

Alchemy 1371

Chapter 1371: Frosted Glacier Sect

Alex went from talking about the Sundering Sanctum, explaining what it was, to talk about the fiery volcanic landscape of the 13th Volcanic mountain in the Northern Continent.

The kids were more than excited to hear about the different places around the world.

As Alex continued talking about them, he noticed Talia quickly coming out to the back in a hurry, before slowing down as she put on a calm face.

"Are you guys having fun?" she asked.

"Yes, sister Talia," the young kids spoke at the same time.

"Great," Talia said. "But I'm afraid this is it."

"Huh? But we haven't heard anything yet," one of the kids said.

"This brother only just told us about 4 places," another one said.

"I see, but he is busy now, so he'll have to go," Talia said before quickly speaking to Alex with her spiritual sense. "I have some urgent business, your majesty. I will have to leave now."

"Oh, I see," Alex said.

"I'm sorry I have to leave like this," the girl said. "You must have taken out some time for me from your busy schedule. If it wasn't so urgent, I wouldn't be leaving."

"I understand," Alex said. "You can leave. I will stay behind with these kids for now. Let me know if I can be of any help."

"Thank you, your majesty," Talia said and quickly left the orphanage.

Alex went back to talking with the kids for a while, telling them more about the other continents and the various unique things about them.

He talked for another hour and a half when someone walked out into the yard. It was a young girl, barely a few years older than the kids that were around him.

She walked up to him with a frown on her face and stood right next to him, crossing her arm in an act of what looked like anger.

Alex looked at the young girl and stopped talking about the Endless Tunnel in the Northern Continent. "Can I help you?" he asked.

"Are you a coward?" the girl asked.

Alex paused for a bit. "What?" he asked.

"Why didn't you go with her?" she asked.

"Go with... Talia?" he asked.

"Yes, sister Talia. What sort of friend lets another friend walk to danger on their own?" the girl asked.

"Danger?" Alex straightened up. "What do you mean?"

The girl hesitated a bit hearing his serious tone. "You don't know?" she asked.

Alex shook his head. "I just met her today, so we aren't as close as you might think we are. So, she didn't really tell me anything other than that something urgent had come up," he said. "Can you tell me what it is?"

The girl nodded and got close to him to whisper. "It's about a few of our brothers and sisters that we haven't seen in a while now. Most usually return a few months after leaving, but there has been a group that hasn't returned."

"We tried contacting the sect but they... they just tell us that they are sick, which is why we haven't heard from them," the girl said. "But that should be true since they can't be sick for nearly an entire year."

Alex thought for a bit to try and understand the situation.

"So, you're worried that they might be hiding something from you all?" Alex asked.

The girl nodded. "Also, they will be coming here any time within the month to take more of us away, and we don't want to go with them."

"I see," Alex said. "Then I suppose I must make sure your sister isn't hurt in case it gets dangerous then."

He stood up and looked at the rest of them. "I'll be back in a day or two to tell you more about what I know," Alex said. "For now, it seems that I will have to leave."

Alex quickly walked away and the little girl followed him.

"Do you want my help? I can follow you," the girl said but Alex shook his head.

"Just tell me what the sect is that Talia might be going towards," Alex asked.

"Oh it's, umm... the Frosted Glacier sect," the girl said.

"Thanks, I will make sure to keep your sister safe," Alex said and walked out. As soon as he was out, he waved his finger, gesturing to someone close by.

The Saint Transformation rank guard that was sent to him by the king arrived next to him. "Your majesty?" he asked.

"You heard it all, didn't you?" he asked. "So you must know where I am going to go next."

"The Frosted Glacier sect is about an hour's travel away toward the south," the man said. "But I will request your majesty to not go there. Let us handle whatever the problem is."

Alex chuckled. "Are you kidding me? It's been over a year since I've been in a situation that might lead to some enjoyment. Let me have some fun," he said.

"But it might get dangerous, your majesty," the man said. "Please don't go."

"Nonsense," Alex said. "I've made up my mind. You said south, right? Let's go."

Alex flew without hesitation, and the guard followed him without any choice. He wondered if he should use some force to keep him back, but he didn't dare do something like that to a King.

So, he could only reluctantly follow.

"Frosted Glacier... is there an icy region in the south? I don't remember anything like that," Alex said.

"There is none. It is all forests and grassland over here, with a bit of desert toward the bottom. Even the islands in the Emerald Kingdom have no snow on them," the man said.

"Then? Why is it named as such? A technique?" Alex asked.

"No, no," the man said, thinking for a bit. "If I'm not wrong, it's because the person who created the sect, the founder, is actually someone who came here from the Northern Continent some 7 or 8 thousand years ago."

"Oh," Alex said with a curious look on his face. "Is he still alive?"

"News of his death wasn't made public," the man said. "but It has been just too long for someone like that to survive."

"True," Alex said. "So, it is someone else that's the sect leader now, huh?"

"A man named Lan Sikong," the guard said. "He's a new leader of the sect, who became one just in the last decade or so," the guard explained.

"I see," Alex said. "And is he a good guy? How's his character?"

"I can't really tell you, your majesty. I haven't met the man, only heard about him, and from what I hear, he is rather reclusive."

"And the kids from the orphanage? What are the chances that they are being mistreated?" he asked.

"Such cases pop up once in a while, but the empire wipes such sects and organizations from the face of the realm, so most don't dare do sort a thing," the guard said.

"But they still happen, don't they?" Alex asked.

"Some are a little too ambitious for their own good," the guard said.

"I see," Alex said. "Then, for the sake of these kids, I hope this Sikong fellow is not one of them then."

The guard nodded and continued following Alex as they flew towards the Frosted Glacier sect."

Chapter 1372: The Sect Leader

Alex flew for a while, going across the green landscape as he made his way toward the sect.

"Do you know why the sects get to even take these kids from the orphanage? Is there some form of contract between them?" he asked the guard that flew close behind him.

"The sects donate a yearly amount to the orphanages in all the cities. In return for doing that, they get to choose what children they can take with them to make their disciples," the guard said.

"The kingdom doesn't take care of the orphans?" Alex asked.

"The agreement between the sects and the orphanages was found to be a better choice than just having the kingdom take care of it," the guard said. "Because of how many sects there are that want a piece of the pie, they end up donating some good money to the orphanages."

"And there is a competition between them?" Alex asked.

"Sort of," the guard replied. "Whoever pays the most that year gets to have the first choice at one kid that that they want to take away, every other kid is then divided based on whatever the group of sect prefers."

"Such competitions end up with the orphanages getting donated a lot of money."

"I see," Alex said. "It's a good incentive, I suppose. Morally it feels like you're paying to buy someone, so I don't think I can ever think of copying such a strategy to my own continent."

The guard said nothing.

After flying for nearly an hour, the guard spoke. "It's about 2 minutes away in that direction," the guard pointed.

