

Alchemy 1381

Chapter 1381: The Abyss Island

"Your majesty, would you like to visit the auction happening tomorrow?" King Jin asked him around evening time when they were together in one of the many rooms, looking down at the glowing city.

"Auction?" Alex asked. "Anything interesting there?"

"Here's the list of what is being sold," the King said, handing over a talisman to Alex.

Alex looked through the talisman, going over the various things that were there for auction. After going through it all, he shook his head.

"There's nothing here that makes me want to buy it. I'll skip this one," Alex said.

"Hmm, well it's no Gold Kingdom's auction for sure, but I thought you would be impressed by these techniques at least," the man said.

"Those techniques aren't bad, but I have enough already," Alex said.

"Then how about going just to see your competition for the day after tomorrow?" the King asked. "Most of the people that will participate in the abyss will be going there. You can gauge your opponents if you go. Most will be doing the same anyway."

Alex gave that suggestion some thought but still, he had no interest in going to the auction. "I'll skip this one. I'll have the elders go in my stead. They can buy what they see as interesting," he said.

"Very well," the King gave up.

The next day, the group left the hotel and went to the auction house while Alex remained in the hotel, using his mask to train as much as he could to improve his spiritual sense.

At some point later during the day, the group returned and Elder Liang started telling Alex about all the different people that she saw, and from the sound of it there seemed to be many people in the auction house.

"Over 40 thousand? Are you sure? That sounds excessive," Alex said.

"I swear!" the elder quickly said. "That's what King Jin told us. There are nearly 40 thousand people taking part tomorrow. There's a chance you won't win, your majesty."

"I was never in it to win. I'm just going to learn and have fun," Alex replied.

Once the night was over and the day came, they left as a small group and went down the elevator. Their presence in the lobby was immediately met with a bunch of gasps and awes as most hadn't expected to see not just the King but also the King of the Southern Continent at this place.

"He looks so much younger in person."

"Is he really a player? It means he is very young, right?"

"Hmm, he's powerful, but also not. I wonder how he became a King with that sort of strength."

The crowd whispered what they wanted to do, so Alex and the rest ignored them as they went toward the teleportation platform that would take them over to the next island where the abyss was. It would open up at any second now, so they had to hurry.

Once they arrived at the platform, everyone got into the teleportation platform and went over to the next island. It was only the people from big sects and families that did so, while the regular folks simply flew over.

The Endless Shadow island was not very large. It was a kilometer across and was relatively small, but there was enough land for all of them to get to.

There were only a few buildings prepared, which once again were used by big sects and families. Regular folks simply stayed in the open land, waiting for others to come out.

Once Alex and the rest reached the island, they heard that there was an hour or two before it would open up for real, so they decided to stay in one of those buildings.

The building took over a big section on one of the corners of the island and was filled to the brim with people in it. There were multiple floors to the resting area, all of which were people in it.

Alex looked around at the people that stared at him as he walked. They all wore robes of different colors and designs, and he could barely recognize any of them. There were even people that bore the emblem of the Azure Imperium, making Alex realize that members of the legions were here to participate.

Alex and the rest finally arrived on one of the upper floors where there was an open lobby with few people in it.

"You should go here, your majesty," King Jin advised.

Alex looked at the lobby and realized only youths were in this place. "Is this where the young talents gather?" he asked.

"That is exactly so," the King replied.

"Your majesty," a voice called out from the side, catching Alex's attention.

Talia came up and greeted him. "You came late, your Majesty," she said. "I almost believed you would miss it."

"Isn't there still an hour left?" Alex asked.

"Well... yeah, but we usually come here at least half a day beforehand," Talia said. "Maybe it's just us then."

"Little Talia, take care of His Majesty, okay? We'll leave for now," the king said.

"Yes, your Majesty. I will serve him well," Talia said with a bow.

"We'll hopefully see you a month later than, your majesty," King Jin said and walked away, leaving Alex with Talia.

Once they all left, Alex turned to the girl. "Are these all the talents of the Eastern Continent or what?" he asked, looking at the many people, most of whom were also looking at him, albeit not directly.

"Yes, but only the ones that find any purpose in this secret realm," Talia answered. "Most talented individuals would have come here dozens of times by now, so there is little point in them coming here. But they are still talents though."

"Understandable," Alex said and quickly counted the number. "There are nearly 150 people here and it's not even all the talents of the Eastern Continent huh? This is truly surprising."

"If this surprises you, your majesty, then you should know that there are multiple such locations where the talents like to remain with their sect members."

"Also, many talents don't even come into the building. They stay outside for the most part since they usually come alone and don't want to socialize. There are in fact way more talents than what you see in here."

Alex shook his head after hearing that. "The Eastern Continent truly is amazing," he said with a sigh.

"Talia," a voice called out to her from the side. "Is this..."

A woman arrived next to them, wearing the same robe as Talia. It was someone from the Cloud Iron sect.

The woman was slightly older with heavily tanned skin and black hair that glittered with gold and gems. A thin sword was strapped to her waist that she didn't keep in her storage bag.

Alex recognized this girl.

"Fang Yimu, correct?" he asked.

The girl's face widened in surprise. "And you must be King Alex. It is a pleasure to not just meet Your Majesty, but to be recognized by you as well," she said with a bow.

"You were victorious the last time the Abyss opened up. I remember reading your claim that you would be one again this time as well," Alex said. "Do you still believe it?"

"Absolutely, Your Majesty."

Chapter 1382: Into The Abyss

Fang Yimu had a cultivation base of Saint Soul 3rd realm and was one of the stronger individuals in the lounge area at the moment. She was strong enough to become the strongest with just her cultivation base alone, and that made her strong with her spiritual sense too.

She stood proud in front of Alex, but not haughty. "Your Majesty must be looking forward to the competition. With your cultivation base, you should last quite a bit," she said.

"I naturally plan on being the last one to leave if possible," Alex said.

"I see," the girl said. "Then I must assume you as my rival in the match today. I was going to give you some suggestions, but it seems I shouldn't now."

"I guess that's my loss then," Alex replied.

The girl smiled. "By the way, I hear it didn't work out between you and sister Talia. I'm genuinely mortified to think you did not end up liking her. She's one of our sect's precious jewels," she said.

"That's life," Alex asked. "You could want things to go one way, but there is never any way to tell."

The girl nodded and Talia quickly reprimanded her with her spiritual sense.

"Oh, do you wish to meet the others here, your majesty? I'm sure people would love to talk to you," she said.

Alex looked around and saw the few people around him. "Who is important here?" he asked, staring at the many people. As he did, his eyes fell on a girl in the distance.

'That's...' he got a little serious when seeing her.

Fang Yimu seemed to have seen him notice her as well. "Does your majesty recognize Lady Su?" the girl asked.

"I see, so it is her," Alex said. "That's Su Railin, isn't it?"

