

Alchemy 141

Chapter 141: Finally

Alex soon arrived at the sect crater. He looked at his badge once more and found his way to a fighting stage. He watched the fight on the stage go on and waited until it was over.

Once it was, he heard his number being called.

"Number 168 and 173," the elder screamed through the crowd.

Alex walked up to the stage and saw another man come up. It was a young man with short hair and a thin body build. He looked like he had barely anybody mass on him.

'Is he okay?' Alex wondered. He had never seen anyone this thin in his life. 'How does a cultivator even end up being this thin?'

"It's him, right?" a girl whispered a small distance away from the stage. Alex could barely catch her voice thanks to his spiritual sense.

"Yeah, I heard he had won all of his matches and breaks through very fast. Apparently, in the little time he has been here, he has broken through quite a few times already. It's honestly unheard of how fast he is progressing." Another girl spoke, answering the first girl.

'Are they talking about me?' Alex wondered. He was surprised that they found out about his breakthrough speed somehow. 'But they shouldn't know about my cultivation breakthroughs at all. I make sure to keep it hidden most of the time.' He was truly confused.

"Do you know his name?" a boy spoke somewhere else in the crowd.

"Hmm... I don't really remember. It's a very weird name. It A— something." Another person in the crowd spoke.

Alex was truly surprised now. 'How do they know my name too? I have never used the world Alex at all.' He was starting to wonder if the NPCs could see his real name or were bugged.

"But why is he so good at cultivation, when he has a body like that?" another voice came.

'Huh?' Alex got confused.

"I heard he was at 7th Bone Tempering realm just a couple of days ago and now he is already at 8th Bone tempering realm. Honestly, that Adam guy might end up becoming a core disciple at this rate."

Finally, it all clicked in Alex's head. "Oh," he said as he realized that they were talking about the thin person in front of him.

'Adam? He is a player, isn't he?' this was the first time Alex had ever met a player in the game, aside from the first day when that person had helped him.

'I wonder if that guy already left this place and moved on to some other location,' he couldn't help but be distracted.

"Ready," the elder shouted.

Alex slowly took out his sword and got into a proper stance. The thin man named Adam proceeded to take out nothing and just fighting empty-handed.

"Fight!"

Alex immediately rushed forward, with friction to slow him down, and did a horizontal slice on the young man named Adam. Adam was surprised by the fast movement of Alex, and also started to immediately move away from the spot.

He was somehow faster than Alex, who was moving around at incredible speed due to his strong legs and frictionless body, thanks to the Fluctuating Friction dance.

Alex started chasing with his movement technique but couldn't catch up at all. The man was just way too fast.

'Does he have an immortal grade movement technique?' Alex wondered. It was very much possible that during the first treasures that were gifted to the new users, they randomly got a technique.

Alex got [Alchemy God's Knowledge] from that. It could be possible that this guy got a movement technique.

Alex was starting to get annoyed seeing the man run away so much. So, he put his hands forward and tried to stop the man from running.

Qi Manipulation easily stopped the man for a few seconds, enough for Alex to catch up. Just as he was getting close, the thin man used his own technique.

Suddenly, an illusory wall of golden light formed in front of Adam. Alex didn't want to stop from running his way, so he simply swapped the blade to his other hand and made a fist.

His fist started glowing yellow as he immediately sent it to Adam's way. Given that both of the abilities had yellow colors and were thus metal aligned, Alex thought that his ability would at best create an explosion and destroy itself and the barrier in the process.

But, something very unexpected happened. Suddenly, the barrier made out of the golden light crumbled to pieces under the slightest touch of the flying Iron Fist Punch as it continued its way to Adam.

Adam tried to move away from the line of target, but he found out that he was still stuck in the place due to Alex's Qi Manipulation. Horrifying fear ran across his mind, thinking he would die now.

Out of nowhere, the elder got into the middle of Adam and Alex and with a single thrust of their palm, the elder destroyed Alex's punch.

"Fight is over," the elder declared. Adam took a huge sigh of relief and thanked the elder. He then took the badge and immediately walked down from the stage. But as he did so, he turned back to look at Alex with eyes full of Hatred, Surprise, and Fear.

Alex walked up to the elder and took his badge and left as well, leaving only the elder on top of the stage. The elder looked at his hands and then remembered the badge number.

'Number 168? What is his cultivation base? I couldn't see it at all. Given that the attack was so strong, he must be around Organ tempering 3rd realm at the very least. Someone in the organ tempering realm and someone who can use the Iron Fist Punch, I wonder why I haven't seen this disciple before at all.'

The elder suddenly remembered that he was still looking after the fights, so he proceeded to call along with the other 2 contestants and forgot about the previous match.

Chapter 142: Revealing a bit

"Anyone knows who the guy was? I don't think I have ever seen him before."

"I think I have seen him fight a few times before, but I don't know his name."

"I believe, he too is like Adam, someone who joined recently and is gaining ranks very fast."

"Can you tell what his cultivation base was? I didn't see it."

"He must have a high cultivation base, his attack was so strong."

Even after he was gone, Alex was the talk among the people watching below the stage. His display of power was too great for him to not leave a lasting impression.

Alex, on the other hand, was himself shocked at what he had done in the match. 'How did my punch become so strong?' he couldn't help but wonder. Iron Fist Punch wasn't supposed to be very strong, a realm or 2 above his own. However, the display of power that he had just shown was far above that.

If his punch had been on the same level as the other guy's defensive wall, they would have most likely cancel out each other. If it had been a few realms higher, then the punch would have caused a big explosion where most of his attack would've hit the other guy. But, simply breaking the defense like it was a sheet of glass, that meant that his attack was very strong.

'How did I get so strong?' he couldn't come up with a reason at all. He gave the problem a bit more thought and finally ended up with a reason why that might have happened.

'Does it have something to do with the blood essence from last night?' he wondered. He was still confused as to what had happened to him last night. The most he could assume is that his body had to somehow fend off or absorb the blood essence, and that was what had knocked him out.