"We're close, huh," Alex said. "Get away from me for now. I want to go in here alone."

"But your majesty," the guard spoke. "It could be dangerous."

"You can come if it feels dangerous," Alex said. "I just don't want the sect to hide things when they notice you."

The guard frowned for a bit but said nothing in return. He slowed down, creating a gap between him and Alex.

Slowly, Alex drifted away from the guard, and by the time he arrived at what was the Frozen Glacier school, the guard was nowhere to be seen.

He slowly landed in front of the gate of the school and was stopped by the guards there. They looked at him with a confused look as they neither recognized his clothes, nor the mask he wore.

"Greetings, senior. May we know what your reason is for visiting?" one of the guards asked.

"I was on a date with a girl just a few hours ago, but she left in the middle of it to come here," Alex said. "I was wondering what she was doing, so I followed her here. Can you take me to her?"

The guards looked at each other, slight surprise clear in their eyes. "Who might it be that you are talking about?" the guard asked. "We have to keep our guest's privacy—"

"I'm talking about Talia, the disciple of the Cloud Iron sect," Alex said. "I want you to take me to her."

"But... senior Talia is currently with the sect leader. I'm afraid I cannot take you to her," the guard said.

"Do you have the authority to stop me from entering, young man?" Alex asked. "Should you at least not ask your seniors before deciding if that's a good idea or not?"

The guards hesitated a bit. It was obvious that they could not let someone without any prior appointment into the sect without knowing who they were.

The guards didn't bother asking who he was as they didn't want to offend a senior by asking them to name themselves. However, now that Alex had said that, they held back no longer.

"What should we address you as, senior?" the guard asked. "I will notify the sect leader of your arrival and see if he wants to meet with you."

"You can address me as Talia's date," Alex said. "Since your sect leader is currently with her, she can tell him who I am if she wishes to."

The guards had no reason to hesitate, so they quickly messaged the sect leader. After waiting for a while, they got a response back.

"The sect leader will be out in a bit," the guard said.

Alex nodded and remained where he was, waiting for the man to come out.

Surprisingly, the man that came out was someone who looked like they were in their late 20s. "Is that the sect leader?" Alex asked the guards.

"Yes, that is our sect leader," the guards said. They bowed toward their sect leader and moved out of the way to let him meet Alex.

The young man arrived close enough for Alex to see that he was slightly taller than him.

"You must be sect leader Lan Sikong," Alex spoke up as he looked at the man.

"Can you take off your mask so I may see who it is beneath it?" the man asked.

"I'm afraid I can't do that. I'm wearing this mask precisely for people to not see who I am beneath it," Alex said.

"Okay, then may I know your name?" the young man asked.

"You may address me as Talia's date, as I had your guards tell you," Alex said.

The sect leader frowned a bit. "I wasn't aware that Talia courted men. I had believed she was too focused on her own self to court men at all," the sect leader said.

"Well, I only met her today, so I can't tell you how she is normally," Alex said.

"Then did you follow her because she left you?" the sect leader asked.

"No, I came because I was told by a kid in an orphanage that I shouldn't have left Talia alone," Alex said.
"Now, may I know where Talia is?"

The sect leader looked at him for a few seconds and nodded. "She's over on the other side of the sect, taking care of sick children," he said.

"I see," Alex said. "Let me go meet her then."

The sect leader nodded and stepped aside for Alex to walk in. He followed behind Alex, showing him the way into the sect.

Alex looked around at the sect, somewhat surprised at how good the sect was overall. From architecture, to maintenance, to Qi density; everything was exactly what one would think when they thought of a large, powerful sect.

"You are quite young, sect leader," Alex said. "How did you come to this position?"

"Mostly luck," the sect leader said. "You could say I got lucky at every step and reached where I am today."

"I see," Alex said.

Alex noticed a severe lack of students walking around, which felt a little weird, but not enough for him to think of anything. There were enough walking around, so Alex didn't focus on that for the most part.

After walking for a while, he walked into a room where he finally saw Talia. Only, she was inside a barrier. Not only her, but many other people were inside of different barriers as well.

"What the hell is going on here?" Alex asked, confused.

"You will find out soon," the sect leader said as he pulled out a sword. "For now, you should move inside as well."

Chapter 1373: Fighting the Sect Leader

Alex looked at the formation of barriers that held many different people. He had been brought to some unknown corner of the sect, only to find these people captured here.

Talia was amongst them, and so were many other individuals, most of whom wore robes of the same variety as the ones from the Frosted Glacier sect.

"Get in," the sect leader said.

"What if I don't want to?" Alex asked.

"A weakling like you doesn't get many choices, unfortunately," the sect leader said before pricking Alex with the sword, pushing him forward.

Alex could see Talia saying something, shouting even, but he couldn't hear the words. It wasn't just her either, the others were speaking too, but Alex could hear no one.

He turned around, looking at the sect leader, who didn't fear him for in his eyes, Alex was weak.

The sect leader was in the late Saint Soul 5th realm, so he didn't find any reason to fear Alex. As such, even when he turned around, he was unphased.

"What exactly are you doing here?" Alex asked. "It doesn't look like something that the Kingdom or the Empire would ever let you continue. You have thought this through, haven't you?"

"What I am doing here is of no concern to you," the sect leader said. "Waste one more of my second and I will kill you."

"You're surely not doing this alone, are you?" Alex asked. "Did the other sect elders agree to whatever is happening here that you want to hide? It must be quite something to agree to walk down this evil path with you."

"That's it," the man said and swung his sword at Alex.

Midnight appeared on Alex's hand as he parried the sect leader's sword, surprising him with a strength that was beyond what he could sense. The sect leader stumbled a few steps behind before coming to a stop.

He looked at Alex and then at the sword in his hand.

"How... did you...?" the sect master found it hard to make sense of.

"How did I what?" Alex asked. "Take my sword out of my storage? Did you think I wouldn't have realized that there was something messing with space, making it hard to bring out your items?"

"How could you?" the man couldn't help but ask.

"Well... it's hard to explain," Alex said. "And you are the one that is supposed to be explaining here. What is going on?"

Before Alex could continue his words, he saw the sect leader prepare and attack him.

Shards of ice flew at him, pelting him without stopping. Alex did nothing but use his Jade Skin technique, and none of the attacks hurt him at all.

Then the sect leader sent out a gust toward him, carrying illusory flowers, all of which started falling on him. Once again, he easily protected himself by using the Jade Skin technique.

With the Jade Skin technique, his body became as strong as Saint Soul 7th realm, which was more than enough to handle the sect leader Sikong.

Alex didn't attack back immediately and instead just blocked the sect leader's attack. The sect leader couldn't help but frown when he realized that he couldn't hurt him at all.

"What... are you?" he asked.

