 1343: First Test

20 men and women walked in from the left, and 20 others walked in from the right.

The ones on the left wore robes of vermillion and purple, defining colors of the Southern Continent. The ones on the right wore robes of green and azure, defining colors of the Eastern Continent.

They arrived on the stage and stood on either side.

The stage was prepared with everything an alchemist would need and was divided into two halves in which the two groups of alchemists would perform alchemy and other tests in the competition.

The headmaster welcomed everyone and started explaining what was going on.

The alchemy competition was meant to show off the alchemy knowledge of each side, and there was no better way to do so than through an alchemy match.

However, it also wasn't possible to just have 20 of the best alchemists to fight against the ones that were brought, so the school had come up with a different system of choosing opponents for the ones that had come from the Southern Continent.

The opponents were chosen from the Alchemists in the School that was both close in age and cultivation base to each of the alchemists from the Southern Continent.

As such, the opponents that were chosen for them were all alchemists that could be considered their peers.

Alex's eyes narrowed as he looked at the very first person in the group of the Eastern continent's alchemists. A young man with blond hair stood with a proud face.

Alex looked for his badge, but it wasn't there at all. It was hidden for the sake of the competition.

He looked on the opposite side of the man and saw Jai Heiyun. He frowned slightly as he thought that this man had been chosen especially to match up against her.

Which meant that he was in the Saint Core realm, and was very young by comparison. He could be no older than 80 years at most. In the Eastern Continent, that was akin to being a teenager.

The headmaster began explaining the rules of the competition. Each person was handed a talisman with information about the requirements to level up through the various Alchemist levels in the school.

The alchemists had to go through each of the various different tests for the levels, including ingredient recognition, recipe learning, making pills, and pill creation.

Depending on their results in each of the tasks, they would all be handed ranks in today's competition.

The first of the competition was ingredient recognition. The 40 alchemists were made to come to the middle of the stage where a simple formation had been prepared.

20 alchemists stood on each side, opposite to their opponent as they were each handed a metal talisman.

Alex watched the stage as the explanation for what they were supposed to do was given to them.

"What do you think?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "Will your alchemists manage to a lot of ingredients?"

"Well, I can't say for sure," Alex said. "They should know a lot, but I do not know if a lot is enough or not at the moment.

The Dragon Emperor chuckled slightly. "How about we make a bet to see whose alchemists will score the most amongst?" he asked.

Alex chuckled lightly as well. "While I have great pride in my men, I cannot trust that they will win in all honesty. Be as good as they may, they have been learning properly only for the past decade. While your men, who know how long they've been learning for."

"Tsk, you should bet even if it's just for the fun of it," the Dragon Emperor said.

"Then I would be betting on a losing battle," Alex said. "Besides, even if we did bet, what would the stakes be? I'm half expecting you to just ask me for the things you are already asking for."

The Dragon Emperor didn't say anything in response to that allegation. "What about your choice? You said you'll give me one today," he asked.

"I mentioned I would give it to you by the end of the competition, didn't I?" Alex asked. "The event is only starting. Let's just wait for it all."

The Dragon Emperor shook his head and looked at the large screen that had appeared in the sky above them. On the screen were two lists of 20 names, one shaded in red, another in blue.

The 40 alchemist names had the number 0 next to them.

"Is that what's going to keep track of the scores?" Alex asked.

"Each correct guess into the medallion should give them a single point," the Dragon Emperor said.

"And the headmaster just mentioned that there are a total of 20 thousand ingredients," Alex said. "Depending on how long they will have to guess the ingredients, we might be here all day long. I'm afraid you probably won't get your answer today, Dragon Emperor."

The Dragon Emperor gave a small smirk. "As long as I get a satisfactory one at the end of the competition, I'm alright," he said.

The headmaster finished explaining the rest of the rules. Once everything was ready, she asked the contestants to prepare.

"Are you worried, your Majesty?" the king of the Emerald Kingdom asked.

"No," Alex said. "Even if my people lose, I'm certain they will put up a good fight."

The other kings gave words of encouragement as well after hearing what he said. However, from their tone, Alex could tell that not a single one of them believed that the Alchemists from the Southern Continent had any chance to win.

A small smile formed on Alex's face. 'Just you watch,' he thought.

The competition began and an ingredient teleported in front of Jai Heiyun who was the first of the 40 alchemists to receive her ingredient.

She had 2 seconds to completely look through the ingredient and try to recognize it. She wasted no time looking at the small blue flower bud that had only halfway bloomed.

'Blue Silk flower,' she recognized it in no time at all. When 2 seconds passed, the ingredient disappeared from in front of her, teleporting to the young man that was about 3 meters away from her.

She now had 1 second to write the name of the ingredient. She quickly wrote down the flower's name on the metal object in her hand.

Immediately a point was added to her name on the board. The moment she was done naming, the next ingredient arrived.

It was a vial of black powder with specks of white light shining from it once in a while.

'Starcoal Pollen,' she recognized it as well and wrote the name down as she waited for the next ingredient to come in.

When it did, she named it as well.

It wasn't just her. As the ingredients started passing to the next person in line, and then to the next one after them, the number on the scoreboard in the sky was increasing one by one with no one missing them at all.

Alex looked at the board, happy that the first few ingredients naming were going well. However, it was just for a while. The first half of the ingredients were probably easily recognizable ones.

The problem in the competition would most definitely come in the second half where naming the ingredients was going to become much, much more difficult.