He decided to ignore the thought for now. "So, do I fight some more, or do I go to the library?" he was in a dilemma.

'Can I tell my master that I need to learn about beast companions and fight for now? Oh, or maybe master even knows a lot about them. Pearl should be fine for today. I will ask master about him later tonight.'

He went on to register some more fights. He fought around 3 more times and realized that he had gotten a lot stronger. Every single battle, he was able to overwhelm his opponents, and as such managed to win the 156th badge by 9 pm.

If he hadn't had to log out for dinner or his 2nd opponent hadn't taken forever to arrive, he might have reached a much higher ranking.

'Doesn't core disciples start from 50th ranking? I wonder how many of them are truly in the Meridian realm and above. The difficulty level will only get higher, so I will have to level up as fast as possible as well. I wonder when I can do my next breakthrough.'

Alex was on his way to his master's place. It took him a dozen or so minutes to go from the sect crater all the way to the training hall.

"You are here, finally." Wen Cheng said as he sensed Alex coming his way.

"Good Evening master," he greeted as soon as he saw his master.

"Why didn't you come yesterday? I kept waiting for you and you didn't come at all. Were you busy with alchemy or something?" he asked.

"No, uh... something happened yesterday and I fainted for the entire night. I only gained consciousness this morning." Alex replied.

"Lost consciousness? Did something happen? I didn't bother calling you yesterday because I thought you were exhausted from the day's alchemy and needed a break. Was I wrong?" Wen Cheng asked.

Alex thought for a bit about how exactly to explain the issue.

"We should go inside the first master," he said. Both master and disciple then walked into the soundproof training hall.

"Come out, Pearl."

With a bright shine, Pearl came out from his arm and landed between him and his master. Wen Cheng was surprised when he saw the little guy. Pearl was barely any bigger than his palm and that small size made him look quite cute.

Wen Cheng squatted down on one knee and started petting Pearl, who happily let him pet him. "Did you get a beast companion yesterday? Is that why you were absent?"

"Actually, no. But he is part of the reason." Alex said.

Wen Cheng looked at him with a curious face and said, "Explain,"

Alex went into detail about what happened yesterday, but still kept some of the happenings vague. He didn't tell about the Saint Monster core and kept a pretty vague explanation for how he came to acquire that ball of the essence. But everything else, he told his master without hesitation.

Wen Cheng was shocked for a while, so much information that just seemed so ridiculous that he had a hard time believing it, but he couldn't deny it since it was his disciple. While his disciple could also lie, he didn't see why he would decide to.

He then looked down to see the cat he was still petting. "So this is the child of the cat monster you talked about back in that crater?" he asked.

"Yes, master. The reason we couldn't find him back then was because he was bonded with me and had already come inside my arm to live with me." Alex felt better after informing what had happened to master. Finally, he didn't have to suffer the burden alone.

Wen Cheng's face lost any sort of emotion as he got very serious for a moment. "Have you told anyone about the cat yet?" he asked.

"Yes, I did take him to the beast care to see what he needed, so elder Xian knows about him," Alex replied.

"If it's only him, then that is fine for now. Remember, never let anyone know about the origin of your beast companion. That will only bring trouble to you."

Chapter 143: Fighting Meng Yun

"Bring trouble to me? Is it because his mother was in the saint realm?" Alex asked.

"Yes. Since his mother was in the saint realm, he has a high chance of being able to break through the True realms and reach the saint realm as well. Since both you and he are very weak right now, people will either try to steal him from you or harm you both lethally." Wen Cheng said.

"They can steal my beast companion? How?" Alex asked with surprise.

"Yes, they can. they either make the owner break the bond willingly by force, or they kill the owner with the beast still out of him." Wen Cheng said.

"I will make sure to not reveal Pearl to the outside then, master. Thank you for telling me." Alex said. He then thought of something and decided to ask about it right now.

"Master, do you know anything about something called Sun God's Divine Yang Body?" Alex wanted to know more about his body.

Wen Cheng thought for a second and replied, "I don't think so. But then again, I haven't read every record in the library. Maybe you will find some if you read them."

"But, won't it cost a lot of spirit stones?" Alex asked. He was worried about having to spend too much money.

"Ahem... don't tell anyone what I'm about to tell you okay?" Wen Cheng said, lowering his voice to a whisper even though they were in a soundproof room.

"While the technique is all sealed, none of the records are. So you can just walk into the higher floors and read everything with your spiritual sense." Wen Cheng said.

Alex was surprised that the sect master of the sect would teach his student how to steal stuff in his own sect. "Can I go all the way up without being a core disciple or elder?" he asked.

"Yeah, there is no other restriction in the Tiger sect. As long as you can pay, you can go anywhere and get anything. So, you can walk all the way to the top of the library, while reading everything. However, maybe rent something just so it looks like you aren't wasting your time in there and are not so suspicious." Wen Cheng's advice seemed really enticing to Alex.

"I will do that tomorrow then, master," said Alex and finally started to train for the day.

"Alright, since you learned so many techniques, today you should just train in them. Let's hold off learning another one for tomorrow. Okay?" Wen Cheng said.

"Yes, master." Just as he said that he noticed someone coming near the door. So did Wen Cheng. Alex hurriedly called back Pearl.

"You guys are training already?" suddenly a voice came from the door. Luo Mei walked in with Meng Yun behind her. Alex hadn't seen her since that time in the forest and was surprised to finally see her.

"Hello, senior sister." He greeted Luo Mei and turned towards Meng Yun, "Hello daoist Meng, it's been a while."

"Hello," Meng Yun gave a small response too and immediately turned towards Wen Cheng to give the sect leader a bigger greeting.

"Little Mei, why have you brought along Yunyun? It's time for your junior brother to train. You aren't here to disturb him or worse beat him again, are you?" she asked.

"Of course not master, what do you take me for? I brought Yunyun along to test how strong little brother had become." Luo Mei seemed to want to have Meng Yun fight with Alex. He was quite shocked when he heard that.

He slowly focused himself and looked at Meng Yun, and was absolutely shocked at what had shown up.