"Just someone who wants you to answer a few questions," Alex said. "I won't kill you if you answer me seriously."

"To hell with your answers," the man shouted and quickly did something, that Alex concluded was requesting aid. As expected, 12 different individuals quickly appeared inside the room and surrounded Alex immediately.

Each individual was with a cultivation base of at least the peak of the Saint Soul realm, if not higher. Each one of them was stronger than the sect leader, with even the weakest one being able to fight toe to toe with Alex even if he went all out.

"Well, this is troublesome," Alex said as he looked around at the 13 men that had gathered around him. They were so strong that Alex would most likely have problems escaping without revealing his hands entirely.

"He's a weird fellow, kill him," the sect leader said.

"He's up to something, don't kill him," Alex said just as the sect leader said.

For a second everyone was confused. However, a moment later, something flew into the room, destroying it all as it did so.

The man that was guarding Alex, an officer of the Head Legion of the Azure Imperium, had arrived and was ready to fight now that Alex was in danger.

"You should leave, your majesty," the man said. "I will take care of this in your stead.

"Just take care of the other 12 if you can," Alex said. "I'll handle this sect leader."

The guard thought for a moment and nodded. He had seen Alex fight just now, so he wasn't as worried as he should have been. He knew how strong he was.

Alex looked toward the sect leader. "Now then, we can enjoy our battle without anyone ruining the moment, can't we?" he asked. He pointed up the sword and the sect leader realized that he had screwed up big time.

Immediately, Alex started attacking the sect leader, who could only remain on the defensive.

Alex sent a few slashes, one of which was his Heavenly Static Slash, sending a strong lightning bolt directly in the sect leader's direction.

The sect leader tried to fight back, but he was only standing target in front of Alex, despite his cultivation base which should have been clearly stronger. "Who the hell are you? How are you so strong?" the man shouted.

Alex paused. "Do you really wish to know?" he asked. "Very well then."

He pulled off his mask, revealing who it was under it. The sect leader looked at Alex for a few seconds, trying to comprehend exactly who it was that he was looking at before realizing who it was.

"King of the Southern Continent?" the man couldn't help but ask in surprise.

"That is me," Alex said. "Now, shall we continue?"

Fire Qi flowed into Midnight, giving it a slight red glow. Alex needed to add nothing else to the sword but that as he unleashed one of the other altered techniques that he hadn't been able to test in real combat for a while.

Once the sword was filled with Fire Qi, he swung it in the sect leader's direction, throwing a flaming slash at the sect leader.

The attack flew in an arc and landed on the sect leader who had already used techniques to protect himself. Even as he did so, the fire slash landed on him and the technique activated.

~BOOM!~

A Fiery explosion covered the sky, seen from many different locations. It was Alex's Burning Blaze technique that had made such a commotion. It was a technique that was created to cause an explosion, so Alex wasn't phased at all.

He looked for the smoke to settle as the sect leader barely handled himself while threatening to fall unconscious at each waking moment.

Alex smiled.

"Now that you are at the end of your ropes, please explain what exactly it is that you are doing here," he said.

Chapter 1374: Knowledge

The sect leader looked around, searching for a way to escape. He looked down and saw that the sect elders that were supposed to be protecting him were dying of the monster that Alex had brought along.

"King of Southern Continent," the man quickly spoke. "I want to make a deal with you."

Alex's eyes narrowed. "What deal?" he asked curiously.

"Let me live, protect me even if you can. If you do so, I will share with you the results of the experiments that I have been doing here," the man said.

"What have you been doing here?" Alex asked.

"I can't tell you unless you swear to protect me," the sect leader said.

"I can also just let you die, you know," Alex said. "I don't have to do anything."

"Then you'll miss out on potentially one of the greatest bits of knowledge that could make your life a whole lot better," the man said with a crazy smile. "Do you not want to learn what it is? Just promise you will protect me and I will let you know."

Alex couldn't help but smile. "You've got me rather curious now. I do wish to learn what it is," he said.

"Yes, just promise me that you will—"

Suddenly, something far stronger than anything he had sensed from Alex just yet covered him entirely, constricting his movements from head to toe.

"I said I was curious," Alex said as he reached into his storage and pulled out a pill bottle. "Not that I wanted to protect you."

"Wh-what are you—" the man tried to speak, but Alex's blood had wrapped around the man, limiting his movements, even his speech.

"You will tell me everything," Alex said as he placed the pill into the man's mouth. "Whether you like it or not."

He poured his Qi into the man's mouth and pushed the pill into his stomach.

Alex waited for a while as the pill took effect, and finally freed the man's face from his constrictions. He looked at the guard before who was still somewhat busy fighting, but it wouldn't be long before he finished.

He needed to see what important topic it was that the sect leader thought he could obtain his protection.

"First of all, are the children you said were sick from the orphanage safe?" Alex asked.

"No, they are sick," the man said uncontrollably.

"Oh, you weren't lying?" Alex was indeed a little surprised. "Why haven't you tried to treat them yet?"

"Because we need them sick and dying," the man said.

Alex frowned a bit. "What?" he asked in surprise. "Did you make the children sick purposefully?"

"Yes," the sect leader answered.

Alex felt a pang of anger build up when he heard that, but he calmed himself down. The fight below was close to end, so he needed to finish this question quickly too.

"Why use do you have by making them sick?" he asked.

"To follow through on the knowledge that I learned," the sect leader said.

"What knowledge?" Alex asked.

The man opened his mouth to speak, but no words came out of them. Instead, his face twisted in a grimace, as if Alex was squeezing him too hard.

Alex quickly made sure his blood wasn't constricting him too hard, and when he realized it wasn't, he wondered for a moment what was happening.

"Why aren't you answering? Tell me what the knowledge is?" he asked.

The man tried answering, but his face twisted in a grimace again. He was definitely trying to speak the truth, but something was stopping him.

"Did you speak an oath to not talk about it?" Alex asked.

"Yes," the man said.

"Then how were you going to tell me what you had learned?" Alex asked. "Do you have a book that gave you the knowledge??"

"No, I destroyed it. Only I know about it now," the sect leader said.

"And you can't tell me?" Alex asked.

"No," the man said.

"Well... that's problematic," Alex thought. He looked below at the situation while thinking about what it is that he could do.

"Is there anyone else that knows about whatever this knowledge is?" he asked the man.

"They know what it is about," the sect leader answered. "Only I know the knowledge itself."

"And do you know of any loopholes in your oath that I could exploit to get the knowledge out of you?" Alex asked.

"I can only pass along the information once I have done it to myself," the man said.

"Do it to yourself? So, it is something physical?" Alex asked. He wasn't getting any answer from the man so there was only one thing left to do.

An illusory sword formed from Alex's spiritual energy and he used it to cut all over the sect leader's body. All of a sudden, the sect leader felt his body go limp as he couldn't bring out even the tiniest amount of power.