Half a day passed by with nothing interesting happening in the competition down below. Each person was accurately naming the ingredients that came their way, with only a few of the weaker alchemists missing out on the names of ingredients they had yet to interact with.

The people on the stage took this time to talk to each other, catch up or ask questions that they were curious about.

"If your Majesty is an alchemist as I've heard, surely you would want to come visit the Thousand Blossom Valley in our kingdom, right?" the king of the Emerald Kingdom asked. "It's one of the most remarkable places in the entire continent; definitely one of the two most highly sought-after places alongside the Endless Shadow Abyss."

"Oh," Alex responded. "Then I must visit that place."

"We do have the Cavern of Eternal Frost where one can improve their Yin arts. Even if your Majesty does not have any Yin arts, surely your subordinates do. You must come to visit us when the time is right," the white-robed Queen of the Ivory Kingdom spoke.

"Yin, huh? I'll have to think about it," Alex said. "I will most definitely like to see what sort of place it is though."

"Hehe, you should, your Majesty," the Queen said before turning to the peach-robed Queen of the Silver King. "Sister Yingtai, do you not wish to call His Majesty to your home domain?"

"I do wish to request his majesty visit us as well, but our kingdom boasts nothing worth visiting for at the moment at all. The Transcendent Martial Ground require another decade or so before they can open up, and they happen to be our only attraction," Mao Yingtai, the Queen of the Silver Kingdom spoke.

"Even if that is all there is for your Kingdom to offer, I will still visit it, Queen Yingtai. I will not discriminate amongst any of you," Alex said.

"Then I shall be waiting for you too, your Majesty," Long Weiyuan, King of the Azure kingdom said.

"You will definitely have to visit here first, your Majesty," the Crown Prince said. "The Azure Lake and the Boundless Enlightenment Domain are two places you want to go to as early as possible."

"I believe I have heard of the Boundless Enlightenment Domain before, but what importance does the Azure Lake hold, if you don't mind me asking," Alex said.

"The Azure Lake is at the heart of the Eastern Continent, made by the first Azure Dragon to commemorate their arrival and stay in this empire, or so the record says," the Dragon Emperor said. "It holds nothing other than a historical importance and an artificial beauty that you will be hard-pressed to find in this entire realm."

"I see," Alex said. "Then I must visit this place as well."

Queen Meifen of the Ivory Kingdom was quite excited talking about all of this. "You should visit the Gold Kingdom too, your Majesty. Not only does it have the Golden Mountain range where 90% of the continent's gold comes from, but it also holds the Realm of Trials which alchemists such as you and other non-combat professionals can go through to improve yourself."

Tan Qiu looked toward Alex and bowed. "My kingdom also holds one of the most prominent auctions in all of the empire every 10 years, your majesty. The next one should be in less than half a decade. I would be honored if you do in fact come to the Gold Kingdom," he said.

"I will," Alex said. "I am very much excited about the prospects of visiting all of your Kingdoms."

"I'm not sure how much his majesty would be interested in the Celestial Peak or the Harmonious Balance Haven, but I would also appreciate it if you could come to the Ebony kingdom as well," Wan Deming said.

Alex affirmed to everyone that he would come to each and every one of their place in the future. While his words seemed like they were spoken for courtesy's sake, Alex truly did want to visit all of those places.

Not only did he want to visit those locations and secret realms, but he also wanted to go there as a method of distraction.

Alex's main purpose, outside of finding his cousin, was finding what happened to Pearl's parents. As a result, the first place he had to visit was the Beast Paradise.

However, going there directly would most definitely arouse suspicion, so he had decided to go to every single kingdom as a way to disguise the fact that he wanted to get to that particular location.

At the very least, the royal family shouldn't get suspicious that he had ulterior motives for coming to this place.

"Oh!"

"Wow!"

"So many!"

A bunch of soft murmurs sounded behind Alex, which he managed to hear clearly. He quickly looked up to see what they were talking about and saw that aside from Jai Heiyun and her opponent, everyone else had missed the current question.

There had been moments before when they had failed to recognize some ingredients, but the results had been scattered. Not everyone didn't recognize it all at once, but rather sporadically.

This time, however, 38 of the 40 people had messed up on the ingredients.

They were all devastated, but now wasn't the time to care for those things. They focused back on the task and continued naming the ingredients.

Every 3 seconds the scoreboard started changing numbers in a very chaotic fashion. Instead of everyone's number changing at once, now it was only a few people.

The difference between people who knew about the unique ingredients and people who had no idea what they were looking at was staggering.

Jai Heiyun and her opponent hadn't missed a single ingredient, naming all 11349 ingredients that had come before them. While the lowest number belonged to someone from the Southern Continent with only 8 thousand points.

8 thousand was an amazing achievement under a normal scenario, but it still meant that he had not recognized more than 3 thousand different ingredients.

He wasn't as alone as he felt though. His opponent, a girl, also had a terrible score, scoring barely 50 more points than him.

The competition continued even as night fell and the conversations around the stage stopped as everyone stared at the boards, looking for anyone's mistakes.

At the moment, the Eastern Continent was ahead by a very slight margin, but there was plenty of room for a comeback.

However, as time went on, the margin got wider and wider as Alex's alchemists made more and more mistakes.

He understood that the alchemists in the Eastern Continent specifically learned the ingredient names to pass these level tests, so they had a lot more knowledge than his alchemists did in general, but he still wanted them to pass.