Su Railin was another one of the girls from his list of 4 that he had been given. She wore a dark blue robe that looked masculine, but she herself looked feminine, aside from her ponytail.

"How do you know her, your majesty?" Fang Yimu asked.

"Oh no, I don't really know her. I have just heard of her name, that's all," Alex said. He did not want to meet her when it wasn't time yet. He was going to turn her down as a Queen as well, so there was no point in him trying for anything else just yet.

He would deal with her when he met her officially.

As he stood there, talking with Talia and Fang Yimu, a few other people came and tried to strike up a conversation with him. Alex talked with them for a while, but he never showed that he was interested in the talk or anything.

A couple of them even tried to give him tips on what he should do inside the abyss. However, Alex had read up on anything and everything that was available in the Royal libraries, so he didn't feel like he would need to.

Even Su Railin came and spoke a few words, but more than that she did not say anything. It seemed that she wasn't even aware of the arrangements that the Crown Prince had made just yet.

As they were talking, the island shook a bit, making everyone alert. "It's about to start," one of the youths in that room said.

"Let's go, your majesty," Fang Yimu was the one to speak to Alex at that moment and started walking. Talia followed her sect disciple sister and Alex followed the two of them.

They quickly made their way out of the building, going toward the center of the island where there stood a small well that was uncovered. Around the well was a large stone platform on top of which one could see formation lines.

This was the formation that sent people into the abyss.

A man flew on top of the well, wearing an azure uniform. This was the man that took care of the secret realm and was ordered by the empire to do so.

Taking care of the secret realm was a task that was passed to members of the royal family, so this man was most certainly someone from the extended royal family. He continued flying in his regal pose and looked around before speaking up.

"In case there are newcomers amongst you, let me go over the rules very quickly. Do not attack someone else inside of the abyss. If we find out that you broke this one rule, we will deal to you the same punishment that you deal to someone else. Also, we will ban you from every other secret realm in the continent."

The punishment for misbehaving was quite severe, so the newcomers who didn't know about it were a little surprised. There were surprisingly quite of them in the 40 thousand people that had gathered there.

"When you enter the abyss, you will find a piece of paper attached to your back. If you are found to have hidden or removed that piece of paper or are involved in taking someone else's paper out, you will immediately be disqualified for this year's opening of the Endless Shadow Abyss."

"To win, you will have to search for artifacts where you can write in the unique combination of numbers you find on your opponent's back. It will disqualify them."

"When everyone is gone, you will win."

The crowd looked at the man silently as they all got ready to enter.

"Last but not least, you won't be able to bring anything from your storage bag out inside of the abyss, so take out anything you might need right now."

The crowd rustled as many people started pulling out talismans and formations as well as artifacts from their storage bags. Alex thought of what he could bring from his storage ring, but he couldn't find anything important that he wanted to bring along.

As a result, he chose to bring nothing, unlike most people who at least had a talisman or two.

"Did you not prepare anything, your majesty?" Talia asked, as she too held a talisman and a formation plate.

"No, I didn't," Alex said. "But don't worry, I don't think I will need anything."

"If you think so," Fang Yimu spoke. "Good luck, your Majesty."

He bowed a little and walked away from the two, walking onto the stone platform. The man in the azure robes saw and nodded. "You may all come now."

As soon as he finished speaking, the people ran into the massive stone platform in droves. Then, once enough of it was filled, a blinding white light covered them all and suddenly, they vanished from where they were.

Barely any had been teleported away, so more joined, and they too were teleported away.

"Let us go then," Alex said and walked with Talia, stepping onto the stone platform. He was pushed a little forward by the people that joined after him, and then he sensed the teleportation aura capturing him.

It seemed to capture each person individually, and then at the next moment, a flash of light came that took him away.

When Alex arrived on the other side, he opened his eyes to see where he was. However, all that he could see here was pitch-black darkness.

Chapter 1383: In The Darkness

Alex looked around inside the Endless Shadow Abyss. He tried to look for anything he could, but he had known that would be impossible before coming in.

The Endless Shadow Abyss was a secret realm where no light got through. Not only light, from what Alex could feel, but even gravity also seemed nonexistent in this place.

He wondered what sort of formations must have been active for this sort of phenomenon to take place inside the secret realm.

He hovered... somewhere and activated his Demon Eyes. Even with that, he could only see black, as the entirety of what he was in was primarily Yin aura, which always showed up as black, to begin with.

Knowing that it wasn't going to help, Alex released his spiritual sense to look around him. When he did, he realized another thing that he had previously learned about before coming in.

The spiritual sense was heavily restricted.

Alex's spiritual sense was now strong enough to reach nearly 30 kilometers, almost as good as a low Saint Transformation realm cultivator's spiritual sense. Even then, it had somehow been restricted down to no more than 30 meters around him.

It was nearly 1000 times smaller than its original size, so Alex assumed it was the same for others as well.

He quickly checked behind him at his back where a piece of paper had appeared on its own. And, on that piece of paper was written a long string of numbers with 15 different letters to it.

The number was unique to him and it was the thing that was going to send him out if someone found it. He knew there was no way to hide it or mask it, so the only way to not get caught was to catch the opponent instead and write their number down on the artifact.

He had to find such an artifact, however.

Alex finally paid attention to his outside world, his spiritual sense reaching the entirety of the 30 meters he could spread at the moment.

When he spread it fully, he saw many different things within it. There were some floating pieces of trash, some furniture, broken artifacts, and many other things that were there just to confuse people.

Alex even saw a floating piece of a mannequin that he initially thought was human. He was worried he would be found out that he nearly went in the other direction.

He drifted into the world without gravity for a few minutes, wondering how this all could have been created. The first Dragon Emperor had made it, yes, but he had received help from his father, the first Azure Dragon when creating this.

Alex floated around, feeling the weirdness of not knowing which direction down was. He could also feel the space around him act weirder than other secret realms as this one was constantly blocking one's storage from being accessed.

Alex flew toward what to him was forward and passed through the many debris-filled darkness. To his senses the darkness wasn't there at all, but only emptiness.

He saw a broken piece of a metal arm, a flying wooden board, a large formation rod, and a chunk of stone, and then he sensed spiritual sense.

Alex paused the moment he sensed the spiritual sense. It wasn't just him that sensed it, but the other person had as well. Without hesitation, he immediately backed away from the location, moving backward.

Thankfully, the person he sensed did the same.

'He must not have found an artifact. Good,' Alex thought. If either of them had found one of the artifacts that allowed people to write the other person's number into it, they would have followed the other person so they could eliminate them.

'I should find one for my own safety,' Alex thought.

"Oj, kid!" Godslayer's called from inside his spiritual sea. "What do you think you're doing?"

"Nothing really," Alex said. "Why?"

"Did you forget why we came here?" the spirit asked.

"N-no," Alex said awkwardly. He had been so entranced by the weirdness of this world that until Godslayer had called out to him, he hadn't remembered that he hadn't come here to play.