The blood around him disappeared, and Alex took him back down to where the guard was killing the last person who had fought back. He had shown absolutely no mercy to anyone, killing even the weakest of them.

Alex looked around at the bloody ground and breathed out. "You didn't let anyone live?" he asked.

"I told you before, your majesty," the guard said. "The Azure Imperium smashes and culls every single sect or group that walks down an evil path. The fact that they tried to attack us meant that they deserved death."

Alex didn't say anything, simply nodding in response.

"It must have been hard," Alex said.

"Not at all," the guard said. "As a member of the Head Legion, if I couldn't destroy a sect of this level on my own, I wouldn't even be allowed to be a part of the Legion."

Alex could only give a dry laugh.

"Why is he still alive?" the guard asked, seeing the sect leader alive.

"I thought you would want the main culprit for questioning," Alex said.

"We have the others here that we can question," the guard said.

"Yeah... I'm not sure about that," Alex said. "Guard me for a few seconds, okay? I will need some protection."

"What do you mean?" the guard asked.

"Uhh... just protect me please," Alex said and sat down, with the sect leader sitting next to him uncontrollably. He brought out Whisker and kept him inside of his robes to let Alex know if something happened outside.

Then, using this spiritual energy, he tried to force his way into the sect leader's spiritual sea.

"Your majesty?" the guard realized what was happening, so he called for him. However, Alex didn't react at all.

Both Alex and the leader's bodies dropped listlessly on the ground, making the man panic as to what could have happened to them. Had the King just invaded another individual's spiritual sea?

He didn't know what to do. He stood there, wondering if he should let King Jin know, but then Alex had told him to protect him, so he did.

He paced around for a few minutes, not even bothering to rescue the people behind him. Then, a few minutes later, Alex's body moved as he slowly got back up.

The old man looked at Alex, only to see a look of shock and wide eyes on his face.

Chapter 1375: The Kids

"Your majesty, are you okay?" the man asked as he quickly walked up to Alex to help him up.

"No, no, I'm fine. Thanks for the help." Alex slowly got up, and the look of shock and surprise was still evident on his face.

The guard wondered what it was that got him so worked up. Was he hurt while inside the spiritual sea of the other person? "Why did you do that, your majesty?" he asked.

"Uhh... I became stupid for a moment, that's all," Alex said. He looked at the sect leader who was unconscious still. Having destroyed most of his spiritual energy, it would take him some time to wake up. "What do we do with this one?"

"Didn't you want to question him?" the man asked.

"No, not anymore," Alex said as he swiped away the storage bags on his body. "I don't think anyone who tortures children should be allowed to live. You can kill him."

The guard nodded and used a simple attack that vaporized the sect leader along with his nascent soul.

After seeing the man die, Alex looked around toward the captured individuals and searched for a way to turn down the barrier. He found a few formation flags which he ripped out of the ground, letting everyone out.

The people flew out the barriers in droves, thanking them profusely.

Talia was teary-eyed as she too came up to Alex and started thanking him.

Alex looked toward his guard and asked, "Can you handle this? I want to go look for the children," he said.

"As you wish, your Majesty," the man said and started asking the many men and women questions about what had happened in this place.

Talia quickly followed behind Alex to go and look for the children as well. "Why did you come here, your majesty?" she asked.

"There was a little girl who said you could be in trouble, so I came," Alex said. "It turns out she was right, so it was good that I came. Come on, let's go get those kids."

Talia nodded and followed, but she still had questions. "Do you know what he was doing with the kids? He captured me when I tried questioning them," she said.

"He... he was trying to kill them," Alex said. "For his own gain."

"K-kill?" Talia's eyes widened in fear. "Are you saying the kids are dead?"

"No... not yet," Alex said. "At least... not these ones."

Talia was a little confused. "What do you mean not these ones?" she asked.

"He needed those kids dead, but he also needed them a little older," Alex said. "He killed many other ones that were over 20 years old, but these new kids weren't of that age, so he simply let them be sick so that he could continue keeping them here, without the chance of them contacting the outside world."

"From what I learned, he was planning to announce that they were dead at the end of the year and hide their existence forever if he could. That was the sole reason why they are still alive, unlike many other ones," Alex said.

"What do you mean other ones?" Talia asked. "Which other ones?"

"The ones that came here before," Alex said. "The orphans that no longer had a connection with the orphanage. Those ones are all mostly dead."

Talia gasped in horror. "Are- are you saying that the ones from before... are dead?" she asked.

"I'm afraid so," Alex said.

Talia was so horrified that she started tearing up. "That... that bastard! He killed all those kids. Why did he do that?" she asked.

Alex looked at her for a moment and shook his head. "I do not know," he said. "I tried asking, but he had an oath to not talk about anything at all."

"Oh, so we'll never figure out what he wanted with them?" she asked.

"Maybe the people that were locked up know. Most of them seem to be elders of his sect," Alex said.

The girl nodded.

They arrived at the facility that Alex had learned about and quickly found the children, all of whom were hooked up to some sort of medical device.

Alex looked at it all for a few seconds and only got rid of them when he was sure that it wouldn't hurt them. Once the kids were up, he fed them a few pills that he had on his, which healed them back to normal over the course of a few minutes.

Talia looked over the children, making sure they were all taken care of. Most of them were weak and feeble, but they were healed thanks to Alex's pills.

"I'll have King Jin prepare good food to feed these kids once we are back," Alex said. "Let's leave."

They walked out back to where the guard was and saw that he was about done with questioning the people there.

"Did you get any useful information from them?" Alex asked. He still had his mask up, but most people seemed to have realized who he was, so they stood to the side, quiet while Alex asked his question.

"Somewhat," the guard said. "It's not very clear, but it seems the sect leader had found something in the sect treasury that he wanted to use. However, to do that he needed human sacrifices. These people were the ones that were against it, and as a result, they were imprisoned here."

"And they don't know what he was trying to achieve?" Alex asked.

"No, the sect leader apparently never really made it clear what he was trying to do. Only that he promised them great power if they followed him, which he made an oath to heaven to prove. I truly wonder what it was," the guard said, eyeing at the storage bag that Alex had taken with him.

Alex noticed that and threw the storage bag at the man. "I haven't taken anything out of here, so you can check for anything you want here," he said.

The guard hesitated for a moment and complied, looking through the storage bag. He found many things, but none of which seemed like what he was looking for.

"The sect leader already destroyed whatever it was that he learned so that he alone would know it," one of the elders that were now free answered.

"I see," the guard said. He tossed the storage bag back to Alex. "Forgive me, your majesty. But I had to check."

"I understand," Alex said.

"Also, thank you for coming here. Had you not, I wouldn't have realized what was happening here. Any longer and we would have had, no, we already have a genocide to deal with," the guard said.