[Organ Tempering 1st Realm]

'Wasn't she still in Bone tempering 7th or 8th realm back when I met her in the forest? It's only been 3 weeks. How is she already so high in cultivation?'

'Unless... she is a player as well,' He thought.

"Alright, little brother, you should fight Yunyun. She is one of the fastest up-and-coming disciples in the sect right now. She joined only a few months ago and is already in the Organ tempering realm. Within a few months, she is sure to enter Meridian tempering. If you don't focus on cultivating, you might never be able to catch up to her," said Luo Mei, who seemed to be quite proud of Meng Yun's achievements.

"Okay," Alex simply nodded and got into position. Under Wen Cheng's instruction, Meng Yun walked to the other side and prepared herself as well.

Alex brought out his normal sword, while Meng Yun brought out a not-so-simple-looking flute. 'A flute?' Alex has heard people fought using music but had never seen it himself.

Wen Cheng walked up to the middle and acted as the referee. With a single swing of his hand, he started the fight.

A sweet sound started flowing out of Meng Yun's flute that sounded very simple and sweet. Alex didn't immediately attack as he felt a little apprehensive towards an unusual weapon like a flute.

More sound slowly appeared and he started to feel something heavy pressing down on his consciousness. But, it was barely anything, so he ignores whatever it was.

He crouched a little and in a single leap, crossed the entire fighting hall, arriving right in front of Meng Yun. He decided to use not techniques to attack her vulnerable self, but before he could even do anything, the music coming out of her flute changed dramatically, and Alex was immediately sent far away, hitting the wall on the other side.

"Ow, what was that?" he asked as he got up once more. The flute's melody had changed back to the first one that put some load on his consciousness.

'Seems I can't attack just like that.' He started to pour his Qi into his sword. However, instead of turning yellow like how most of his Qi lit up things, the sword started glowing a not-so-dark shade of green.

Alex was preparing to use the second strike of the Elusive Heavenly Sword.

Chapter 144: The Fight Continues

The blade glowed bright green as Alex prepared to unleash the second strike of the Elusive heavenly sword. Meng Yun got serious when she saw this. Apparently, she could tell that the strike was going to be strong.

Her flute immediately changed tone as she started to play an even more aggressive sound. Qi built up right in front of her, threatening to fly off at any moment.

Alex took one step forward and with a single slash let go of the energy in his sword, sending a green slash flying towards Meng Yun. At the same time, Meng Yun as well let the pent-up energy loose, and the aggressive energy flew off towards the green slash.

As expected, a massive boom appeared right in front of them, sending shock waves towards both of them. Alex somewhat stood his ground, while Meng Yun had to take a step back.

'Is he stronger than me?' Meng Yun was shocked. She had expected herself to be stronger in general since she thought she had the higher cultivation, yet, he was doing very well with the fight.

She immediately got even more aggressive. A sudden shift in tone caused a bullet-like energy projectile to be sent towards Alex. Alex barely managed to dodge the projectile, when another one arrived. He shifted his body to dodge that one as well when the next projectile arrived.

One after another, multiple energy projectiles were thrown at Alex who was starting to get more at ease with the dodging thanks to the Elusive Heavenly Sword's evasion footwork.

'Dammit,' he thought. 'My blade is low graded so I can't use my attacks to their full potential.' Up until now, he had been fighting opponents that were weaker or equal in cultivation base as him. Each time, he had used his mortal grade sword that was enough to fight against his opponents.

However, against Meng Yun, who was a realm higher than him, in fact, a minor realm higher even, the blade wasn't as effective. Wen Cheng and Luo Mei watched from the side, still wondering where the match was gonna go.

"Do you think little brother can win, master?" Luo Mei asked using Spiritual sense.

"Hmm... tough to say, it seems his skills aren't enough to break through Meng Yun's own counter-attacks. Even the 3rd strike of the Elusive heavenly sword shouldn't be enough for him to disrupt Meng Yun's momentum in any way. Especially, since he doesn't have a wood-type superior spiritual root."

Wen Cheng thought for a bit and said, "Although, if he had the same grade weapon as Meng Yun's flute, he might be able to win quite easily. Also, there are a few techniques he isn't using yet which would give him an obvious advantage. You could even say that he is fighting with both of his hands behind his back."

Luo Mei's eyes turned wide when she heard this. "Huh? Haven't you given little brother a proper weapon yet?"

Wen Cheng shook his head as he said, "Ma Rong suggested that I teach him fighting without any external help. So, I gave him a common mortal-grade sword and hid his relation to me. That also helped him from getting into trouble with the other elder's disciples."

"Not really. That merchant Huo's second son is already after little brother for quite a while now." Luo Mei said.

"Huo Zemin's son, what was his name? Huo Tu. What does he want with Yu Ming?" Wen-Cheng asked with a confused look. He couldn't understand why someone like Yu Ming would be in trouble with a scum like Huo Tu.

"From what little brother told me, He tried to buy little brother's pill for 10 spirit stones, and when little brother denied it, he got angry. Apparently, he has sent a few of his lackeys after little brother, but the little brother has been able to take care of them easily." Luo Mei said.

"He never told me anything about it," Wen Cheng sighed as he said that.

"There was no need to, master. If little brother needed anything, I could have just interfered." Luo Mei replied.

"I guess so. Still, making everything in the sect available to one with spirit stones doesn't really work well some of the time. We get scums like Huo Tu who only know how to flaunt their parent's money and gather lackeys to do their tasks for them. He's probably never been rejected in his life on anything. Sigh, if I could, I would remove him from the sect right here and now."

"Alas, due to our trade with Victorious Snow merchant group, it's impossible. I can't understand how Huo Zemin can raise two children completely different in personality and talent." Wen Cheng sighed quite a bit.

"Let's forget about such matter, master. Tell me more about what you said about little brother." Luo Mei asked, trying to change the subject.

"What I said about Yu Ming? Which part?" Wen Cheng questioned.