"Good," Godslayer said, not sensing the lie in those words. "Then let's go find it."

Alex nodded but then paused. "Wait, where do we go exactly?" he asked. "I can't see anything or sense anything here. Everything feels the same. I can't even tell where up or down is."

"Uhh..." Godslayer frowned for a bit. "I should be able to sense it... I think."

"If you get close?" Alex asked.

"Well, I can't sense it now, so it should be when we get close," Godslayer said. "How big is this place? Can't we go look around?"

"We can," Alex said. "Let's see if I can find it then. It should be similar to what we did in the ravine a few years ago."

Godslayer gave a soft hum of affirmation and stayed quiet afterward.

Alex stood where he was for a second, planning on what he needed to do. As he was going through his thoughts, a problem made itself apparent to him that he had to deal with somehow.

The constant suppression of spiritual sense was somehow affecting the rate of regeneration for his spiritual energy. Normally, he could have his spiritual sense around him at all times and never run out of spiritual energy as it would replenish at a faster rate than when it was used.

However, here, the replenishment speed wasn't very high. If he continued using his spiritual sense this way, he was going to run out sooner or later. Given that he was going to have to stay in here for over a month easily, he needed to conserve it.

Instantly, his spiritual sense reduced from 30 meters to 15 meters. Doing so, the rate of spiritual energy consumption was reduced to a fourth of what he was using up previously.

"I need to mark where I've been to," Alex said to himself and flew in the direction of the debris he saw around him. Then, he gathered up the debris and stuck them together as well as he could make a large enough object that could tell him that he had been to this place before.

Once that was set up, he flew away, going out in a random direction with the constant scrutinous observation of his surrounding.

A little forward, he collected the objects, doing the same thing, and continued forward.

As he moved forward. He sensed someone's spiritual sense. Alex stepped back a bit to move away from the person, but he sensed the spiritual sense following him even further.

"Shit!" Alex realized instantly that the person had found some artifact and was going to follow him now. His first instinct after learning that was to steal the artifact from the person and use it on him.

However, he knew that fighting wasn't allowed, and as such he had no way of taking the artifact from the other person without fighting for it.

When the spiritual sense then rushed toward him, Alex had no choice. He turned around and started running away to get as far as he could.

Chapter 1384: A Dagger

The person that had caught Alex followed him the moment he sensed him running away. He sped up, trying to catch up to Alex, but he couldn't exactly catch up.

Alex flew in a random direction, with his spiritual sense constantly shifting through the debris around him, paying attention to everything since any of those could be another human. He couldn't miss them.

At the same time, he was also looking for anything that could help him stay in the secret realm for a bit longer.

At first, he panicked due to the sudden arrival of a threat, but once he started running away, he realized that the threat wasn't as big of a threat as he might have expected it to be.

To his relief, the person following him wasn't strong at all. If they were strong, they would have already caught up to him with the speed he was flying at.

Alex had deliberately slowed down after realizing this and had concluded that this person could not be stronger than the early Saint Core realm.

At the same time, this person's spiritual sense wasn't that large either. With only a dozen or so meters, it would take them a significant risk to grab onto Alex's numbers.

Alex flew around, letting the person tail him just enough that he didn't get close enough and get him. As he flew, his main concern was to not come into another person's domain.

This was difficult with over 40 thousand people being sent into the secret realm.

Alex wasn't sure how large this place was as no one who had come here before had ever managed to completely map the location. However, he knew that meeting a person every 5 minutes was a common thing here.

So, he was careful. His spiritual sense slightly increased around him, slowly moving from 15 to 20 meters in radius. One thing he didn't want was for the person following him suddenly increase his spiritual sense by forcing it to the extreme and getting his number.

As he was doing that, Alex came across another person in front of him and their spiritual senses collided at the same time.

For a moment, the both of them panicked and prepared to run in the other direction. However, when both of them noticed the object that was flying in between them, they knew that they had to run toward it.

A small dagger with runes carved all over the blade floated in between them, with a spirit stone attached to its hilt. Even without looking at it closely, anyone could tell that this was one of the artifacts that they were supposed to find.

"A Dagger?" Alex's face somewhat brightened when he saw that with his senses. It wasn't the best thing he could find, but it was something alright.

The other person ran for it, but Alex was faster. He teleported, arriving next to it in an instant, and grabbed onto the dagger.

At the same time, his spiritual sense landed on the girl that was coming for the dagger and he focused on the number in the back. Without hesitation, he wrote the number onto the dagger with his spiritual sense.

There were 3 slots to put the numbers inside the dagger, and one of them had just been used.

"Dammit!" the girl cried out, but even as she did, Alex sensed the familiar aura of teleportation gather around her as it sent her back outside into the island.

It hadn't even been half an hour since the competition began, and she was already out.

Alex felt somewhat bad for her, but this was not the time to lose focus. He immediately turned around and dashed toward the person that had been previously following him.

He saw a man's surprised face when he sensed Alex's spiritual sense reach him, but his spiritual sense hadn't reached Alex at all. It was then he realized that he had been following someone way stronger than he could manage.

He panicked, but he kept his wits and rushed forward to find Alex and see his number. However, by the time he did that, Alex had already seen his.

He wrote the number into the dagger and in the next moment the man was teleported away, leaving behind a simple bracer.

"Ugh!" Alex frowned the moment he saw it. "A bracer."

"What? Why do you sound so dejected?" Godslayer couldn't help but ask as it was looking at everything that was happening outside.

"A bracer is the worst thing you can find in this place," Alex answered. "Well, I guess finding something is better than nothing though."

"A bracer is bad?" Godslayer asked. "What about the dagger you found?"

"It's better than the bracer, but only slightly. It's still considered one of the worst 3 artifacts to find in this place," he explained.

He wore the bracer on his arm and started making a pile of debris around him to mark the place he had been to.

"The 3 worst? What do you mean?" Godslayer asked.

"Well, there are 7 types of artifacts that you can find in this place. 3 are bad, 3 are good, and 1 is just... godly."

"This bracer for example allows me to write just 1 person's number on it. When I do, it becomes useless, and get taken out of this place. This dagger allows for 3 numbers, and it will also be taken away when I'm done with it."

"Finally, there is I believe a Hat that can be used to write 5 different numbers on it. The hat, along with the bracer and the dagger is considered as the 3 bad artifacts to find in this place."

"Which is quite funny as they are the only ones you can find in massive numbers. There should be hundreds, if not thousands of them floating around in this space, and are the ones that can be easily found," Alex explained.

"What? That old man outside didn't say that," Godslayer said.

"He didn't, and he won't," Alex said. "They leave it all for you to find on your own and come in with that information. If you fail, you can always try again next year after all."

"Hmm," Godslayer mullied. "If those three are the bad ones, then what is considered the good ones?"

"A shield, a mirror, and a necklace," Alex said. "Those are the good ones, with each one being increasingly better."