"No problem," Alex said. "Anyway, I'm going to take these kids back to the orphanage. Will you be coming, or will you stay here for now?"

"I will have to stay back and deal with this until the person I have called comes. Forgive me, but can you wait until then?" he asked.

"Nope," Alex said and started walking away. "Come find me in the orphanage when you're done. Let's go, Talia."

Talia nodded, and along with the kids they made their way back from the Frosted Glacier sect.

Chapter 1376: A Pill to Erase

Alex and Talia arrived back in the orphanage with the twenty kids that they had rescued. Not all of these kids were from the orphanage in Greenheart City, but that was where they decided to take them anyway.

The 3 that were from there immediately hugged the guardians that they had missed so much and started crying, telling them about what had happened to them, what they had seen.

Dead bodies, flayed skin, bloody sheets, muscles cut open, bones pulled out. The kids were made to face horrors while inside that room that they were only now talking about.

Alex frowned when he heard their recollection of what they saw. He had seen those horrors way more vividly than them, but these were kids. They shouldn't be seeing things like this.

"I have a recipe for a pill known as the Memory Erasing pill which can help remove their recent memories," he said. "I don't have them made, but I should be able to cook up a few as long as we have ingredients."

"Pill that erases memory? Does it work?" Talia asked.

"I haven't tried it yet, actually. It was a recipe I found in my treasury, that I just forgot about since I didn't really need it," he said. "Also, it's a True pill, so it won't work on us, but it should work fine on the kids."

"What if they lose too much of their memory?" Talia asked.

"Even if they do, that is much better than them remembering everything, don't you think?" Alex asked.

Talia couldn't argue. "What are the ingredients? Let me see if I have some," she said.

"I have most," Alex said. "I... let's see... I need a Brighthorn Deer's antler powder, and some Wildsoot grass leaves."

"I have Wildsoot grass from the last time I went to the Hundred Blossom Valley. But not the powder," she said. "Hmm... maybe His Majesty has it."

"King Jin? I'll go ask him then," Alex said.

"Let me come with you."

The two left the orphanage after telling the guardians there what their plan was.

Going back to the palace took no time at all, as they hurried there. As soon as they reached, elder Yao and Liang quickly came out to meet Alex, but he kept them from speaking since he was in a hurry.

The King had already arrived, but he made no remarks seeing Alex and Talia together. He had received the news regarding the Frosted Glacier sect, so he was very serious at the moment.

"Did you come back from the sect?" the king asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Actually, I need some Brighthorn Deer's antler powder. Do you have any? I need it to make some pills for the kids."

"I'll have some brought to you right away," the King said. "Let me show you to the alchemy rooms."

Alex nodded and went along with the King to his alchemy rooms, which were just as fancy as the ones that Alex used back in the Swan courtyard. He walked inside and brought out 5 different cauldrons from inside his storage bag, placing them in five different locations where the fire could burn.

The King looked at it all a little weirdly, wondering if Alex was planning to use all those cauldrons at once.

"How many pills do you need, your majesty?" the King asked.

"20," Alex said.

Someone arrived with the antler powder, and the king gave the entirety to Alex. "Use as much as is required, your majesty," he said. "What other ingredients do you require?"

"None," Alex replied. "Can I get some privacy? I will begin now."

"Yes, of course."

The king quickly walked out, shutting the door behind him. Now that Alex was all alone, he brought out Whisker and gave a portion of the ingredients to him. "4 pills at once, okay?" he asked.

"I will," Whisker answered and took the ingredients to one of the cauldrons on the side.

Alex stuck to his side with 4 different cauldrons, in all of which he was going to make 4 pills each. Since the pill he needed was a True pill, he could easily control it at his level, and since reaching 100% did nothing for True pills, there was no point to try his hardest either. Just being the most efficient was enough in his eyes.

The first pile of ingredients came out, splitting into 16 different sections under Alex's spiritual sense as they all fell into the now-heated cauldron. Splitting his attention into 16 different individual sections, plus all the other attention that was required when making a pill certainly made it difficult, but given how easy it was to make True pills and the fact that he was making the same pill 16 times, it gave his mind a bit of room to relax.

He started turning the ingredients into a powder and then moved on to the 2nd ingredient. It didn't take long before all the ingredients were inside the cauldron, turning into powder.

Once he was done, he used broke the pile of powder into 4 specific sections simply based on feeling, on each of the 4 cauldrons. Then, one by one, he used his Vortex of Perfection technique on all of the different piles to create the best pill he could out of what he had ended up making up.

By the time he was finished, Whisker was still working on the 4 pills, which had just been powdered. Since he couldn't use the technique, Alex had to do it for him.

Once they were done, Alex walked out of the room with the 20 different pills ready in just under 10 minutes. King Jin and Talia were surprised to see him walk out so soon.

"Do you need something?" the king asked.

"More Wildsoot grass, your majesty?" Talia asked.

"What? No, I'm done," Alex said. "Let's go feed the kids."

They didn't believe Alex at all, but seeing him leave, they couldn't help but follow him. Soon, the three of them, including King Jin arrived at the orphanage where the kids were getting taken care of.

"Will the pills work?" Talia asked.

"Well, they will remove memories, I know that for sure. It's just a matter of how far back they work," Alex said and fed the first child. They waited for the pill to take effect and asked the child how old he was.

The young boy thought he was 12.

That was 2 years more than they wanted, but there wasn't anything they could do about it. Alex needed some experimentation if he wanted to make it more precise.

"That is enough," he said and fed the other kids the pills. Soon, all 20 of the kids had eaten the pill and had lost between 2 and 4 years' worth of their recent memories.

"Let the kids rest now," Alex said and walked away from them to let the guardians handle it.

"Thank you, your majesty," Talia said.

"It's not a problem. In fact, I am obligated to help when I can," he said. "What sort of person would I be if I just sat behind and let them be in pain."

Talia couldn't help but smile when she heard that.

"You are truly amazing, your majesty."

Chapter 1377: Transplant

Alex took Talia to a lone section of the orphanage and broke the news that she might not have wanted to hear.

"You are an amazing woman, Talia. Unfortunately, I can't find the two of us working at all," he lied.

Talia was a bit shocked to hear such a conclusion so early. "But we have only been on one date," Talia said. "Is it because I got captured?"

"What? No, no. It's just me," Alex said. "I just can't feel the spark between us two." That bit was certainly true. While Alex could sense that the two of them would make for a nice King and Queen, they certainly wouldn't make for a good couple.

And the sole reason for that was that Alex simply couldn't find himself being attracted to Talia. Maybe a few more days would've changed things, but he didn't want a Queen in the first place, so he let her down easily instead of taking her on multiple dates only to reject her after that.

"We can still be friends," Alex said with a soft smile. "I have planned to come here during my time stay in Greenheart City, so we will be meeting each other quite a bit."