At least Jai Heiyun hadn't made a single mistake until now. Even the rest of the Saint Alchemists had only made 20 mistakes among the four of them.

After all 20 thousand ingredients were given to them to name, the competition finally came to an end.

The Eastern Continent won against the Southern Continent with over 6 thousand difference in points by the end of it.

Alex was a little sad that they lost, but he was still happy in knowing that when just considering the 5 Saints, his alchemists had gotten a better result.

Chapter 1345: The Second Test

The various other Kings and important figures consoled Alex on the fact that there was no shame in losing to alchemists of the Eastern Continent. After all, Eastern Continent did have the best alchemy knowledge among all the other continents.

Alex smiled, thanking them for their words.

"Your alchemists are not bad," the Dragon Emperor said after the commotion was over. The alchemists on stage were made to rest for a bit before the next tests started.

"Our alchemists need to know all the ingredients so that they can pass the test. You don't have something like that at your place, do you?" he asked.

"No, we mostly just accept them based on their talent in pill-making," Alex said. "They are required to make a lot of pills, so we look for endurance and ability to make good pills. All other talents as an alchemist come second."

The Dragon Emperor nodded. "And yet the ones at the top did better than my own people," he said. "They might have lost the first competition, but they have certainly proven themselves."

Alex smiled at the Dragon Emperor's words. He thought the same.

Once the alchemists were done resting, the second test began. The alchemists were all handed different pill recipes as well as two sets of ingredients required for that recipe.

They all read through the recipe and realized that it was a recipe none of them had seen before.

The headmaster explained the next test. "Your task now is to learn the recipe in your hand as fast as you can and make a pill out of it. The time limit is 1 hour and it will start when someone makes the first pill. If no one makes any pill within the first hour, everyone will be disqualified."

"The winner will be based on the quality of the better pill of the two as well as the time that was taken. Begin."

The alchemists immediately started looking through the recipe, learning it.

Alex leaned on his arm, watching the competition.

"Is it boring," the Dragon Emperor asked. "Just watching and not getting to participate?"

"Hmm... well, I can't lie that it is," Alex said. "But joining will be more boring, I suppose. There's no point unless there is a challenge."

"I get you," the Dragon Emperor said. "I've been the same for quite some time too."

Alex looked at the Dragon Emperor. "Do you want to compete against me?" he asked.

The Dragon Emperor looked at him, considering the question for a moment before shaking his head. "You can make pill clouds, I cannot. You are already better than me," he said.

The many people that were around them were surprised to hear the Dragon Emperor say that Alex was better than him. They had known the young King was an Alchemist of great renown back in his continent, but they didn't expect him to be better than the Emperor.

They were now curious how well he could make a pill.

The competition down below took some time to get interesting. However, once someone made the first pill around the half an hour mark, which came out to be around 48%, the secondary timer activated which forced the rest of the alchemists to start working harder.

Multiple alchemists started making pills. While getting high-quality pills was good, it was necessary to do it fast. Were it any other time they could wait as long as they wanted. But right now was a competition and they had to follow the rules.

Still, there were a few people that just didn't bother because they knew that a high-quality pill would outweigh speed any time of the day.

Jai Heiyun read through the recipe multiple time, envisioning how she would make the pill. She did a mental simulation of how she would control the ingredients, how she would control the heat, what sort of timing she should vie for, etc.

Once she was done, she opened her eyes and looked around to see that everyone had already started and she was the last remaining alchemist that had yet to make any pill.

She looked at her opponent who was already busy making his pills as well. So, without wasting any time, she began.

The ingredients flew into the cauldron, one by one, as each ingredient turned to powder. The energy that was released from the ingredients was contained in the cauldron with the help of the many formations that were around the stage.

Heiyun proceeded to control the energy as it mixed and once everything was over, she employed the Profound Revolution of Myriad Combination technique to form the powder into a pill.

Once the pill was ready, she pulled it out.

From what she could tell just based on her instincts, she hadn't done the best that she could. The pill had most definitely come out bad.

She looked around her and saw that her opponent had already started making the 2nd pill. She looked at the sky and saw how he had done.

'65%' she thought. Then, she placed her own pill into the formation to check its quality and saw the number that came out.

62%.

'I knew it,' she thought and started working again.

Alex looked through the list with a contemplative look. While the results that his alchemists had shown were good, they were still not as good as he had hoped.

Individually, there were quite a few of them that did well. However, collectively they were performing a little worse than their opponents.

Most of them had finished the 2nd pill so the result was starting to make itself clear.

The image flickered as results were added. Alex saw one of his alchemists achieve the same harmony as his opponent, but he had done it a minute later.

Similarly, another one of the alchemists had taken a bit more time but had done slightly better.

He ignored most of their results and only focused on the leader of his Alchemist guild, Jai Heiyun.

Her opponent was on the last pill and had finished as Alex watched him. He pulled out the pill and placed it onto the formation next to him as the result appeared in the sky.

72%. Jumping from 65% to 72% in just a single pill was quite impressive, and surprised many of the big names that were present.

"That young man is going to be important someday," one of the people said. "Does anyone know if he is already in a sect or not?"

Alex secretly shook his head as he heard them talk. He still believed in his own people, especially Jai Heiyun who had the second-best pill-forming technique he had.

Alex's attention snapped back to the stage as he saw her pull out her second pill. Spiritual senses were blocked off, so he couldn't exactly check how good the pill was, but from what he could see with his Demon Eyes, the pill held a lot of energy.