"The part where you said that little brother is still not using quite a few techniques. Is that true?" Luo Mei was truly curious about this. From her perspective, her junior brother was having trouble with the fights, but if what her master said was true, then that might not have been the case.

"Oh yes. Let's see if the 5 techniques I have already given to him, he is only using 2 of them. And he is also not using a single of the techniques he learned back in Hong Wu Sect. Some of those would have the match over within seconds. He probably doesn't want that and is only trying to fight properly" Wen Cheng explained.

"Although, if he isn't going to use any of the other techniques, he might end up losing soon. Hopefully, he doesn't do that," Wen Cheng said while shaking his head.

Luo Mei brought her attention back towards the match that was taking place between her junior brother and her trusted aid, Meng Yun. She then mumbled to herself, "Can he really win against her?"

She would find that out very soon.

Chapter 145: A Strong Fist

The barrages of the sounds-based projectiles from Meng Yun finally stopped. She put down her flute and started breathing a little heavier. Droplets of sweat had formed across her brow as she tried to catch her breaths.

The relentless playing of the flute was very exhausting, and worst of all, the damned guy in front of her had somehow managed to dodge every single one of the attacks.

'How good is his evasion ability?' she wondered.

Alex, on the other hand, wasn't tired at all. Training for over 6 hours every night had been a norm for him during the last couple of days and the fight right now didn't feel any different.

Now that her attack had ended, he could finally use his own. Instead of pouring Qi into his blade, he put his sword into his bag. Everyone in the room was suddenly surprised.

"Please be ready to intercept this attack," a familiar voice spoke in Wen Cheng's mind. He immediately got vigilant as Alex was starting to prepare for his next attack.

He made his hand into a fist and poured his Qi into it. A yellow glow started to appear in it as it started getting brighter by the second.

Meng Yun immediately put her flute next to her mouth and started using more tones. A tone started playing that seemed to wrap around Meng Yun, pushing anything that came towards her, aside.

Seeing this, Alex finally let out his glowing fist, as he used the Iron Fist Punch towards Meng Yun. A large, golden-yellow energy in the form of a fist flew towards Meng Yun.

Meng Yun prepared herself to take the full force of the attack with her own technique, but suddenly, someone else appeared in front of her. He looked to see the back of the sect leader.

Wen Cheng put forth a palm and lightly sent it forward. That light palm immediately dispelled any energy the flying fist had, making it disappear as if it never had been there.

"You lost, Yunyun," Wen Cheng said as shook off his hands and kept them behind his back.

"I... lost?" Meng Yun was confused. She never even got to face the attack, yet she had lost?

"What is going on master?" Luo Mei came forward and asked. She was very confused with what had just happened as well. One moment her master was standing with her, the next moment he was in front of Meng Yun, saying she had lost.

"If I hadn't intercepted your junior brother's attack just now, Meng Yun would probably have been gravely injured," Wen Cheng said as he looked towards Alex. 'That attack just now... it was definitely in the 4th realm of Organ Tempering. But how did he get so strong suddenly?' Wen Cheng wondered.

"Congratulations on winning, Junior brother," Luo Mei came from the side and started patting him on the back.

"Thank you, sister."

"Whats your current cultivation base? I can't see it right now," Luo Mei asked. Alex stopped using the Immortal concealment technique and let his cultivation aura spread out.

"Oh wow, you're still at only Bone Tempering realm and you already beat Yunyun who is at Organ Tempering 1st realm. You really are very talented, little brother. More than me and senior brother ever were."

Alex got a little embarrassed, unsure of how to respond. " Oh, right!!," Luo Mei shouted catching the attention of everyone in the room.

"Master said you weren't using some of your techniques, brother, is that correct?" Luo Mei asked.

"Yes, that is true," Alex simply replied.

"Oh, Why didn't you use it then? Were you trying to use Yunyun as training?" Luo Mei kept on asking the question.

"Oh no, Of course not. I wasn't trying to handicap myself or anything like that. It was just that... the match would've been over immediately if I used them." Alex replied genuinely.

"You would've won immediately? Are you saying you can win against Yunyun immediately if you wanted to?" Luo Mei asked after hearing Alex's reply.

"Well, kind of. Yes."

"Oh," Luo Mei said with surprise. "How many techniques did you not use?" she asked.

"Umm..." Alex counted in his head, and said, "3 primary ones."

"Primary ones? What does that mean?" Luo Mei asked curiously.

"Well, there were 3 techniques I had thought of absolutely not using. Others I just didn't have to." Alex said.

Meng Yun's eyes turned wide. Not only had he admitted to having handicapped himself, he also said he could've been fine with a little more handicap. That was just an insult to injury for her.

"Really?? wow. You will be as strong as me at this rate." Luo Mei said. After chatting for a bit more time, Luo Mei took Meng Yun and returned back to their houses.

After the ladies were gone, Wen Cheng finally asked a question that was burning deep in his heart. "What is going on, Yu Ming? Why was your attack so strong?"

"Yeah. I wanted to tell that to you earlier but didn't get the time, Master. After I took in that blood essence, my Iron Fist Punch has gotten a significant leap in power.

"I did feel it. Go on, use it once more on me. Let me see it once more." Alex did as Wen Cheng said and attacked him with the full force of his Iron Fist Punch.

It was much stronger than last time, barely touching on the threshold of the 5th realm of Organ Tempering. "It really is so much stronger. It wasn't like this Saturday night, was it?"

"No master, and for some reason, that is the only ability that has increased in power. All others are still the same power as they were before." Alex was really confused by the current situation, and it seemed Wen Cheng had no idea either.

"I don't think we can do anything about it for now. Go read the records in the library and see if there is anything about it in there tomorrow." That was the only advice Wen Cheng could come up with for now.

Chapter 146: Forced Cultivation

"Alright, train by yourself for now. I don't think there is anything you will need me for tonight, so I will come back at 3 AM." After saying that, Wen Cheng left the training hall.

Alex didn't know what to do, so he decided to let out Pearl.