"I see," Talia said with a dejected voice. "I will accept what you say, your majesty."

Alex gave a small bow and said, "I'll see you in a few days then." Then, he left back to the Palace.

He told the King and others that he was tired, so he went directly back to his room in the palace, not even stopping for his two elders. Once he entered his room, he shut down all forms of entry and sat down quietly when he could finally find peace.

Once he was seated, a voice spoke in his head.

"What's going on?" Godslayer asked. "You are a bit hasty today in everything you're doing. Is something wrong?"

"Is it that noticeable?" Alex asked.

"You came from that sect with children as soon as they were rescued and then made pills without much thought. Had there been something wrong with the pill, you could have harmed a kid," Godslayer said.

"I tried my best to prepare the best pills, but making it any better would've required tons of time, which I don't want to spend," Alex said.

"That's what I'm saying," Godslayer said loudly. "You are being too hasty today. Something happened back in that sect, right? Something that is causing you to be hasty."

"Yes, sort of," Alex said. "My mind is in turmoil and I'm doing my best to not freak out right now."

"What... did you find in that man's spiritual sea?" Godslayer asked.

"It's not what I found in his spiritual sea, but rather what I found in his memories," Alex said. "I went in so I could perform a Spirit Search. I saw it all, you know... his memories... of what he was doing."

Godslayer couldn't help but be curious. "What is it that's got you so riled up?" he asked.

"The knowledge that the guy was talking about was a vile one. It was a knowledge of transplant surgery to pass organs from one person to another," Alex said.

"Hmm? Isn't... that normal?" Godslayer asked.

"It is," Alex said. "Only, the organ that was being taught to transplant isn't."

"What was it?" Godslayer asked.

"Spiritual Roots."

Alex felt a sense of awe as he spoke it out loud. He still couldn't believe such a thing was possible, even though he had imagined it would be.

At the very least, he hadn't expected someone from this realm to have such info.

"What? You can transfer Spiritual roots?" Godslayer asked, equally surprised.

"So you didn't know either?" Alex asked.

"I never truly focused on such a thing, so no, I do not know," Godslayer said. "How did someone like him even manage to find something like that? Wasn't he practically a nobody?"

"He was," Alex said. "In a sense, they are all nobodies when compared to the grander scale of things. However, their founder wasn't."

"Founder?" Godslayer asked.

"Remember the mad immortal that captured us? The sect's founder was someone that left the Northern Continent 8 thousand years ago, right after that mad immortal had stopped his ascension."

"It seemed he was one of the many elders at the time that were involved in the attack on the Snow Immortal sect. Most of the others went and made the 5 Ancient sects, but he decided to leave and come to this place to live a different life."

"The knowledge of the Spiritual Root transplant was something that he had brought along after finding it from the Snow Immortal sect from what I read from the man's mind."

Godslayer frowned a bit. "That answers where the technique came here from, but how did it reach the Snow Immortal sect?"

Alex thought for a bit. That answer he didn't have, so he made two guesses. "The unlikely guess is the Snow Immortal sect's founder, the woman who returned from the Immortal realm gave them that technique."

"It's unlikely because?" Godslayer asked.

"Because there is no way such techniques are freely available in the upper realms, or you and anyone else would've heard about it already," Alex said. "I don't think even Scarlet knows of such a thing."

"Then? What's the other guess?" Godslayer asked.

"The Ancient Battlefield," Alex said without hesitation. "It was a location where immortals fought and died. Many of them likely dropped what they had, and this was one of that."

"So you think this one came from the Immortals? Hmm... that makes some sense," Godslayer said. "Which begs the question, why were the Immortals fighting in this world?"

Alex shrugged. "It was during the war, wasn't it?" he asked. The Undying God had been killed by an Immortal if he remembered right.

"It might have been during the war, but... it was still Immortals fighting. You know what happens when Immortals use too much power," Godslayer said.

"Heavenly Judgment, yes," Alex said. "But... surely there was a way they hid from it. That's what I thought happened this whole time. If the Immortals were never punished by the heavens for using Immortal Qi, then they must have had a way to hide from the heavens."

"That's not impossible," Godslayer said. "But what about when they use Dao? That calls upon Heaven itself to aid them. In that instance, there is no way for them to hide, is there?"

Alex frowned a bit. "That's... true," he said. "What do you think happened then if they weren't hiding from heaven?"

"Simple," Godslayer said. "The Heaven never targeted someone for using Immortal Qi. That's it."

Alex frowned. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"Why is there such a thing as Heavenly Judgment? It's because people are using strength that should not exist in this world, isn't it?" Godslayer said. "Then that means, if there was no Heavenly Judgment, then it is very much likely that the power they used already existed in this world."

Alex's eyes slowly widened. "Are you saying... there used to be Immortal Qi in this world?" he asked.

"Yes," Godslayer said. "There should have been. However, throughout the thousands and thousands of years... the Immortal Qi vanished from this world, leaving only Saint realms to be the peak of what cultivators could achieve."

Chapter 1378: Horrible

Alex gave Godslayer's words some thought to see if it could truly be possible that this world was once an immortal world as well.

The evidence he had provided certainly made it a possibility, now he just needed to find a reason why it no longer was. If it was once an immortal world, where had the Immortal Qi gone?

Two possibilities quickly came to Alex.

He was reminded of the situation of the Crimson Empire where barely anyone could reach the Saint realm, and that was all because almost all of the Saint rank spirit veins had been stolen away from there.

It could be a similar situation that the Immortal rank or even higher spirit veins there were, were all in fact stolen from this realm.

There was also the other possibility that instead of being stolen away, they had simply degraded into nothing.

One thing he knew for certain from senior Yang was the Qi did not replenish in any world naturally. The only way to do so was for whatever consumed the Qi to give it back into the world.

If that was the case, then it was possible that most of the Immortals that used Immortal Qi to cultivate simply left this world, or their corpses were taken away. What remained wasn't enough to form into Immortal spirit veins and slowly only Saint rank spirit veins remained.

Alex knew that it had to be a long time ago that this happened. He knew for a fact that when the 7th Undying God came to this world in her dying state, this was already a world where the peak was the Saint realm, and anyone who reached above that had to leave.

He quickly told Godslayer what he thought and how it could truly be possible.

"There might even have been a Divine rank spirit vein, although that is less likely," Godslayer said. "That divine realm cultivator over in the Eastern Continent might have just been hiding from heaven."

"Also, given that this place initially belonged to the Demons, it could be that the humans looted away what they could from this place, leaving it as barren as it is. Although, we will never be able to tell whether that is true or not."

Alex nodded after hearing that. "To think this place was an Immortal realm too," he whispered.

"Do you feel angry?" Godslayer asked. "Like you want to take back what was stolen from this world?"