"Hmm," he smiled a bit. "Not bad for a second try."

Heiyun placed the pill on the formation and watched the result appear on the screen in the air.

77%.

She had managed to make an Immortal pill on the very second try.

Chapter 1346: The Third Test

With the emergence of the Immortal pill, Jai Heiyun had easily beaten every single one of the other 39 people that were on the test.

Her single pill was better than every other pill that was created today, giving her the first rank on the test. However, it wasn't an individual test and instead one taken as a group of 20.

So, the numbers still had to be tallied up.

However, anyone who was keeping track of the numbers was already aware of who had won.

"I must congratulate you on the win this time around," the Dragon Emperor said before the result was even announced.

"Well, my alchemists might not have a lot of time and experience, but they certainly make up for it with talents," Alex said. "Besides, yours weren't that bad either. Just a few more percentages here and there, and your alchemists would have won, instead of mine."

The other kings and queens started congratulating Alex as well. Still, this was no time to be happy yet. There were still another two tests to go.

The next test included making as many pills as possible, all of which had to be above a certain standard.

Both the pill and standards were chosen by the 40 alchemists in advance, so all they had to do was make them.

Each person's pill amount and how much they had to pass was also shown, which surprised most of the people as the ones from the Southern Continent had a generally higher level that they wanted to reach.

Most of the people behind Alex spoke of how the alchemists were trying too hard and would eventually lose. Alex, Yao Ning, and Liang Shufen could only laugh internally at their reaction.

Even the weakest alchemist from the Southern Continent was planning on making Immortal-grade pills, which made sense why people would be so surprised by it.

The ones high up amongst them wanted to make better pills. Jai Heiyun wanted to make as many Saint Qi gathering pills as she could, and she wanted to make all of them with at least 85% harmony to them.

If she could do that, she would be just a small task away from reaching Level 9, which would immediately put her as one of the greatest alchemy figures when compared to the entirety of the eastern continent.

The headmaster gave the go, and thus began another test that everyone was curious to watch, but not curious to sit through.

The alchemists used the ingredients they were provided and started making pills, while the people from around the continent only watched it intently.

As the test ran, most of the ones on stage started talking amongst themselves again, occasionally looking over at the test scores that were shown in the sky.

The test was going just as expected at the start with each alchemist performing to their greatest capacity. The target for most here was around 100, but they could keep going if they wanted to.

This went on for nearly 12 hours before people started showing signs of mistakes. One of the alchemists from the Eastern Continent failed to reach his desired goal.

After that, one by one people started failing. Most of them had already crossed the threshold required for a certain level, so they were very happy despite failing.

As more and more failed, the last remaining few were no more than 5.

Alex had a lot of trust in Jai Heiyun for being able to cross the 100-pill line that was partially required for level 9. There was also the requirement of having to know 500 different Saint recipes, which she already knew by now. Even if she didn't, she could learn it in no time.

As the test was coming to an end, another person failed, leaving only 4 in the competition. When another person failed and only 4 remained, the Dragon Emperor looked toward Alex.

"I am surprised," he said.

"What for?" Alex asked.

"Your alchemists, while not the best at recognizing ingredients just yet, are quite good when it comes to pill-making," he said.

"Ah, thank you," Alex nodded.

"That girl especially, she could probably give my son a run for his money," the Dragon Emperor said.

"She is quite good, isn't she?" Alex asked with a smile.

"Why don't you marry her?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "She seems like she fits the criteria from what I've heard."

"I've already decided against her," Alex said simply. "Her beauty is not to my liking."

"Oh," the Dragon Emperor said. "Your subjects must not chide you for not having a queen as much as they did me."

"I suppose they don't," Alex said.

"Anyway, I am surprised how good your alchemists are," the Dragon Emperor said. "Still, they will lose."

Alex nodded. "They will," he said. "But this isn't the last competition, is it? There's still one more from what the Headmaster said."

"It is over after this, I'm afraid," the Dragon Emperor said. "The next test was supposed to be one where they sit around and come up with a new pill. They were asked if they wanted to go through it, but all of them refused apparently."

Alex frowned a little. "I wasn't made aware of that," he said. "No, wait a minute. If it was decided that there wouldn't be another test after this, why wasn't that relayed beforehand?"

"Because I told them not to," the Dragon Emperor said and finally turned toward Alex entirely. "I know you said you didn't want to take part in the competition because you don't have any worthy opponents. So what if I was the one that took part in?"

Alex frowned for a moment. "You want to take part in the competition?" he asked.

"Why not?" the Dragon Emperor said. "I know I can beat you when it comes to making multiple pills, and you can beat me when it comes to making higher-quality pills. However, we don't yet know who is better at making new pills with interesting effects."

"Don't you want to have a competition such as that?"

Alex looked at the emperor, ever so curious about what he was planning. However, he couldn't deny that his proposition was quite fun.

"Be honest, Emperor," Alex said. "You want something out of this, don't you? And it is not to prove that you have better alchemy knowledge than me."

The Emperor chuckled. "What makes you say that?" he asked.

"You can't ask for me to help improve you and try to prove that you're better than me at the same time," Alex said. "So, what is going on?"

The Emperor smiled and looked up at the scoreboard. Another alchemist had failed, leaving just 2 more to go.

"The end of the competition is up ahead," he said. "You told me when it would be the end, you would give me an answer to my request. So, what have you decided?"