"The shield has 50 different slots, over 8 times better than the 3 bad ones combined. That's good and all, but then the Mirror has 200 slots, which is just... a lot."

"And finally, the necklace has a thousand different slots. If I'm not wrong, there should only be 5 of those hovering around in this place."

"Woah!" Godslayer couldn't help but react. "That's... that escalation is almost unfair to the unlucky ones."

"I suppose," Alex said. "But luck is a skill as well. Cultivators can rarely make it far in their journey without luck."

"You're not... wrong," Godslayer said. "So, if something with 1000 different slots is considered good, then what's godly?"

"A one-of-a-kind black, nameless book," Alex said. "It technically only has one slot from what I remember reading."

"One slot?" Godslayer asked. "Then how is it good?"

"It has a single slot, but every time you use the slot, it empties again. In a way, it has endless slots, making it the greatest artifact to find in this secret realm."

Chapter 1385: A Bittersweet Memory

"The ones you got are that bad, huh?" Godslayer couldn't help but say. "How many slots do you have?"

"2," Alex said. "One in the dagger, one in the bracer."

"Well, let's go find more then. How many of those shields and mirrors are there?" Godslayer asked.

"Not enough," Alex said as his spiritual sense kept at around 15 meters and searched through the darkness around him. "I don't think there is a specific number that anyone knows, but guesses are there are less than a hundred of each."

"That's still quite a lot," Godslayer said.

"For 40 thousand people? I'm not sure," Alex said.

Godslayer remained quiet for a bit. "Shit, you need to be careful then. How about you don't use those slots when you find the next person? Instead, you run away."

"Uhh... I can do that," Alex said. "I'm not sure if that is the right approach though, since they can have one of those artifacts you know. If I can get their name, I can send them away and their artifact will remain."

"Dammit! Why is this so annoying? I just want the Darkness aura," Godslayer said. "Then we'll do it this way. If you see someone, check if they have something. If they do, send them away. If they don't, run away."

Alex nodded. "That's the best compromise," he said.

The two of them talked as they flew. Most of Alex's attention was on the outside world, but he still kept up with Godslayer's questions and answered them.

"Why don't you hide your aura completely?" Godslayer asked. "If you do that, and remove your spiritual sense, people will think you're just an object, right?"

"I don't know about that. If they see my number, I'm doomed," Alex said.

"Then don't show your number," Godslayer shouted.

"One of the main rules is that our numbers must never be hidden. If it is, we will get disqualified," Alex said.

"URGH! Why is this so annoying?" Godslayer shouted.

Alex couldn't help but chuckle a bit. He moved a bit further and stopped when he sensed another spiritual sense. "Someone's here," he alerted Godslayer.

He waited to see the other person's response. If he came closer, he would have an artifact, if he ran away, he didn't have it.

The man came closer, letting Alex know that he had an artifact. Without hesitation, Alex flexed his spiritual sense to its peak to scan over the persona and see what he had.

When he did, he realized that it was a girl with a small talisman in front of her and absolutely no artifact with her. When he tried to check her number, he found his spiritual sense disrupting a little, becoming unable to take a proper look at her back where the number was.

Alex immediately ran in the opposite direction after realizing there was a problem. He couldn't see the girl's back, so he didn't want to risk her seeing his. Thankfully, the girl didn't follow.

"What's wrong?" Godslayer asked realizing that something was wrong.

"The girl, she had a talisman to disrupt someone's spiritual sense," Alex said.

"Wait, you can't see her number?" Godslayer asked.

"I could with a bit more focus, but it would've taken enough time for her to see mine as well. I didn't see any artifact on her, but I would rather not take that risk right now," he said.

"I see, good," Godslayer said. "There's no point in risking your number on the very first day."

Alex nodded and continued in a different direction, waiting for Godslayer to sense something.

"Is that allowed though?" Godslayer asked. "Isn't she hiding her number?"

"Not really," Alex answered. "It's more like instead of hiding, she simply turned off the light. We were never told that wasn't allowed."

"We were told that we aren't allowed to hide our numbers and that we aren't allowed to attack someone. Everything else was fair game from the start. That's why so many people had prepared talismans, formations, and artifacts from the very start."

"But..." Godslayer tried to argue, but he couldn't say anything. "Did you not bring anything?"

"Honestly, I had thought of bringing some artifacts but decided against it as I had expected that we would be on our way to absorbing the Darkness aura. Speaking of which, why aren't you doing it right now? Isn't it all around us?" Alex asked.

"This is more like the smell of a tasty dish. If I want to eat it, I have to find the food first," Godslayer said.

"I see," Alex said. He thought about his recent experience and fell into thought. Memories surfaced in his mind from so long ago that he had nearly forgotten such things had even happened.

He smiled a little remembering those memories, but he couldn't bring himself to fully smile as it was more bittersweet than anything.

Godslayer seemed to have noticed that as well.

"What's wrong? What are you thinking?" he asked.

"About my master," Alex said softly.

"Your master? The one that's alive or..."

"The other one," Alex said. "She died before I ever met you."

Godslayer remained silent for a bit. He had heard Alex talk about her a few times and knew that she had died not a pleasant death. Still, he couldn't stop his curiosity.

"Why now? Why are you suddenly remembering her?" he asked.

"Well, I was reminded of something after meeting that girl just now. It's a funny thought really," Alex said. "If my master had taken part in this competition, she would have won handily. There is absolutely no doubt about that."

"Huh?" Godslayer was a little surprised. "Isn't your master from that backward empire where people don't even reach the Saint realm? How would she win this thing at all? Did she manage to find some amazing technique that the idiot dropped?"

"No, not technique or artifacts or such," Alex spoke. "It was her body constitution that would have helped her win."

"Explain," Godslayer said.

"Well, you see, she had a Yin body, a Celestial Grade one at that. Toward the start when she evolved her body, she couldn't contain her Yin at all. So, she would be constantly exuding it, like I did Yang after I evolved too."

"Her Yin, however, was so strong that anything that got close to her would lose all energy, including Spiritual energy. As a result, if you used your spiritual sense on her, she would be nothing but a void in your sense," Alex explained. "If she was here, no one would be able to see her and she would easily win this thing."

"That does sound strong actually," Godslayer said. "How did such a strong person die?"

"Misfortune," Alex said. "The Nine Yang Divine Tree's fruit managed to ripen at an unfortunate time, stripping her of all her Yin, allowing the enemy to poison her. If she had Qi, she would've definitely survived."

"I... see," Godslayer said. "And you mentioned that you went through the same thing?"

"The Yin imbalance? Yes," Alex said. "My body had a yang imbalance that took some time to control too."

"And did it give you some advantage against others?" Godslayer asked.

Alex paused for a moment. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"Your master couldn't be seen using Spiritual sense, right?" Godslayer asked. "What happened when people saw you through their spiritual sense?"