"Come out, Pearl." With a bright shine of light, Pearl appeared in front of him. "Meowow"

"You are not sleepy, are you?" he asked. "Meow," Pearl seemed to say 'no'.

"Alright then. I will practice my techniques for a while. As for you, you can... uhh," Alex was stumped for a moment on what to make Pearl do. He wanted Pearl to practice as well, but he was still a child. He thought a bit more and came up with something.

"You can use your cultivation method to cultivate a bit more," Alex said.

"Meow," the little cat had no idea what cultivate was. "Uhh... you don't know? But it says you have a cultivation technique now in your status." Alex was a bit confused.

"Hmm... maybe it's like mine and you have to meditate? But can cats even meditate? Let's see, normal monsters just absorb the Qi in the surrounding to get stronger, or occasionally eat other monster's cores to improve."

"Sigh, just try to meditate for now and see what happens." Alex gave up in the end and went with his first choice.

"Meow," the cat was even more confused.

"Ah, just close your eyes and breathe slowly," Alex explained what meditating meant.

The cat did as asked and closed its eyes to meditate. He watched to see if anything would happen. Nothing happened for the first minute, but after a few, Pearl's fur started glowing a little white.

Slowly, the white turned to yellow, which then turned to golden as time went on. Suddenly, as soon as the radiating light turned golden, Alex felt a small thump inside him. Then, came a flood of notifications.

<Pearl has started using "????? ??????'s Dominating body">

<Cultivation is now being shared>

<Cultivation Method is not compatible with human physiology>

<Cultivation technique is compatible with your Sun God's Divine Yang Body>

<Cultivation technique is not compatible with human meridians>

<Cultivation technique is compatible with your 5 Elemental Yin-Yang roots>

<You are now forcefully cultivating "????? ??????'s Dominating Body">

"AHHHH!!" Suddenly, a massive pain coursed through Alex's body that brought him to his knees and then to his ground. His scream was loud enough that if there weren't any soundproof formations set in the training hall, people could probably hear it all the way from down at the sect crater.

The pain was the worst kind of pain Alex had ever felt. Even worse than when he ate the Yang Jade or when he had to fight that wolf to protect Pearl and his mother.

Pain pricked all over his skin and organs as it felt like he was surrounded by thousands of needles pricking every part of his body, and it was somehow amplified by a hundred times. Even his organs started to hurt.

'What is going on?' he could barely form a thought as the relentless pain attacked him. He tried to open his eyes to see what was happening around him, but even his eyes and eyelids hurt a lot.

The only thing he couldn't feel pain in was his brain. So, he slowly let out his spiritual sense, barely able to concentrate on it. He tried to look at what was happening.

'WHAT!!' he was shocked to see that numerous wounds were opening and closing all over his body. His skins split, muscles torn, bones micro fractured, organs tearing up, meridians constantly damaged and even his brain was bleeding somewhat.

But as soon as those happened, they were also healed. His split skin shut tight, his torn muscle's reattached, his fractured bones reformed, torn up organs regrew, meridians healed and the brain stopped bleeding as if nothing had ever happened to it.

He tried to send his thoughts to Pearl. But the pain was too much for him to do such a specific task right now. He lost all focus and his spiritual sense retreated to himself.

"Ahhhh," he was still shouting. His pain lasted a while. Whether it was long or short was irrelevant to him. For him, the pain lasted an eternity.

Finally, after some time, he started to grow a little accustomed to the pain, or even numb to it. He resisted the urge to let go of all thought and scream once more and sent out his spiritual sense to Pearl.

"Stop Pearl!," he shouted directly into Pearl's head. Pearl was way too focused on cultivating and didn't hear any of the shoutings Alex had done the past however long it had been.

"Stop!," he screamed once more using his spiritual sense.

Pearl suddenly opened his eyes, color fading from his body. "Meow?" he said as he looked at Alex who was down on the ground.

As soon as pearl stopped cultivating, the pain finally went away. The remaining wounds on his body slowly healed and within a minute, he was back to normal with no more pain running across his body.

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He wanted to speak out, but he couldn't form any words to speak. The experience was just too traumatizing. Only after a few minutes did he manage to string up a few words to form a sentence, "What happened to me?"

His eyes still had a hard time focusing when he remembered the notifications that he had read. "Pearl forcefully cultivated me?" he was beyond dumbfounded at what he remembered reading.

"But how could he force me to cultivate along with me? What is going on?" he was very confused as to what had happened just now. Still breathing heavily, he remembered something.

"Oh wait. what about that 'sharing' thing mentioned in Pearl's info?" he wondered as he looked up Pearl's status.

[White Cat (Child) - Bonded

Name: Pearl

Cultivation Base: Skin Tempering 9th Realm

Evolution Chance: 40%

Cultivation Method: ?????? ??????'s Dominating Body (Shared)]

When he saw Pearl's status, he was surprised.

"Huh? Did you breakthrough already?"

Chapter 147: Faster

Alex was surprised to see that Pearl was stronger than he was before just by cultivating for a little time.

"Speaking of time, how long has it been?" Alex wondered as he looked at the time of the upper right. It was a few minutes past 12. "Sigh, I really have to suffer through that for over 2 hours huh. All so you can get stronger?" he felt a little agitated.

"Hmm... wait a second. It said I was being cultivated too. Could it be...." His eyes turned wide and hopeful as he quickly said, "Status,"

[Player Name: Yu Ming

Cultivation: Bone Tempering 9th Realm (1,000,000Qi : 100%) [Breakthrough]

Body: Sun God's Divine Yang Body

Talent: God

Spiritual Roots: 5 elements Yin-Yang roots

Cultivation Method: Starry Sky Qi Absorption Method

Qi: 1,947,354

]

"Huh? Why are there no changes?" he wondered. The numbers in the status were all the same as before. "Did I go through all that pain for nothing?" he tried to see if there were anything else that was different about him in all the other settings, but he couldn't find any.

"I don't feel like doing anything anymore, but, what do I do then?" he couldn't think of anything.