Alex stayed silent for a while, looking at the Emperor who seemed certain that he was about to get what he wanted. He could only sigh when he saw that.

"Yes," he said. "I am willing to trade with you the knowledge that allows me to make pill clouds."

Chapter 1347: Bet between the Monarchs

The Dragon Emperor's eyes widened in happiness the moment the words of agreement from Alex.

"Good!" he couldn't help but say out loud. "Very good."

The others around the stage looked curiously at what they were talking about, but hearing that they were most likely going to compete against each other fascinated them.

"I am glad that you came to that decision," the Emperor said, almost laughing out loud in happiness.

"Don't get too happy just yet," Alex said. "I will give you the information, but in chunks, and over the years."

"Huh?" the Emperor paused and looked at Alex. "What do you mean?"

"I told you before, didn't I?" Alex asked. "That I have multiple things that help me form pill clouds. I am planning on handing over this information over the coming years."

The Emperor frowned a bit.

"I have 4 different things that help me to make a pill as good as I can," Alex said. "I will give you these 4 ideas over the course of the next 20 years in trade for each one. I will be fair with you and allow you to choose whether or not to trade for each one of them after learning what they are."

The emperor gave a thoughtful look, his frown disappearing after hearing that.

"So if I find it useless, I don't have to trade for it, huh?" he thought. "Very well then, I accept."

"Oh, you're okay with it taking 20 years?" Alex asked.

"20 years might be a lot of time for you, but for me it is but a moment that will pass by in no time," the Emperor said.

"Great, but I have one more condition," Alex said.

The Emperor's smile faded a bit. "What is it now?" he asked.

"Well, I want you to promise that you will not share any of the knowledge I pass along to you for the next... uh... 100 years. I won't tell you what you can and can't do with the pills you make from the knowledge, only that you won't pass them along to someone else," Alex said.

The Crown Prince frowned this time. He had been expecting to get something good now that his father was getting it from Alex, but the sudden condition made his progress slow down by nearly 100 more years.

"Starting today, or starting 20 years later?" the emperor asked.

"Starting today," Alex said.

The Emperor nodded. "Fine," he said. "I accept those terms."

Alex smiled. All that was left now was to speak the oaths so that neither of them went back on their words.

"Now that we have come to an agreement, I want to add a bet into the mix, how about that?" the Emperor asked.

"Hmm? What sort?" Alex asked.

The Emperor looked toward the scoreboard in the sky and smiled. "The competition is coming to an end. That female alchemist of yours has won, it seems. But overall, your alchemists lost the 3rd competition."

Alex nodded. Their requirement had been a little lower overall, making not all of them gain the same amount of points.

"It seems so," Alex said. "But what about it?"

"Since this competition is over, I wish to start the next one between us. A pill recipe-making competition where each one has to make a new pill recipe and come up with the best pill," the Emperor said. "However, we will make a bet between us. A gamble on whoever wins."

Alex remained silent for a moment. "I'm listening."

The Emperor finally laid out what he wanted. "If I win, You will have to give 2 out of those 4 things you wanted to trade with me for free," he said.

Alex's eyes narrowed. "That's... okay. What about if I win?" he asked curiously.

"If you win, I will double the value of whatever I will give to you for everything I trade with you," the Emperor said. "And I won't limit it to the 4 things you wish to trade. You may add other things into the mix if you think I will like them."

The surrounding men and women looked at the two of them with a shocked look on their faces. Were they really going to see the two best alchemists of each continent, each one a ruler, go against each other in a competition?

"Alright, I accept," Alex said without hesitation. The two elders that sat behind him weren't worried either. In their eyes, there was no greater alchemist than their king.

No one there seemed to care when the result of the third test was out. The headmaster gave the announcement, and as soon as she did, the Emperor's words flew into her ears.

"Oh! Oh dear," she cried out in surprise when she heard what was going to happen. "We have a sudden announcement."

She turned around. "His Royal Majesty, the Dragon Emperor, and King Alex of the Southern Continent will be having an alchemy competition of their own. I'm sorry people, but we will have to end the current competition right here, with the victory going to the alchemists of the Eastern Continent."

The crowd cheered as it was their people that won. The ones from the Southern Continent weren't angry, as they had truly lost and they all knew it.

They were ready to work harder.

The group quickly left the stage, allowing the two Monarchs to walk onto the stage.

On one side stood a blue-robed middle-aged man with long blue hair that flowed behind him. On the other side stood a red-robed young man with long black hair that was just as long as the Emperor's.

Alex looked around the crowd and smiled at them. He made sure to give the crowd a good look at his face so his image would be spread around the continent so that his cousin would find him no matter where she was.

He turned back around toward the Emperor and asked, "Alright, how do we go about this? We need some sort of proof that we actually did create the pill and didn't just say we did."

"Hmm, I thought we were just going to speak an oath for that," the Emperor said. "Would that not work?"

Alex thought for a moment. "No, that would work," he said. "And that is the easiest way to go about it... but, aren't we trying to show off to each other how good our alchemy knowledge is? We should find a way that increases the difficulty and makes it entertaining at the same time."

"I see," the Emperor said. "I didn't think you would want this, but I have thought of ways to spice up our competition were it to happen."

"Oh, do share," Alex said, waiting for the Dragon Emperor to speak.