Chapter 1386: Imbalance

Alex stared blankly for a few seconds. He tried to come up with an answer for Godslayer, but... he couldn't remember any such event.

"I don't know," he answered in the end. "I don't know what happened."

"Hm? Didn't you say your constitutions were similar?" Godslayer asked.

"They were... I think..." Alex said. "I never really knew what master's body constitution was, aside from knowing it was a Yin body constitution. I never actually managed to find out anything else."

"Still, if your body reacted the same way her body did, then... there should be some similarity in what it did right?" Godslayer asked. "Are you sure you didn't show any sort of signs as to what it could have done?"

Alex fell into some thoughts. He had never really thought back to that part of his past, so he hadn't given any of what had happened back then much thought. Now that he was giving it some thought, he found some differences in what he thought was similar.

"Actually, Master's and my situation might have been a little different, now that I think about it," Alex said. "Master has a Yin body and her problem occurred when she absorbed a strong Yang in her body. Her body evolved when I took away that Yang."

"Unlike her, my body evolved when I ate the Nine Yang Divine fruit. Instead of being affected by the opposite energy, I was affected by the similar one."

"We both had imbalance after that and needed the opposite energy to control ourselves. While Master had no way of acquiring Yang energy, other than going out to find it in our sect's forbidden area."

"As for me, I had a cultivation technique that directly let me absorb Yin," Alex said. "Maybe that was why I never showed signs. Because I was constantly cultivating and suppressing the yang inside my body at all times."

"Of course, I had to find the Five Yang Divine Path at that time, which made the matter worse, but I'm sure aside from the first time, I controlled it most of... the time..." his voice trailed off as he remembered the first night he practiced the technique.

He remembered the Yang energy he drew in that night like a vortex. His body was full of Yang already, so he couldn't absorb it all and instead, it only gathered around it. At that time, Luo Mei had rushed to him in worry that something was happening.

Because his mind was on this matter, his memory from that time surfaced again.

'Are you the cause of this?' she had asked him at the time when he had turned the whole house hot from the excess amount of Yang in there.

The memory that was hidden somewhere in the back of his mind was slowly revealing itself again and started playing as if a recording.

Luo Mei had come into his room that night, worried for his safety, and then said a couple of sentences. As the memory played itself in his mind, one of those sentences caught Alex's attention.

"Wait," he spoke out loud. "I do know what happens."

"Huh?" Godslayer was surprised to hear him shout all of a sudden after becoming silent for a while. "What do you know?" he asked.

"What happens when someone uses spiritual sense around me," Alex said. "My Yang burns up their spiritual sense."

"Oh," Godslayer said. "How did you figure that out?"

"My senior sister told me once when my Yang imbalance truly got out of control. I didn't give it a thought back then, but... she definitely said that."

"Your yang aura makes other people's spiritual sense burn?" Godslayer asked to confirm.

"Yes," Alex said. "As least... it did during the imbalance phase of my life. I don't think it has worked that way a single day when I had it under some sort of control, which happened to be most if not all the days I had the imbalance. It was only toward the end when I went to the Icy Hell that it had gotten very bad."

"Even then, I was controlling it to the best of my ability," Alex said.

"So... you don't know for certain what would have happened if you had let it be for real," Godslayer asked.

"No, but I trust my senior sister's words," Alex said.

"That's good and all, but you still need proof," Godslayer said.

"Sure," Alex said. "Let's get some proof then."

"How do you suggest we do that?" Godslayer asked. "You don't have that imbalance anymore."

"Yeah... but I should be able to emulate it," Alex said. Suddenly, his dantian stirred and a massive amount of Yang energy flowed out from inside of him, quickly covering his entire body in a thick layer of Yang Qi.

Even without a Yang Dao, his Supreme Yang spiritual root gave him excellent control over Yang Qi, allowing him to do what he did.

Alex felt the yang on him and frowned a little. He was covered in Yang, but it didn't feel enough. He needed more Yang. He needed better Yang.

There were two methods of acquiring that at the moment.

First, he could use the Immortal tier of the Five Yang Divine path. Until now, he had been using the Saint tier, which had allowed him to reach this far.

However, if he were to use the Immortal tier, he would attract stronger Yang Qi, which was what he needed. However, he wasn't sure if his body was capable of handling such strong Yang.

In fact, he wasn't even sure if there was any Yang surrounding him at the moment since he was in a place where Yin seemed to prevail.

As a result, he had to go with his second choice.

Alex reached into his body with his senses and touched onto the burning Yang source inside of his dantian that was hanging on the side of the massive golden core that had already formed.

He touched the Yang source and pulled Qi from it directly, making it help him even more than he himself already had.

A deep sense of coldness filled his dantian now that the Yang source and the Yin bead weren't balancing themselves, but it was only to a very small level. Alex could handle this quite easily.

Once he pulled the Yang from the Yang source, he finally felt it was adequate enough to be used for what he wanted.

"This should be enough," Alex said. He opened his eyes after sensing something and realized that even the darkness aura around him was slowly moving away from him.

Even when trying to, Alex was still leaking Yang Qi, just like all those years ago.

"Now you want to find a target to test?" Godslayer asked.

"Now we find a target to figure out if what I remember is correct or not," Alex said. "Let's go."

He moved through the darkness, searching for artifacts and people from around him. As he flew, he came across another bracer, which he hated but kept reluctantly.

Then a few minutes later, he came across a spiritual sense that wasn't retreating right at the very moment.

"We found our first test subject," Alex said to Godslayer. "Let's pray it doesn't become the last."

Chapter 1387: Testing

Alex slowly got fearful now that the time had come. His entire body was covered in Yang Qi, but he wasn't sure how it worked exactly just yet. He was trying to figure it out, and in doing so, he was risking his own survival inside of the abyss.

Had the suppressing space formation not been there, he would have called out Pearl or Whisker to check it for him, but to do so, he would have to use his space dao, which he did not want to do as that might end up being a violation of the rules as well.

As a result, this was the only way for him to test it.

He had his senses ready at his bracer to write down the number of the person he had come across. As the person didn't retreat, they were ready to write down his number for certain too.

Instantly, Alex's spiritual sense spread to over 45 meters in a split second, far surpassing his energy than what they could produce. At the same time, he saw their number and wrote it down on his bracer.

All of the digits, but the last one. He stopped before he wrote down the last digit as he needed to see how it worked.

The other person was an upside-down girl, whose flowing hair flailed in an unruly manner in the absence of gravity. Her face showed fear as the spiritual sense had touched her, while her spiritual sense hadn't touched her enemy.

She had a shield in her hand that she had luckily found when she arrived. She had only just written 2 names and still had 48 others remaining. Was she going to lose just like that?

Was she going to lose to someone she couldn't even reach?

Checking who the other person was was no longer a priority for her. As he had sensed her, she knew she had lost. However, after seeing as seconds passed without her being sent away, she realized something was wrong.