"Should I?" Alex asked. "My ancestors aren't even from this world. Hell, they only came here 600 years ago. There are youngsters out here older than that. I don't think I even get a right to be angry if I'm honest."

"I suppose," Godslayer said. "Alright, we got distracted. Tell me about that transplant now. How does one do that? Can you really steal someone else's spiritual roots?"

"Yes, but it's a horrible process that I don't think I can go through. At least, I will have to be mentally prepared myself if I ever wanted to perform it myself," Alex said.

"You don't need the other spiritual roots, right?" Godslayer asked.

"No," Alex said. "But I can think of many that could use it."

"Alright, hurry up and tell me the process."

Alex did.

The process for the transplant was truly something only a madman could devise. It included preparing two humans for the procedure. One would be the donor, and the other the recipient.

Because the thing being transplanted were spiritual roots, one had to open up the donor entirely. They were fed a pill to stop their nerves from feeling anything and another pill to keep their internal organs working nonstop.

Then, they would cut them open.

Starting with the skin, the entire front half of the donor's skip was cut open carefully to not cut off any nerves, blood vessels, or meridians as much as possible.

Then, little by little, their muscles were picked away from their body. Once again one made sure not to cut away any nerves, blood vessels, or meridians.

Once the muscles were done with, the bones would be pried out from the donor's body. Then, anything else from all over the body that wasn't necessary for the donor to survive for just a few more hours was removed.

That included almost all organs in the human body. The only things that were still left were the brain, heart, lung, and the dantian.

Then, it was the recipient's turn to be worked on. The recipient too needed to have their skin removed, and a bit of their muscles cut out. More than that however wasn't needed.

Then, one would take cut off as much of the donor's spiritual roots as they were confident of transferring into the recipient, starting from the Dantian at the base and working through the rest of the meridians that came with the spiritual roots, including the blood vessels that were partly meridians.

Because there were millions of meridians, it was considered impossible. So, one usually chose to start with as few as possible. As for the rest, one simply hoped it would grow back normally once inside the other person's body.

The more spiritual root was planted into the recipient's body, the more chance there was of that spiritual root functioning properly. It could also function if placed improperly, but in those cases, the most readily available techniques would not work as the person wouldn't have the meridians in the order mentioned in those books.

Overall, it was a terrible method of transferring meridians from one person to another, a genuinely evil piece of knowledge that the sect leader of the Frosted Glacier sect was trying to use to empower his sect.

"That goddamn man," Alex said softly. "There is even a chance of the Spiritual root rejecting the new host, killing them if one isn't careful, but he simply didn't care. He experimented with his sect members to see how far one could go."

"What about the children? Why were they safe?" Godslayer asked.

"He needed adults. The kids' bodies hadn't finished developing entirely," Alex answered. "Had he operated on them, he would've gotten weaker spiritual roots. To be honest, he probably wanted them to reach the Meridian tempering realm as well."

A half-a-minute-long silence lingered between the two before Godslayer finally asked the question that the both of them were thinking about.

"So... are you going to use it?" he asked. "There are many people that can use it, aren't there?"

Alex didn't answer immediately.

"I know, both morally and ethically, it is the wrong thing to do. However, I do want to do it, partly for my own curiosity, and partly for others," Alex said. "I will have to give it a long thought and talk to others about it though. I can't rush into it headfirst like that idiot did."

"Right, be responsible with it," Godslayer said.

"I have to be," Alex said with a bit of a chuckle. "I was the one who forced him to unearth this problem anyway."

"You forced him?" Godslayer asked with a confused voice.

"Well, my pill did. Last year when I came up with the pill that turned one's normal spiritual root into Water Spiritual root, he kindled his wish to get more spiritual roots, which is why he pulled out the book that was in their treasury this entire time."

Chapter 1379: Reconstruct

"Don't let that knowledge bring you down. Do what you want to do, and only that," Godslayer advised. "Don't do something that will instead turn into your Inner Demon in the end. That is the last thing you want."

"Yes," Alex said. "I will only follow what my heart tells me to do. I'm not going to use this knowledge unless I know I am not doing the wrong thing."

"Good!" Godslayer said.

"Still, I will need to learn it all perfectly. Let me try to put together the entire book that the sect leader read. I got fragments at most and need to make sure what he understood from it was what was in the book," Alex said.

"Wasn't the book destroyed?" Godslayer asked.

"Yes. I'm going to see it from his memories and reconstruct it in my mind," Alex said and started doing so. Godslayer went silent and let Alex do what he wanted to do.

Alex not only reconstructed the book in his head from the hundreds of different flashes of memories he had seen in the sect leader's mind. That had been the second time he had used the Spirit Search technique, and it had been just as useful as previously.

It did, however, use up a lot of spiritual energy to do so.

He could unfortunately never use it on someone that was stronger than him when it came to mental strength.

Alex cultivated as well during this time, not wasting any time he had with him. More than a day passed before he opened his eyes again. By now, he had already gotten what he could from the sect leader's memories, and there wasn't anything significant that the sect leader had missed from what it seemed.

He spoke with his beasts for a while and went to meet with his elders who would be worried about him at the moment. He talked to them for a bit, getting rid of their worries, and then went to talk with the King.

The King was saddened to learn that it did not work between him and Talia. He proposed to arrange a few more dates if he wanted to, but Alex didn't want it, so he didn't force him.

The King was at least happy that he was choosing to stay as friends instead.

Alex then learned about what had happened to the Frosted Glacier sect after he had left.

Because the sect leader and most of the elders had died, the sect had no administration to handle itself. With a lot of the disciples and elders dying because of what the sect leader was doing, the remaining ones had run away the moment they learned of what had happened.

With few elders and no disciples remaining, the sect was disbanded, and its assets taken over by the Kingdom and the Empire.

The King had obtained half the assets and after talking with his officials, he had decided to donate what he had gotten to the many orphanages in the Kingdom so that they could have a better time raising the orphans.

According to the King, the Head Legion's members had also decided upon creating a temporary organization that would travel to all the different sects, families, and any large enough organization and see how they were treating its members.

They did not want people out here performing demonic practices that sacrificed human lives as if they were nothing.

"The Emperor didn't make that decision? The Head Legion did all by itself?" Alex asked.

"The Head Legion has full permission to do what they want as long as they all collectively believe it is the correct thing to do for the empire," the King answered. "They are the Head Legion for a reason because they can make decisions for the empire."

"I do remember hearing about that now that you say it," Alex mulled over the information.

"What do you wish to do now, your Majesty?" the King asked.

"It's been 2 days since the kids were brought back, so I think I will go and check on them," Alex said. "I need to make sure they don't have any other problems that they need treating."

"I will have the general come with you this time around. Since you're not going to go on a date, I hope you won't go there alone," the King said.

Alex chuckled a bit. "It's not like you let me go alone," he said. "You sent your own guard to watch after me."

The King smiled. "I'll let the general know then."