The Dragon Emperor spoke to Alex, but his voice was loud enough that everyone in the crowd clearly heard him. "Each one of us will choose 3 ingredients that the other one has to include in his pill no matter what," he said. "How does that sound? Great right?"

"That sounds great," Alex said. "As long as the ingredients we choose are Saint rank and not extraordinarily rare, I will accept that rule."

Chapter 1348: The Three Ingredients

"It's settled then," the Emperor said. "We will start our Pill-Creating competition right now. Headmaster, tell them the rest of the rules."

The headmaster nodded and started explaining the rules to the audience members. For the sake of saving some time, the competition between the two monarchs was going to take a maximum of 10 days.

Anyone who failed to make a pill in those 10 days would be disqualified. If both failed, a single day would be added. The days would continue to add up until one of them made a pill.

When that happened, the other person would get a single day to finish his pill or lose.

Once the explanation was done, the staff members of the school began preparing the stage for the two monarchs in different corners. At the same time, the headmaster started making up a list.

Both Alex and the Emperor were provided a list of ingredients that were available in the Royal School's storage.

They were now going to have to choose 3 ingredients each that would throw off the other person. They were both only allowed to choose ingredients that there was plenty of, none of which could be below Saint rank.

While Alex was only starting to give some thought to what to choose, the Emperor spoke up. "I'm done," he said.

Alex paused and looked up. "Already?" he asked.

The Emperor smirked. "I told you, I already had this idea before. As such, I had already thought of what ingredients I would choose too," he said.

"I see," Alex said. "Please wait a few minutes while I look through this list." He hadn't expected the Emperor to be so thorough in his preparation.

Alex looked through the entire list for a few minutes, not only to find the 3 ingredients but also to memorize what ingredients there were that he could use.

After looking through them, he chose 3 ingredients.

Scales of a Spotted fire lizard, a fire elemental ingredient that was known for its corrosive nature. Roots of a Green Squid flower plant, a wood elemental ingredient known for its hallucinative nature. And the seeds of a Great White lotus flower, a water elemental ingredient known to improve someone's lung capacity if taken daily in small amounts.

"I'm done," he said. Both of them chose the ingredients and let the headmaster know. The headmaster ordered two people to bring out the ingredients that were written down, who soon returned back with spiritual bags full of them.

The two people handed over the storage bags to the respective monarch.

Alex took the storage bag and looked at what was inside it. He recognized the three unique ingredients immediately.

The first ingredient barks of the Four-leaved tree, where every leaf was actually four leaves stuck to the same stalk. It was a neutral elemental ingredient that wasn't known for much, except for improving the effectiveness of some other ingredients in some very rare cases.

The second ingredient was the petal of a dark blue flower that Alex recognized as the Blue Onyx Daisy. From what Alex knew this petal was the same as the first one. It was a neutral elemental ingredient that wasn't known for much except for improving the effectiveness of a few ingredients when making a pill.

Alex frowned. 'No way,' he thought and looked at the last ingredient.

The third and final ingredient was a Purple limestone powder, which also was a neutral elemental ingredient with nothing notable to its nature, and only helped improve a small group of ingredients.

'That bastard!' he thought to himself as he looked at the Emperor who was looking at him with a smirk on his face.

"Good luck!" the Emperor said and walked away to a corner where he was going to work on his pill.

Alex grumbled internally but didn't let it show up on his face. He walked to one corner and sat down as multiple formations appeared around him.

He looked to the side at a small teleportation formation where he could request for ingredients that he needed.

Alex didn't need to use that right now. Right now, he needed to figure out how the hell he could get out of this predicament.

Being given 3 ingredients with neutral elements was already annoying, having none of them have any effects on their own was even more annoying. Normally, that would mean that Alex would have to look for other ingredients on the list to use as the main ingredients.

In that case, these 3 ingredients would have to be supplementary, which while still annoying to do, he could do.

However, the fact that all these ingredients did was improve just a few other types of ingredients meant that Alex would have a severely limited amount of ingredients that he was forced to use.

He did not have the same level of freedom as other neutral ingredients might provide. The difficulty had definitely gone up as a result.

'He came well prepared,' Alex thought. The Emperor had played a dirty trick on him while remaining under the rules. 'No point in getting angry. I need to figure out a pill soon.'

Since the two of them were going to be busy trying to come up with pills, that wasn't very entertaining for the audience.

So, some simple performances, such as battles, Qi controls, paintings, and other stuff that the audience would find entertaining were being put on show.

While the outside world was rowdy, the Emperor and Alex were lost in their own world, unaware of what was happening inside.

The world looked at them and was very surprised by their approach.

On one side, their Emperor had his cauldron on top of the fire, his hands moving in front of him as he put ingredient after ingredient to check on them.

On Alex's side, there was nothing happening at all. Alex had his eyes closed as if he was cultivating instead of trying to make a pill.

Many people were confused as to exactly what he was doing. Not even the elders from the Southern Continent knew what he was doing since they had never seen him come up with pills.

They were a little concerned about whether their king could complete the competition or not. Each time he had to come up with a pill, it had taken him years at a time.

This time, he was going to get 10 days at most. Was it going to be enough?

Alex sat in his little corner with his eyes closed, his mind going through the thousands of ingredients that were on the list and that were on him.

He had to first list out all the ingredients that would benefit from the three ingredients he had and then he could start from there.

Once he list them all out in his mind, he began looking for connections between those ingredients and what they did.

An entire day passed by in which he achieved absolutely nothing. The next day was the same where all he could do was mix and match the ingredients, trying to find complementary results.