'Wait, does he not have one?' she wondered. Without waiting, she moved forward with her spiritual sense following the root of the strong user.

When she reached the center of the spiritual sense, suddenly she felt his mind in slight ache. Her spiritual sense felt hot and that hurt her. She tried to look at her opponent's face, but even that seemed impossible.

Her spiritual sense that was reaching her opponent seemed to dissipate when it got too close.

"What the hell is going on?" she couldn't help but complain. "What sort of artifact is he using?"

Not only was her spiritual sense not reaching her opponent to see his face or the number on his back, but she was also realizing that it was actually getting destroyed, and that was hurting her back.

Alex took deep breaths, waiting in nervousness for the spiritual sense to land directly on him. However, no matter how long he waited, the girl's spiritual sense never landed on him.

"It's... it's working," he said to Godslayer with a surprised look. "Haha, it truly is working."

"Really?" Godslayer couldn't help but ask.

"Yeah! Look, we're still here," Alex said.

"Wow," Godslayer exclaimed. "Well, for now, send the poor girl away."

"Oh, right," Alex remember and put the last digit into the bracer. Then, the teleportation aura grabbed onto the girl and sent her away. At the same time, the bracer he wrote the name on disappeared as well.

He celebrated again after the girl was gone and started reflecting on what he saw with his own senses as to what happened just beforehand.

When the girl's spiritual sense had come close, where his master's body would freeze it all so that it didn't even reach her, his body would burn it all up.

He let go of the Yang Qi around his body, letting his Dantian relax a little as well as letting some heat return to it. With the Yang source inside his dantian working away from the Yin bead, it had caused a bit of coldness.

While not dangerous, it sure as hell was annoying him to feel coldness in that part of his body when he hadn't felt cold in decades.

He tried Pulling the yang Qi back out and found how easily he could do that now that he knew what to do.

"I think our hypothesis is correct," Alex said. "When spiritual sense lands on me, it burns. Let's go try a few more times."

He flew away from the location and went on to find more people.

Only half a day had passed before he found the 4th person, but the fact that it took him half a day was something that Alex hadn't expected. With 40 thousand people already inside the abyss, he had expected people to be found left and right.

However, he also had to remember that many were sent outside already. If his record was anything to go by, nearly 30 thousand people had already been eliminated in half a day, with only 10 thousand remaining.

And, Alex had found another one.

The man used his spiritual sense to try and see Alex's number, but he couldn't sense it. Just like the girl, he too was having difficulty keeping his spiritual sense around Alex.

As such, he couldn't write Alex's number on the hat that he wore.

Alex had made sure that his hypothesis was correct and that other people did in fact suffer from damaged spiritual sense when they tried to look at him. So, it was time to send the man away.

Only, there was a problem.

Alex couldn't see the man's number either.

It seemed he was using an artifact that was clearly designed to save someone from other people's spiritual sense. It created a barrier around the man that his spiritual sense couldn't go past.

To Alex, he saw a large, shiny dome of energy that covered the young man. He couldn't penetrate the barrier with his spiritual sense at all.

Neither of the two could see each other's number at all.

Alex knew that people brought such artifacts, but it was kinda annoying when he really thought about it. They were using outer power to gain an advantage. But of course, who was he to complain?

He was using plenty of stuff that didn't belong to him at all.

"Let's move our separate way," the man's voice came from inside the barrier. "Neither of us is getting what we want, so let's just go our separate ways, and we can survive a bit longer."

"Good idea," Alex replied. "If neither of us can see the other's number, then we really should go the other way."

"Great," the man said. "It's good that you understa—"

"That is, if neither of us saw the other's number," Alex said. "Unfortunately for you, I have a method."

Alex teleported in an instant, arriving behind the man. His right hand moved, producing Yang Qi from it to send away the Shadow aura that was behind the man.

Then, with his left hand, he created a tongue of flame that was large enough to brighten everything in the area where there was no more shadow.

Then, Alex saw the number clearly written behind the man and wrote it onto his dagger. At the next moment, the man felt the teleportation aura grab onto him.

He teleported away, and so did Alex's dagger. And all that was left behind was the man's hat with 2 more free slots.

Chapter 1388: Searching Through The Darkness

A Hat with 2 slots, a Bracer, and a Shield with 48 slots; that was all Alex had at the moment in the form of artifacts that he could use to send away any person he ran into.

With his Yang Qi, he felt invincible at the moment. Since most people's spiritual sense would turn out useless against him when he forced out a lot of Yang Qi, he felt like he had nothing to worry about.

However, he knew there were 2 problems right now that could easily send him thrown out of the abyss if he wasn't careful.

First was his Yang Qi. Since there was barely any Yang Qi in the Abyss, he couldn't use it so frequently. If he used it too much, he would overwork the Yang source inside of his Dantian to the point where the Yin could take over the Yang.

If that happened, his body would certainly be in a very dangerous state.

As a result, using Yang Qi every time he met someone was out of the question. Instead, he needed to first see if he could catch them with his spiritual sense instead of using his Yang Qi to defend himself.

Secondly, even if he did use Yang Qi, there was no way he was invincible. Just like he had used the technique just now, there would definitely be others that were around who could easily see his number behind his back, just as he had done to the man just moments ago.

If someone managed to sneak behind him and catch him by surprise, he could lose.

As such, he still had to remain vigilant at all times.

"I wonder what else my body can do," Alex said.

"Isn't your body supposed to be well known?" Godslayer asked.

"Hmm... yes," Alex replied. "Not for its true name, but there are plenty of other names that it is known by. That's what the senior told me."

"Then there must be records about what your body can do," Godslayer said.

"The senior doesn't have it," Alex said. "I already asked him for it. The only unique thing about my body that he remembered was that I could devour stuff, but I already know I can do that."

"Hmm, but he's not the only one with the information," Godslayer said. "There should be many in the Immortal realm that have this knowledge. You'll just have to see it all there."

"In the Immortal realm, huh?" Alex couldn't help but chuckle. He didn't even know how long he would have to wait to go over there.

"Alright, you can think about your body later. Let's go find my food for now," Godslayer said.

"Sure, let's go," Alex said and flew in another random direction, not before gathering the debris around here to make sure he was leaving behind markings as to where he had been before.

Floating around the darkness, Alex moved everywhere he knew he hadn't been before. He marked the places he went to and moved further, all in hopes that Godslayer sensed whatever it was that created the shadow aura

As he moved, he realized that finding people was getting harder and harder by the hour. He met one other person in the entire day, who ran away from him the moment their spiritual senses came close to each other.

Alex continued flying for a while longer, coming across a few more people in the next few days, of which he managed to send almost all of them away.

He ended up spending the hat and the bracer, and 2 more slots in his shield. At the same time, he gained a dagger with all slots available and a single Bracer.