So, reluctantly, he decided to go back to normal practice. "Alright, C'mon buddy, I need to train now, and I can't have you cultivating. That will be bad for me. Get inside," he said as let Pearl get inside his arm.

'Alright, back to training.' He started using all sorts of techniques and practicing with them. He deliberately chose to use the Iron Fist Punch more than anything, just to see how much stronger it was.

"I need to measure all of my attacks and see just how much stronger they are." He remembered his attack having a 4 realm higher attack damage, so he needed to check if that was still the case.

"Guess, I will have to visit the Training Hall while I go to the Library as well." He kept on practicing. He moved on to using the Elusive Heavenly Sword and Fluctuating Friction Dance as he practiced them too for a while.

"Hmm... Have I gotten faster now?" he couldn't tell if he was projecting what he wanted to see, or if he really was more faster and flexible.

After a while, Wen Cheng returned to see that Alex was still practicing. 'Oh, did he breakthrough again? He seems to be better now,' he thought as he walked up to Alex.

"Congratulations, for making it into the Organ tempering realm. It won't be much longer before you reach the True realms at all." Wen Cheng couldn't see Alex's cultivation due to his concealment technique and thought he had broken through between the time he fought with Meng Yun and right now.

"Organ tempering realm? I haven't broken through yet master." Alex said as he got a little confused.

"Huh? Aren't you at Organ Tempering 1st realm?" Wen Cheng asked as he got a little confused as well.

"No. I am still at Bone Tempering 9th Realm."

"What? How are you so much faster then?" Wen Cheng had seen him use his movement technique and it was must faster than when he used it against Meng Yun just a few hours ago.

Alex's eyes shined. "I am, aren't I? I thought I was fooling myself, but I really must be faster."

"Can you tell me how you are so much faster without breaking through?" Wen Cheng asked.

"Well, I think it's because of Pearl again," Alex said still remembering the horror he had to go through.

"Your cat? What does it have to do with you?" Wen Cheng said with confusion.

"I don't know how, but when Pearl cultivated after your left, I started feeling this pain all over my body. My entire body was covered with small cuts and tears all over the outside and inside, which also healed very fast. After I finally managed to tell Pearl to stop after 2 hours did my pain go away, and I was a little faster." Alex shivered at the thought of what he had gone through.

"Damage all over your body... and they healed? ... No way," Wen Cheng's eyes widened as he heard what Alex had just said.

He immediately started speaking, "Withdraw all of your Qi into your meridian and hit my hand." He slowly put forth his palms to give Alex a target to attack.

"Huh?" Alex got confused.

"Do what I say. I want to check something," Wen Cheng started to get impatient.

"Ok, Master," Alex slowly reeled in all of his Qi. All the Qi in his skin, his muscles, bones, everywhere. They all reeled back into his meridians.

'Urghh... I feel so bloated right now.' He no longer gave any sign of what cultivation he was in right now. Similar to the Immortal Concealment Technique, he looked like a complete mortal right now.

The only difference was, with the Immortal Concealment technique, he hid the aura of his Qi and Cultivation base. While, by doing this, he was hiding the Qi and Cultivation base itself, basically leaving his body defenseless, as if he was a mortal.

"This feels so uncomfortable, Master," he said as he tried to keep it all in without leaking any Qi.

"Alright, since you are comparable to a mortal now, Hit my palm."

Alex didn't wait another second. He was already very uncomfortable and immediately decided to attack his master. With a single dash, he reached his master and delivered a perfect punch.

BAM

"Ow," Alex said as he started shaking his hand in pain. His master's palms were harder than he had imagined them to be. After the pain settled down, he looked up to see his master. Only to find his eyes wide and his jaw wide open.

'What's going on?' he wondered. He released his Qi back and asked his master, "I am done, right master? Why did you want me to do that?"

Wen Cheng returned back from his stupor. "Yes, yes. You are done. And I have confirmed what I had wanted to as well."

After a few seconds of silence, he finally spoke, "You have become a body cultivator."

Chapter 148: Mortal Cleansing

"Huh? Me, a body cultivator?" Alex asked, stunned by what he had just heard.

"Yes, Your body is stronger than what it used to be. From what you said about your experience earlier, you must've gone through a tempering of sorts. That's how body cultivators are born. They temper their body through pain and hard work, and become stronger." Wen Cheng was still in shock as he explained.

"But, aren't body cultivators supposed to be very rare. I remember master saying something about there rarely being a body cultivator in the Crimson empire and that I don't have to worry about them much." Alex repeated what he had remembered from Ma Rong.

"Ma Rong explained to you about them, did she? Well, she is not wrong. It is extremely rare for there to be a Body cultivator in the Crimson Empire, but it's not rare. There have been a few times that body cultivators arrived in the Crimson empire, but they don't stay as one for long since there aren't many things they can use to temper themselves with."

Alex got curious about something, "Master, when you say Body cultivators temper themselves, is it different from the normal tempering realms of Qi cultivation?"

"Of course there is a difference. The tempering for both is meant for completely different results. A normal cultivator's tempering is meant to temper their body with internal Qi so that it is less resistant to the Qi during cultivation and they can succeed in future cultivation."

"However, a Body cultivator's tempering means he is destroying and fixing his body a lot of times so that he can make his body stronger."

"Normal cultivators temper to improve cultivation, while body cultivators temper to make their bodies much tougher. You... are now one of them." Wen Cheng finally let go of his shock.

"That is not a bad thing, right?" Alex asked as he hoped for a positive answer.

"No, but since you won't really have that many ways to improve your body, you will stagnate later on and it will be quite useless in the long run," Wen Cheng just finished saying this when he thought of something and added, "Although, since your body tempering came from your cat, ... maybe you can do it indefinitely." Wen Cheng started getting lost in his own thought.

"Master?" Alex called to bring him out of his stance. "What are you thinking about?"

"Hmm... I... want you to do it again." Wen Cheng's reply came out of nowhere.

"Do it again? But, it hurts so much, master." Alex's eyes turned wide as fear crept upon them.