Finally, on the third day, he saw a single connection between the ingredients that he could maybe make use of.

He found that the most common set of ingredients between the 3 separate lists of ingredients were ingredients with Water Elements in them.

Chapter 1349: The 10 Days

Having found a commonality between some of the ingredients, Alex decided to focus on that. It was a breakthrough in his attempt after 3 days, but it was going to take more than just that to make the pill.

He needed more.

If Alex was to be honest, making new pills wasn't hard at all. All you had to do was use different ingredients in a way that their elemental energy didn't become violent all of a sudden.

As long as one could maintain that and reach a level where the energy was stable, that could be considered a pill.

However, that pill was more than likely going to have an unusable effect. No one wanted a pill that grew your body hair by 2 centimeters everywhere. No one wanted a pill that could turn your muscles into bones.

A pill needed to have a good effect to be considered a good pill. So, considering what sort of ingredients he was being allowed to use, Alex decided to start by thinking of what a good effect the pill could have.

And it all needed to come from a majority of Water energy.

He started racking his brain for ideas.

The Emperor on the other hand had a rather smooth sailing from the start. With ingredients that actually did something, he was able to test them out with various other ingredients to see what they did.

He had some idea about what sort of pill he wanted to make with the ingredients, so he brought out similar ingredients to make them.

Unlike Alex, he had to practice with every ingredient to be able to tell how they interacted with each other. Even with 10 thousand years worth of experience, it just wasn't enough to know how two ingredients would react if he had never tried it before.

Outside of their small zone, the stage was filled with entertainment that kept the audience happy. They watched the two monarchs from time to time, but most of them had already considered the emperor to be the victor.

After all, he was the only one doing anything. Alex was just sitting there with his eyes closed. Even if he did start now, would he even make it?

The Emperor saw that too. He had been noticing that Alex wasn't doing anything for the past few days and was very happy with himself. His 3-day long preparation hadn't been for nothing.

Ever since he proposed to Alex the idea of teaching him how to bring out the Pill cloud, he had been planning to use this exact bet to get him to accept his trade should he reject it.

In the chance that he did accept, he was going to use this to make him trade his stuff to him for cheaper. As such, no matter what, he would come out on top in this trade.

He smiled to himself and continued. He had stumbled upon what he was going to be making, and now he was going to have to figure out how to make that pill. After that, he had to try out the various ways he could make the pill so that he could figure out which recipe gave the best result.

If he could make the primary pill by the time 5 days had passed, he could follow through with the rest in the next 5 days, winning the match. When that happened, Alex would simply lose without any more grace period in which he could finish his pill.

Not that the emperor was worried about it. There was no way for him to finish the pill at all.

The emperor continued practicing the pill and finally ended up finishing it halfway through the 5th day. He quickly made a Saint Nullifying pill and tested his new pill on himself.

As soon as he felt the pill burn him from the inside, he quickly ate the nullifying pill and removed its effect.

"Great!" he spoke to himself with a smile. "I now have four and a half days to finish this."

He spent the rest half of the day cultivating. Having used up so much Qi the first 5 days, he needed this time to regain his Qi so he could continue on with the rest of the days.

His first pill had come out at 58% harmony. While others in the empire would consider it great, he considered it garbage.

The emperor experimented the entire next day and found one recipe that improved it to 69%. That was a good result, but it wasn't even an immortal-grade pill yet.

He tried some more.

Over the course of the next day, he experimented until he managed to make a pill that reached 76%. That was a great improvement to the previously immortal pill.

"That should be acceptable," he thought. He could take it slow now and see if he could still improve it. If he could, great. If he couldn't, that wasn't so bad, since he was going to win anyway.

He looked up to see if Alex was still sitting there with his eyes closed, and that was when he saw that Alex was working on some ingredients with his cauldron out.

The Emperor was a little surprised, but he wasn't afraid at all. After all, it was too late. There was no way for Alex to win this competition after starting on the 8th day.

Still, the Emperor watched to see what he was doing and couldn't help but sigh when he saw Alex only practice on single ingredients. That was a phase that the Emperor had gone through at the very beginning.

"Sigh, you shouldn't have taken my bet," the Emperor said and continued with his experimentation.

Even as he experimented, the Emperor got slower and slower as he felt there was no need to do so. Even on the 9th day, Alex was still practicing with ingredients.

Not only that, he would close his eyes and start meditating after each ingredient he practiced with.

"What the hell is he doing?" the emperor couldn't imagine at all.

The 10th and final day began, and the Emperor improved his pill once more. He managed to make a recipe that made a pill with 84% harmony. That was a greater number than he was hoping to achieve in just 10 days with random ingredients he hadn't even thought about.

He watched Alex who had his eyes closed for the longest time once again. He wasn't even making any pills this time around.

As the time continued ticking down, the Emperor understood that there was no more competition here. He had won.

He recorded everything he could about the pill on a talisman and handed the pill over to the headmaster who was going to handle it for fair judging.

Not that there needed to be one since he had most certainly won.

As the final hour came around, Alex finally moved and placed an ingredient into the cauldron.

"Is he still going?" the Emperor couldn't help but wonder. The world couldn't help but wonder.

However, as Alex started putting ingredients into the cauldron one after another, they all realized that he was indeed making a pill this time around.

"That's not going to be enough though," the Emperor thought. "I already won—"

The world darkened as if to intentionally cut off the Emperor's thoughts.