He let go of the people who ran away, as his primary reasoning wasn't to win here. However, no matter how much he moved through the shadows, he could not find anything that evoked Godslayer into finding out what the source of all this shadow was.

The days turned monotonous with only debris floating all around him in the darkness. Everything felt the same. Even time seemed still to him.

The only occasional break was when he found someone and had to pull out his Yang Qi to protect himself while getting rid of the ones that he met.

They all used whatever they could to disrupt one's spiritual sense to stop them from finding them, which Alex had to fight through to see their number.

At one point, he even met someone that completely threw him for a loop with what he was doing.

When their spiritual sense came into contact, Alex waited to see if the person would run away or come closer. When he moved toward him, Alex instantly put up his Yang Qi to block the man's spiritual sense.

Once his safety was confirmed, he moved on to getting the person's name. That was when he came across the problem.

The man was destroying his spiritual sense when it came too close. He had no talisman, no formation plate, and absolutely no artifact on him. Which meant that he was using a technique to do so.

From what Alex could sense, the man was using a spiritual technique to destroy his spiritual sense.

Since he was actively stopping his spiritual sense from getting close by fighting against it, Alex couldn't get the man's number.

With neither of them getting each other's numbers, they came to a standstill. Alex was surprised, and so was the man.

They stood there for a few seconds before the man decided to run away. Alex didn't follow him. He was just that much confused to do anything at the moment.

"Spiritual energy can be used to destroy Spiritual sense?" he couldn't help but ask. It was his first time experiencing something like that, so he was amazed.

Until now, the spiritual sense was used to harm other person's mind or disrupt it. Never had it been used to actually destroy spiritual sense itself, and the possibility of that had surprised Alex.

However, after thinking about it for a bit, he realized that there was no reason for him to believe it wasn't possible. After all, it was no different than the 3rd stage of his Spiritual Providence skill which allowed him to create a barrier with his spiritual energy when using a weapon.

A stage he had yet to master.

This was definitely the best place to train it when he thought about it, but given that he didn't have a weapon on him, he couldn't train on it. But, he wasn't disappointed about that. There were plenty of other places to improve himself on that.

He moved away from the location and went on to explore more of this dark world.

Days passed in which he found a few more people and eliminated most of them.

Then, halfway through the third week of being in the abyss with barely anyone around him, Godslayer suddenly reacted.

"Wait, it's close," he shouted in Alex's mind. "It's close, keep moving."

Alex got alert all of a sudden and moved straight forward in that direction.

"Close, we're close," Godslayer said.

Then, Alex paused. Not because he came across an object as he was hoping, but instead a person.

"It's right there," Godslayer said, but Alex didn't see anything at all. Instead, there was just a person, someone who he couldn't see because of some artifact they were using to disrupt his spiritual sense.

Alex immediately pulled out his Yang Qi and covered himself with it. Throughout the last 3 weeks, he had to use it less and less, so he had plenty of it to go around. So, he used it without the worry of running out.

Alex didn't know what was happening right now. He couldn't understand why a person would be something that created the shadow aura, but he had no reason to doubt Godslayer. He only moved closer to find him.

His spiritual senses wavered heavily as it tried to look at the person in front of him. At the same time, his opponent's spiritual sense was destroyed upon just touching the Yang Qi he was forced out on his body.

"What is it? I can't see!" Godslayer shouted in his mind excitedly.

Alex couldn't either, but he tried. He barely managed to see the face of the other person before they immediately ran away.

"It's getting away!" Godslayer mentioned, but he didn't need to. Alex was already in pursuit. He blitzed through the darkness, following the spiritual sense of the person that was flying ahead of him.

When the person took away their spiritual sense, it was Godslayer who gave him instructions on where to go.

As Alex followed, he recalled the face that he saw. It was a young man named Zhan Lushin whom he had seen met in the lounge area of the gathering building.

If Alex wasn't mistaken, this person was from the same Zhan Family as the Crown Prince's fiancée, Zhan Luoyang. He could even be directly related to the Crown Prince's fiancée, which would make him an important figure in the city.

Alex continued chasing and soon enough he got close enough that he could keep track of him on his own. He still couldn't sense his number on the back, but he could at least tell where he was.

Simply following him was the most important task at the moment.

As the chasing continued, Alex passed through many spiritual senses that tried to latch onto him, but none succeeded. His Yang Qi simply destroyed any and all spiritual energy that landed on him.

Alex got ever so close to the man and wasn't caught off-guard by the random maneuvers he tried to do to get away from him.

As the distance between them remained consistent, Alex started to check the young man's number while chasing him.

His spiritual sense still wavered, but given enough time he could catch onto it. He kept his spiritual sense on him no matter what, and as a result, he managed to catch a glimpse of something he had not expected at all.

His speed slowed down momentarily out of shock, but he sped up again to catch up to the man.

"He has it," Alex told Godslayer. "It might be the cause of the Shadow Aura."

"What? What does he have?" Godslayer asked in a confused voice.

"The book. The black book," Alex shouted.

"The book? Wait, the one with endless slots?" Godslayer asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "And I think it just might be the source of the shadow aura here."

"Get it then," Godslayer said, but it wasn't so easy.

Anywhere else, he could have already attacked, but here he couldn't. He had to remain inoffensive while trying to get the guy's number. Alex continued wondering what exactly it was that he could do to get the number of someones that continued moving at such incredible speed.

His opponent was in the late Saint Core realm, so he definitely needed to find a quick method to end this chase here. If it continued, Alex would run out of Qi, and the Yang Qi around his body would dissipate to the point where it would become useless.

The moment that happened, he would lose any and all battles if someone managed to sneak up on him.

"If only he remained still. I could get rid of the Shadow aura enough to see with normal vision," Alex said to himself. As it stood, it felt impossible to catch the numbers on the man's back with how much it affected his spiritual sense. If the person stopped moving, he could get rid of him like he did the many other people just by arriving behind them and checking their numbers.

That, unfortunately, was impossible when someone was flying this quickly. He would have to find another way.

"Get close to him," Godslayer spoke after hearing him.

Alex paused for a moment, slowly understanding what Godslayer wanted. "Can you do it?" he asked.

"It's just Shadow Aura," Godslayer said. "It's a lesser version of Darkness aura. Trust me, I can do it easily."

"Okay, I trust you," Alex said.

Alex saw that the young man wasn't using his spiritual sense as it was all getting destroyed. As such, that gave him the perfect opportunity to hide himself.

His aura disappeared from his body as he became hollow to the senses of the young man who could no longer tell where Alex was. Still, he ran, never looking back.

Alex teleported, arriving right behind the young man so close that if he moved his arms around a bit more, he would've been able to hit Alex.

Alex was right on top of him with his eyes wide open. He still couldn't see anything, but that was only going to matter for a little longer. The moment he was there, Godslayer started his work.

Immediately the Shadow aura, which was incredibly low in amount compared to what it was in the book, was sucked into Alex, going to Godslayer inside of him.