General Fan of the tail legion, the man that had come with him from the Dragon Capital finally got to do his job and was able to stay by his side.

"Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you again, your majesty," the man said quickly. "I swear I will not disappoint you."

"I don't think there is any disappointment to be made around me, General. You can relax a little."

The General smiled, but he still walked with a stiff posture as they went toward the Orphanage.

Alex was invited with a lot of greetings and gratitude from not just the people that ran the orphanage, but also the kids there themselves. The little girl that had first told him to go to Talia even thanked him for saving so many of them.

Alex couldn't help but feel happy learning that these kids were happy themselves.

Talia was already in the Orphanage, so she quickly came out and greeted Alex. "Your majesty, you're here early," she said. "And you're not wearing your mask?"

"I'm not going for a date this time around, so I have no reason to hide where I'm going this time around," Alex said with a smile.

Talia chuckled a bit and took him to check on the children that they had brought back.

Alex checked them thoroughly, to the best of his ability. He was a doctor, so he used his Qi to check through their meridians to see if that was hurt and then checked through their blood vessels for the rest of the organs.

Then, after checking through them with his spiritual sense, he was certain that there wasn't anything physically wrong with them. He also checked their mind and memories to make sure the pill didn't have any deteriorating effects and was thankful to find that it didn't.

Of course, a pill recipe stored in the treasury of the Phoenix Palace wouldn't be so bad that it left after-effects. By the end of the hour, he was certain the kids had nothing wrong.

Then, he went to the backyard and gathered the kids around to tell more stories of the places he had visited and what amazing places there were in the world.

Over the next few weeks, Alex visited this orphanage a few more times to tell his stories and share with them many pills that he made for the kids there himself.

Other times, he went around the city to look at what it had to offer. Talia volunteered to guide a few of those times, but most other times Alex was either with his elders or just alone.

Then, once those few weeks passed, it was time for him to leave as the Endless Shadow Abyss was just a few days away from opening.

Chapter 1380: Jade's Shadow

Alex flew toward the eastern shore of the Emerald Kingdom. Along with him were his two elders, General Fan, King Jin along with one of his two guards, a few of the kingdom's court officials, and Talia.

She had planned on teleporting there, but when she learned that Alex and the King were taking the ship, she decided to take the ship as well.

Flying past long stretches of grasslands, a few cities, and a whole lot of mountains, Alex could finally see the vast blue ocean in the distance.

It was late afternoon at the moment, so the sun was behind them. As such, Alex could clearly see the many islands that spread across the ocean. There were hundreds if not thousands that he could see just from on top of the ship from far away.

Not even the hazy landscape could stop him from seeing that. The vast expanse of the ocean went on for even more, but there wasn't anything to be seen at some point.

It was hard to tell how much further the ocean went on.

"Has anyone flown all the way to the east?" Alex asked the people on the ship.

"Many have," the only imperial guard, a man from the Head Legion answered. "At the very edge of this world, you will see the water curl a little, and then... there's nothing."

"Nothing, huh?" Alex asked. It was just as he had been told before.

At the edge of the realm, there was nothing at all. The world simply ended. What went on further was nothing but outer space, a place with no air, no qi, nothing.

Alex wanted to see that so desperately, but he had to be careful of the many strong beasts that lived in the ocean before he decided to go check on that. He would have to wait for a long while.

The ship flew past the mainland, going toward the many islands. The Endless Shadow Abyss was located on one of these islands after all.

They landed on a relatively normal-looking island that had a city built on it with enough people living to make it a decently sized city. It was the closest island to the Endless Shadow Abyss, so there were plenty of people living here.

They flew into the city after being checked by a member of the Scale Legion and landed directly inside the city.

The city was named after its island which was called Jade's Shadow. The island to its south was called the Endless Shadow island, which held the abyss.

Once they landed, everyone got off one by one. Talia thanked them for the ride here and quickly left to go meet with her sect that was already here.

It wasn't just the Cloud Iron sect that was here, but almost every conceivable sect in the entirety of the Eastern Continent was here to have their disciples take part in the competition that was held in the Endless Shadow Abyss.

Their plan wasn't to have them win or even just compete in the Endless Shadow Abyss, but to have them train inside of it. Due to the darkness inside the abyss, it made for the perfect place to hone one's spiritual sense and the sect wanted their disciples to test it out for a while.

Alex walked with the King and was taken to a hotel that was the best of the best in terms of what was available in this location. One had to register for a room in this place months if not a whole year in advance if they wanted to get a room for this time period.

And yet, Alex and King Jin were given the best room at the very top of the hotel.

Alex entered the extravagant hotel and went into the elevator that was made available there as well. General Fan hit the very top button, and suddenly they were zoomed straight to the top of the hotel was over 50 floors tall, each floor consisting of over 50 rooms.

Once they arrived, they were each given a room on that floor as there were way too many to choose from. Alex went into the room of his choice and started settling.

The first thing he did before settling was check for anything that could spy on him. He had been thorough each time, so this time was no different as well. Once he made sure there was nothing, he finally relaxed and lay on the bed while calling out to his two beasts to relax with him.

Pearl immediately walked over to the open window and stuck his head out. He regularly ate the pill that Alex had created for him, so his fur was still black and so the chances of him being recognized were low, so Alex let him hang out by the window, looking at the outside city.

Whisker did the same after seeing Pearl do it and followed behind him to watch the city as well.

They saw the massive city with tall buildings that went on forever. They saw the massive span of the ocean that surrounded the island, unlike any other one that they had seen before.

They had seen many islands, but none that were this populated. It was a surprise just how far the humans have come after seeing how populated the island was. Even at the edge of the world, far from the main continent, people still thrived here.

There was a newsboard far below the hotel that Alex hadn't been made aware of before and only now knew thanks to Pearl and Whisker. He quickly walked over and looked at the newsboard to see what he could see they were talking about.

The newsboard mostly talked about all the different people that were coming over to Jade's Shadow Island. There were hundreds if not thousands of big sects, so having each one be individually named was quite something to Alex.

He saw sect names flash by, most of which he had never heard of before. The same went for the clan names as well as anything else that there were many of in the Eastern continent.

There were people's names as well, most of which belonged to talented individuals that had arrived to the island.

He looked through all of them still, wishing he could get some sort of hint on where his cousin was and what she was doing during this time. However, after a year of this, he knew that he was never going to get any sort of response from his sister.

Alex saw his own name pop up a couple of times before sighing and moving back to the bed where his beasts followed him.

He couldn't help but wonder if he should go in with his original face, use a different face, or simply just wear the mask in the abyss that would open in 2 days.

After some deliberation, he decided to go in with his own face as that was something that he had revealed multiple times in this face. Everyone on the island practically knew he was there, so there was no point in hiding it.

After the decision was made, Alex went on to relax a little more just by himself and his pets.