His face drained as he slowly looked up to see the storm cloud roll around on top of them with purple lightning flashing occasionally.

"No... no way!" the emperor thought. "Pill Clouds?"

Chapter 1350: Like That Day

Alex had started the competition by figuring out just the ingredients that worked with the given 3 ingredients and figuring out which ones he had.

Then, he went through each one of those ingredients to see if any of them could work as a main ingredient, or even work with each other at all. He also had to compare them with the rest of the ingredients he had.

It had taken him a while before he realized that doing so was going to take too much time. With over 20 thousand ingredients, trying to match each and every ingredient wasn't going to work at all.

He would have to look at things in sets and groups. That was when he recognized the fact that most of the ingredients that worked with the 3 initial ingredients had water energy in them.

After finding that, Alex started checking the properties of those ingredients and matching them to each other. It didn't take him long after that to start getting ideas for pills, but most of them weren't good enough for a competition like this. He needed something more.

It took him a day of doing so before he saw something in those ingredients that surprised him a little.

If he tweaked a few things here and there, he could use some more Water ingredients that he had already used in another pill and make it work like that pill.

'Can I do it?' Alex wondered. He had about 5 days remaining, so he had to start thinking very hard to go through his mind and focus on how the effects of the various ingredients would affect each other.

One ingredient had a small healing capability, another was filled to the brim with water energy so pure that it nearly made the ingredient Immortal rank. Another one affected one's body, making them slightly more aware of the water-energy around them.

Alex had to also include a metal ingredient to empower another water ingredient that he needed more effects out of, and two wood ingredients to weaken the effects of two other ingredients.

As Alex simulated what it would be like to make a pill out of those ingredients, to see how the effects would end up interacting with each other in various orders, he finally ended up on a permutation that left him with a stable energy combination.

And the effect of the resulting energy was exactly what he had wanted.

After all the mental work was done, on the 8th day, Alex finally opened his eyes and began making the pill.

The first pill was a test. There were multiple ingredients he hadn't used before, but he had some idea of how they could function, so he jumped straight into pill-making.

It took him merely 10 minutes to create a pill that had about 40% harmony. He didn't worry about the quality of the pill just yet. For now, he needed to make sure the effect that he had simulated was the one that he had managed to make.

The resulting energy was most definitely the same. As for the effect? He would have to check.

Alex ate the pill without hesitation and let it dissolve in his body on its own. As the energy dissolved, it started showing its effect.

He waited for a few moments it took to fully show the effect. When that happened, Alex couldn't help but open his eyes wide in surprise. 'I can't believe something like this can actually exist as well,' he thought.

But he had heard from the senior back in the Central Continent that pills only got more and more ridiculous in effect the more energy they had, so maybe this wasn't that bad.

Once he confirmed the pill worked, he ate a pill to nullify the effect of the previous pill and got to work.

He started making powders out of the ingredients he had never worked with before, and after doing that for 6 of the 13 ingredients necessary in that pill, he closed his eyes and began formulating the best pill recipe that could help him reach the highest harmony.

As he did that, he also began improving the energy in the ingredients of his pill using Supreme Elemental Accord. He could've used the mushrooms, but he wanted to people who were keeping track to see what he was capable of even without the mushrooms.

At some point, he noticed that the Emperor was done, and decided to take his time with making the pill. He waited until the very last hour before he finally began making the pill.

Having the perfect pill recipe and the perfect set of ingredients prepared, there was nothing left for Alex to do but make the perfect pill.

Mere minutes into starting the pill, he had already gathered the attention of every single person in the audience that was watching him to see what they would consider a desperate attempt on his part.

As Alex made the pill, he quickly reached the end of the process where he needed to form the pill. That was when he used the Vortex of Perfection skill.

Vortex of Perfection was what he had decided to call the Pill-splitting Qi that only now worked on a single pill. Using that technique, he was able to gather every single energy in the cauldron into the pill that formed inside the cauldron at the same time.

After all the energy was sucked in by the vortex, the sky darkened as pill clouds came out of nowhere. Almost no one except for a handful of people knew anything about pill clouds, so seeing such a phenomenon scared many people.

"What is going on?" the Queen of the Ivory kingdom asked.

"Lightning? Why?" the King of the Emerald Kingdom couldn't understand.

"It's like that one day from all those years ago," the Ebony Kingdom's King spoke as he looked up.

"Now that you mention it," the Silver Kingdom's Queen stared at the sky with a shocked expression as well. It did look similar to that day.

"It's called a pill cloud," the Crown Prince quickly explained. "It happens when one reaches 100% harmony in a pill."

As the Crown Prince explained the kings, queens, and other important figures of the continent, the first lightning bolt fell from the sky.

Most of the audience members jumped in their seats, afraid of the lightning strike. Most of them too remembered it very clearly.

However, they soon realized this was different. Once the lightning fell, they realized that it didn't have much power. At least, not enough to kill the King who it targeted.

As they were wondering what was going on, another lightning strike fell from the sky, surprising them. Was this going to fall a third time too?

The crowd wasn't surprised when the lightning strike fell for the third time as well. However, when it fell for the 4th time, they knew something entirely different was going on.

The lightning fell for the 5th time before the clouds started dissipating.

Then, Alex pulled out the 5-veined pill he had just created and placed it on a bottle before handing it over to the headmaster along with a talisman explaining everything.

With both of the monarch's pills completed, the competition was over.