"Yeah, that's what body tempering is. You have to get hurt to become stronger, and you have to do that without going overboard and injuring yourself badly." Wen Cheng explained as such.

Alex took a deep breath. "Alright, Pearl come out." Light shined from his left arms as Pearl came out of it and stood in front of him, licking his front paw.

"Meow," it spoke as he looked towards him. "Master, make sure you stop him from cultivating if it gets really bad, okay?"

Alex then tried really hard to find the next set of words to speak, "Pearl, Cultivate once more."

"Meow"

Pearl closed his eyes and started to meditate again. Slowly, a light started coming off of him. It started with white light, then yellow, and finally, it moved to golden light.

Alex fully prepared for the pain to hit him, but even then he wasn't ready at all. "AHHHH," his scream was as loud as ever as he found it hard to focus on anything other than the pain.

The scream also shocked Wen Cheng. He wasn't expecting such a horrific scream from his own student. He immediately wanted to stop the cat from cultivating any more but decided to wait.

He used his spiritual sense to look all over Alex's body. He was terrified to see what he was going through. Hearing the explanation of what had happened last time did not do the actual thing any sort of justice.

"Should I stop it?" he started deliberating. He wanted to stop Alex from feeling more pain, but then, he saw something. Throughout Alex's body, tiny black spots were oozing out of his skin.

"No Way!! Mortal cleansing? Without any external assistance?" Wen Cheng was shocked at what he was seeing. "How is body tempering helping him in Mortal cleansing, when it should only be for normal cultivation?"

Wen Cheng felt like he was seeing a miracle. He no longer gave any thought to stopping the cat and watched as Alex's body kept on pushing out the tiny black bits.

Alex's screams, however, were ever so violent. Wen Cheng has to ignore all noises for a while. Only after a few hours did his scream started dying down.

Finally, Wen Cheng saw that the black bits were no longer oozing out of Alex and decided to stop the cat. "Meow" the cat woke up from its cultivation with a single command from Wen Cheng. He then turned to look at Alex.

He slowly walked up to Alex's completely black and filthy body to give him a nudge. But as soon as he got close to him and realized what he really smelled like, he ran back.

Wen Cheng looked at Alex who was on the floor, completely unmoving, and said, "He's gone unconscious from all the pain."

He felt bad for letting his disciple go through this, but he also felt happy that his disciple had done through this. Mortal cleaning was one of the best things a cultivator could hope to experience, and his disciple had just done it.

"He is really going to go very far in his journey as a cultivator," Wen Cheng started to feel proud. After a few minutes, he told Pearl to go back into Alex, to which the cat complied.

"Yeah, you need a bath," Wen Cheng thought as he used his Qi to carry Alex and bring him inside his building to cleanse his body of the filth from Mortal cleansing.

Chapter 149: Improvements

Alex slowly opened his drowsy eyes as he felt something wet around his body. "What?" he asked through his sleep as tried to stand up. Suddenly, his leg slipped on something as he submerged into the liquid once more.

He was now underwater and desperately tried to get back up. Once he came out of the water, he was fully awake. He immediately looked around, sending his spiritual sense to look at the different things.

He found himself in a small room with a small pond-like bath inside of it. "Where..." he looked around confused.

Suddenly, the door to the room opened and Wen Cheng walked in. "Oh thank god it's all clean now," he said as he walked in.

"Master, where am I?" he asked. He was still trying to recollect what the last thing that happened was. Only then did he finally remember the unbearable pain he had to go through once more.

He shuddered as he remembered the pain and asked, "Why didn't you stop Pearl master? It hurts so much." He actually felt like crying from all the memory of the pain.

Wen Cheng looked a little guilty as he said, "Get out of the bath and change into these clothes here." He brought out a set of inner sect robes and pants.

He also took out a bunch of storage bags and kept them on the robe. "You have quite a few storage bags. Do alchemists always need so many?"

Alex was surprised when he saw that. 'Did he check inside?' He was worried his master would find all the ingredients and talismans he found from the corpse. He didn't want to explain that right now.

Alex quickly walked out of the clean bath and changed into his robes. Following Wen Cheng, he walked out of the room.

"I had to change the bath 3 times because of how much filth was on your body." Wen Cheng's face seemed disgusted at the thought of this filth.

Alex got surprised a little. 'It can't be that I sh*t myself due to all the pain, can it?' he started to fear this thought more than anything now.

Wen Cheng walked out of the building, back into the training hall with Alex in tow. Alex looked at the outside and was surprised. 'It's already day?'. He quickly checked the time and was stunned to find out that it was past 10 am already.

"What?" he shouted out loud.

"What's wrong?" Wen Cheng looked back.

"Oh, nothing master. I was just surprised at how late it was."

"Yes, you were unconscious for quite a while. I was about to go get a healer if you didn't wake up in the next 2 hours."

Only after entering the training hall did Wen Cheng finally stop. "Sigh. Tell me, how does it feel right now."

"Feel? I feel fine right now," Alex answered as he wondered if he had a fever or something when he was unconscious.

"No, I mean your body. How does your body feel after going through such a long tempering process and an entire mortal cleansing." Wen Cheng seemed eager to find out just how much his disciple's body had changed.

Finally understanding his master's questions, Alex moved around his arms and shoulders around trying to feel them. "Oh," he sounded surprised. He jumped a bit here and there, all while his eyes were wide.

"It feels so much better master. Almost like I lost half my body weight or something. I feel so light." His words couldn't explain how he was feeling right now. "Is this because of body tempering too, master?"

"I expected so, and no, it's not because of the body tempering. It kind of is, but it's mostly due to Mortal Cleansing."

Alex's face got confused when he heard that. "Mortal cleansing? What's that master?" he tried to remember if he had ever heard that word before, but he couldn't remember. Not even his master had taught him that when she gave him a general lesson on everything.

"It's no surprise you haven't heard of it. In fact, I would be more surprised if you had. Mortal cleansing is a very rare occurrence where one's body discards all of its unwanted filth and leaves you with a pristine body that is prime for cultivation."

Alex asked, "Have you gone through it as well master?"