At the same time, as the shadow dissipated, Alex got his change.

Spiritual sense suddenly washed all across Alex as the young man released it out of curiosity as to where he had gone.

For a moment the young man wasn't aware of what he was sensing, but seeing that Alex was on top of him, he panicked.

At the same time, Alex panicked too. His Yang Qi was low, so he was worried that he had been seen through. That was all he hoped to not be the case.

Whether it was or not, he couldn't sit still.

Instantly, Alex revealed light into the surrounding as he created a ball of fire on his hand that remained burning even as the two of them moved at incredible speed.

With that, he saw the number.

The young man rushed as well, but Alex was faster. The moment he saw the number on the man's back, he quickly wrote it into the shield that he had on him.

Once the entire number was added, the young man finally slowed down. At the next moment, he vanished.

Alex stopped flying and grabbed all the few artifacts that flew after the young man disappeared, including the black book that was exactly what he wanted.

Alex put aside everything and just grabbed the black book as that was all he wanted.

"Is this it?" he asked as he couldn't sense the aura.

"Yes," Godslayer said. "This is it." His voice sounded excited.

"Now keep holding it. I'm going to absorb it all away."

Chapter 1390: Shadow Aura

Godslayer began without hesitation.

Alex looked at the black book with his own eyes and slowly the blackness of the book was receding when viewed through his Demon Eyes.

Godslayer was absorbing every piece of Shadow aura that was on the book without leaving any behind, unintentionally collecting even the Shadow aura that was scattered in the abyss around him.

Of course, what was scattered could not be comparable to what was in the book itself.

Alex waited on full alert in hope that no one else arrived close by. He had been following the young man named Zhan Lushin for who knew how long, and he was afraid that he accidentally got someone else to tail him, like he did the young man.

Thankfully, no one came in the multiple hours that it took for Godslayer to collect everything inside of the black book. At some point, Alex even saw the physical textures of the book with his own eyes after lighting up a small fire.

"Ahh, finally done," Godslayer proclaimed, sounding extremely happy with himself in the end.

Alex look at the book and saw the lack of blackness with his Demon Eyes. "Are you fully done?" he asked.

"Yes, I collected everything," Godslayer said.

"Great!" Alex said. "That was easier than I thought it would be honestly. So, do you need some time to absorb it? Are you going to go to sleep?"

Godslayer paused a bit. "Actually... there is a small problem," he said.

Alex frowned a little. "What problem?" he asked in a worried tone.

"So... the thing is, since this isn't darkness aura, as you know by now, I cannot absorb it to make myself stronger," Godslayer said. "I can absorb it to make myself temporarily stronger, but it will not elevate me as a spirit."

"What's the problem exactly? That it is not Darkness aura?" Alex asked.

"Yeah, that's the main problem," Godslayer said.

Alex put on a disappointed look. "But you said this was going to help you. I thought you were going to get stronger from this," he said.

"I was, and I still can, but not in the way we hoped," Godslayer said. "I had expected the shadow aura to just have originated from Darkness aura, but turns out that is not true. It truly is shadow aura. Whoever

placed the aura in the book managed to remove all intent from Darkness aura, keeping only the Shadow aura."

"So what does that mean? Did we fail?" Alex asked.

"No, we did not," Godslayer said. "We just... there is an extra step added to the process now, but..."

Alex waited for Godslayer to continue, but he didn't. "But what?" he asked.

"You will hate this part," Godslayer said.

"Come on! Spit it out. We're already this far enough," Alex said.

Godslayer sighed and spoke. "Here's the thing. The Shadow aura is now around me, and I can keep it around me for a long time, as long as your annoying yellow cloud doesn't come close to it."

"Our initial plan was me hoping this was Darkness aura, in which case I could have absorbed that and Death aura at the same time to get stronger."

"However, now I need to first turn this Shadow Aura into Darkness aura. For that, I will need to add Intent into the Shadow aura."

Alex's anger calmed down a little. "That's it? Why didn't you say so before?" he asked. "I don't know why you said I would not approve of it. Just give it to me, I'll do it. It's just intent."

"No," Godslayer said loudly. "It is not JUST intent. Did you forget what Darkness aura is? Shadow aura is the aura formed in the absence of light."

"Darkness aura is that, but also the aura of corruption. The aura of grief and anger and cruelty and injustice. It is the aura of the darkness at the heart of people that have been wronged. It is the aura that grows when one gives up on morality."

"It is the aura of evil itself."

"To say that a Shadow aura needs an Intent to become a Darkness aura does not mean that you need simple intent. It means you need to feed it to someone who had been wronged. Someone who can fuel it."

"Someone who has suffered grief and injustice, and no longer sees anything wrong with becoming evil."

"To change Shadow Aura to Darkness aura, you need to find someone like that and then force the aura upon them. And then take it all away. That is the only way to create a Darkness aura."

"That... is the only thing, aside from Death aura that can empower me."

Both Alex and Godslayer remained silent for a while. "I will not ask you to find someone like that for me. I will keep this Shadow aura with me for now. It is plenty that I can use to aid you up to a certain level if required."

"Instead, let's just try and find an actual Darkness source. I am sure there are plenty out there," Godslayer said.

Alex remained quiet for a while and nodded. "Alright, let us do that," he said. He looked around the darkness that still lingered and asked, "What will happen now that you have taken away the source?"

"Nothing for a while," Godslayer said. "There is no light coming here as it is a spatial pocket that was designed that way. The Shadow aura will lessen over time, more if people use Yang Qi, but for a while, no one will notice that something is wrong with it."

"We should be able to avoid suspicion when the secret realm eventually fails a couple of centuries later," Godslayer.

"Oh, if that is all it takes then fine," Alex said. "Now that we've gotten what we came here for. Let us leave."

"Oh, will it be that easy?" Godslayer asked.

"Actually, it will be very simple," Alex said with a bit of a chuckle. "Just watch."

He threw the book aside and flew off in a direction where he had previously sensed spiritual senses. Those people had most likely moved away by now, but he hoped to find at least someone in the time being.

After flying straight for an hour, he finally sensed a spiritual sense. The moment he sensed it, he stopped and flew toward the person.

The young woman who was surprised by his sudden arrival panicked and immediately spread her spiritual sense all around him. She didn't even wait a second to see who he was or what he wanted.

She went directly for her number and wrote it onto the Mirror that she held in one of her arms, while the other one held a Spiritual sense dampening artifact.

The moment Alex's number was written, he felt the teleportation spell latch around him. When he sensed that, he couldn't help but smile.

"See? I told you it would be easy to leave," he said before turning toward the girl. "Thanks."

He disappeared, arriving on the stone platform that was formed around the well.

"So that's what you meant," Godslayer said. "I thought you were planning to win the whole thing."

Alex chuckled. "Is there really a need to do that though?" he asked. "I've gotten everything I wanted from the abyss, so there is no need to stay around."