"Me? No. Like I said it's very rare and you can only do this if you find... some sort of fruit, that I do not know the name of. It's said that only if you eat this fruit can you go through mortal cleansing. However, it seems that is not just the way. It seems your cat can somehow help you as well."

"What exactly does mortal cleansing help me for, master?" Alex was still a little confused.

"You remember how I said that self tempering helped your body store more Qi and thus progress in terms of cultivation?" Wen Cheng asked, to which Alex nodded. "Similarly, Mortal Cleansing also removes your body of everything not required for cultivation and leaves you with only that which is required to reach for immortality, the final destination of a Cultivator. Thus it also improves your bottlenecks for cultivation."

"Hmm... Does this mean I can store more Qi in my body now, Master?" he asked.

"Sort of, yes. But it's more so that your body can now use Qi more efficiently than before. Try using a technique, and see how much easier it is."

Alex did as asked and circulated his Qi to use the Jade Skin technique. As soon as he started, his body produced textures around his skin that made him look like he was made up of jade.

"Oh wow, it took less than half the time it normally takes to use it." His surprised voice gave all the answers Wen Cheng required. He nodded a bit and said,

"Go and check how strong you've become in the actual Training Hall. Also, since you've become quite strong, reach as high as you can by tonight. I want to see you with at least a badge of number 120."

Chapter 150: Such a Weak Body?

"Oh yeah, make sure to keep training your body with your cat. Not many people get the chance to become a body cultivator. This is an amazing opportunity that you can't miss." Wen Cheng said as Alex left the training hall.

Alex looked at the clock and sighed. "Guess I am going to have to skip the first class today."

He quickly went back to his house, hidden from the others and logged out. He hurried his way to the cafeteria and then went to his 2nd class, which he arrived during the 20-minute recess.

Matt was there as well and looked at Alex and asked, "You didn't log out for the lunch, what happened? Game so good, you forgot reality?" he asked jokingly.

"No, I was just unconscious in the game. Barely managed to log out in time to catch the 2nd class."

Matt said, "Oh, you gonna complain in the forums too? Hehe."

"Complain? About what?" Alex asked in confusion.

"About fainting in the game and becoming unable to log out of course. So many people complain about missing their work, or school, or in worst cases, not being able to log out for days, only to log out weak and hungry."

Alex was surprised. " That really happens to people? I guess I did faint 2 days in a row, so I shouldn't be surprised. It might not be as uncommon as I would want it to be then."

"Of course it happens often, don't you read the forums?" Matt asked.

"Only in some cases. Otherwise, I like to stay unspoiled about the game. Finding out the things on your own had a certain charm to it." Alex didn't think knowing every aspect of the game to be very appealing. He had done what he had to, to earn some necessary money, but now, he hadn't even needed it.

'I was way too worried about a laptop, haha. They don't even require it until the 2nd semester.'

"Ah, so you're that kind of player huh," said Matt.

"That kind?" asked Alex

"You know, the kind that likes to go in blind to a game. It's rare to see someone like you nowadays. Although, I can see why that would be fun to some," said Matt.

Alex simply smiled.

About 2 hours later, Alex's classes ended and he went to the cafeteria. Afterward, he went back to his room and logged into the game.

He looked at the names on the wall in front of him. Most of them were already changed and some of the names from previous times weren't even there anymore.

'Why is it that it's only the players that are leaving?' he wondered. There were still a few names that were definitely from the players that he could recognize, but they were in the top 100, and it would take some time for him to get there.

"Let's go check just how strong I am first," he said to himself and walked out of the house. He soon made his way to the sect crater and went to the training hall.

The Training Hall was a tall pagoda-like tower at least 20 floors tall. "That's quite tall," he thought and walked in.

He saw people waiting in a queue here as well. When his turn finally came, the elder asked, "What room?"

"Sorry?" Alex asked in confusion.

"What do you want to train in. Attack, Defense, or Movement?" the elder asked.

"Oh, umm... is it possible to go for all 3? I want to train in all," Alex said.

The elder nodded and took Alex's badge. He then gave him a small wooden token. Alex looked at the token and saw that it was numbered '4-12'. "Go to the 4th floor's 12th room," the elder said.

Alex thanked the elder and quickly found a staircase. "Oh, it goes down too?" he was surprised to see that the Training hall was not only tall, but it was also deep too.

Alex walked up the stairs to the 4th floor, and quickly found his room. Similar to the production hall, he put his wooden token in the keyhole. The door opened to reveal a completely white room.

"Hmm... " Alex wondered and walked in. The room was quite wide and had enough place for him to try out his techniques.

As he walked in, he noticed a metallic puppet on the other side with a rather long wooden pole extended horizontally around its arms.

He walked up to it and saw that it had 3 switches on its head. He flicked the switch that said 'Offensive Training' and left defensive and movement training as is.

"Alright, does this work how I think it does?" he thought as he knocked on it a few times.

<Skin Tempering 3rd Realm>

"Oh, it does. Let's try with just my body then." He started to pull in every single Qi he had in his skin, muscle, bones, and organs, back into his meridian.

"Urghh... Why is this so uncomfortable every time I do this?" he thought. Keeping all the Qi inside the meridian and not letting it flow as well, was an unnatural feeling he wished to avoid.

"I better get it done with," making sure he wasn't leaking any Qi unintentionally, Alex prepared his attack. 'Here it goes,' with a single dash, he reached the puppet in front of him and...

BAM

A strong sound rose out from the board that shocked Alex. 'That sounded so strong!!,' he was shocked. He looked at the puppet and saw that it was taking a while to show the result.

Only after a few seconds did it show the result.

<Muscle Tempering 4th realm>

'That... is quite weak.' He was surprised to see that the Body tempering that his master praised so much had resulted in such low damage. 'If it's this weak, then what is so good about it?' he wondered.

Only after a few seconds did he realize, "Wait... no, this is quite strong, isn't it? Only one night of cultivation, and I'm already at Muscle Tempering 4th realm. Does that mean... I can get a lot stronger this way?"