

Alchemy 1411

Chapter 1411: Simple Talk

"Moon Goddess?" Godslayer asked. His voice was filled with understandable surprise as well as a healthy level of skepticism. "How do you know it's the Moon Goddess's body? Didn't you say the kid was unconscious the entire time?"

"A feeling," Alex said.

"A feeling?" Godslayer sounded angry. "You're basing such an important piece of information... on a hunch?"

"No, not a hunch," Alex said. "A feeling. I'm speaking in the literal sense. I felt a connection with the girl like... like our bodies wanted to be together."

"Like... copulate?" Godslayer asked. "Are you sure that wasn't just because the girl was... you know, beautiful? Have you been with a woman before?"

"No," Alex said, a little bashful about answering the question. "But that wasn't the point I was trying to make. It wasn't me that wanted it, but my body. And I'm not even sure if it's copulation or not."

"I mean... it would make sense when you think about it," Godslayer said. "There are sects out there that focus solely on dual cultivation between two people, usually ones with yang and yin. So maybe that's what your body wanted."

Alex wasn't sure that was it, but at the same time... it did feel like that.

"Well, ignoring everything else. Imagine if she does have the Moon Goddess's body. Does that cause any problems?" he asked.

"Don't think so," Godslayer said. "It's not like the Sun God's body is doing anything more, is it?"

"Well... true," Alex said. "You're taking it surprisingly well, I must say. I'm happy about how much you've improved."

"What? At the God talk?" Godslayer asked. "We're talking about True gods. I was never at odds against them."

"What about the fake ones? Do you still want to kill them?" Alex asked.

"Kill the fake gods? Maybe... not," Godslayer said in a soft voice. "Actually, who am I kidding? Of course, I want to kill them. Who am I if not someone that slays gods?"

"Uhh... is that still improvement?" Alex asked.

"It is," Godslayer said. "I only want to kill specific gods. Not all of them."

"Ooh, that is certainly an improvement," Alex said. "Which ones? The ones that trapped you?"

"The ones... no, not those ones. Although I would be certainly happy to fight against them, there are others that I want to kill if I can," Godslayer said. "The Weapons God used to be one of them. And there are a few more."

"Which ones?" Alex got curious.

"I'll tell you when I think you're strong enough to handle them," Godslayer said, changing the topic. "For now, let's go back to the Moon Goddess. So she might have the Moon Goddess's body. Are you going to try and get together with her?"

"She's 25, younger than my daughter," Alex said.

"Well... it's not like she's gonna stay 25 forever," Godslayer said. "And I'm not telling you to go for her right now. I'm just asking if you will."

"Probably not," Alex said. "It just... wouldn't feel right if I did."

"She's 25. She's an adult already. Or you can wait a hundred years if that makes it easier for you," Godslayer said.

"Actually, I don't think that would make it easier," Alex said. "Since that is really not the main problem."

"What is it then?"

"Godslayer, do you believe in fate?" Alex asked.

"Fate?" Godslayer thought for a bit. "I'm not really sure, actually. There is evidence that seers can predict the future accurately if things are isolated, so maybe there is fate. Or maybe that's just how things are supposed to proceed."

"Fate, destiny, they probably exist if you really think about it," Godslayer said. "I don't think I can really answer that question to your liking. Why did you ask?"

"It has to do with reincarnation," Alex said. "Do you believe in it?"

"Reincarnation? Not really," Godslayer said. "If there was, there would be evidence amongst the trillions of people that exist in this world, wouldn't it?"

"Bai Jingshen said it was real," Alex said.

"Why does it matter?" Godslayer asked.

"Because that girl has the same body constitution my master had," Alex said. "The one I told you about a few months ago. The Yin constitution. It's the exact same."

"Are you serious?" Godslayer asked.

"Yes!" Alex said. That's why I'm so confused and so reluctant to do anything."

"Well... I guess that is understandable," Godslayer said. "So you believe this girl is your master's reincarnation because she has the same constitution as your master?"

"Yes," Alex said.

"Hmm... then doesn't that mean that every single Sun God's body that has appeared in the past hundreds of thousands of years is also you?" Godslayer asked. "Do you think you have past lives out there that you can learn about?"

"I don't know," Alex said. "Maybe?"

"You must be thinking it was fate for you two to meet," Godslayer said. "Maybe that's true, but maybe that's false. Let's think of it this way, if it was your fate to meet this girl and your master, would you want something else to have happened?"

"No... absolutely not," Alex said. "I would never want to not meet my master."

"Great," Godslayer said. "You can stop worrying about it for now. We'll ask someone that knows more about this than us when we get the time.

"Yeah," Alex nodded. "I will have to ask either Senior Yang or Bai Jingshen. Hopefully, one of the two know that information. Thanks, I needed to tell that to someone. It would have made me go mad if I didn't most likely."

"Sure, that's alright," Godslayer said. "Since you seem to have received a benefit from this encounter, try and break through quickly, and find me some Darkness aura. I can't wait to absorb both that and the Death aura in your book."

"I'll try my best," Alex said.

Once Godslayer stopped speaking, he finally flew through the sky, flying directly toward the Hundred Blossom Valley. There, he quickly saw the two girls who were fighting some plants in the 7th Field which was covered with carnivorous plants.

Alex flipped his Dragon medallion at the people who were trying to stop him and quickly landed next to them.

They turned around and were surprised to see him there. "Your majesty, you're back!" Talia said.

"Yes, I'm back," he said. "How are you guys doing? Are you on time?"

"Yes," Fang Yimu said. "Thanks to Your Majesty's help, we've been able to be faster than before. The Mushrooms were a little difficult since you left, but this one has been easy. There aren't many varieties of plants that want to kill you."

"Great," Alex said. "I sort of missed the mushrooms, so I'll have to go back. But it seems I can continue properly through here."

"Did you deal with the problems that the man came with?" Talia asked.

"No, I couldn't find him the ingredients he wanted," Alex said. "But I did help him by solving his problem directly. His daughter was sick and I helped heal him. Took me a bit longer than I thought it would, but I'm back now."

"Let us move through these fields as quickly as we can, so that you ladies can finish it all in time."

Chapter 1412: Leaving the Hundred Blossom Valley

Alex went along with the two ladies for the rest of their remaining days in this place gathering the ingredients and teaching them about a few more. They easily went past the 7th Field full of carnivorous plants to the 8th Field of Poisonous plants.

Alex finally got to gather the many ingredients he saw the last time he was here. Most of the ingredients he saw were still there, so he happily gathered them, leaving whatever he didn't need for the girls to take.

He surprisingly found the Flameborn Nightsbane as well. It was towards the end of the 10th poisonous field, the one that he hadn't checked because they had met up with the young alchemist, Wu Shun.

Past the poisonous field was the desert landscape for desert plants to grow. It wasn't just desert plants, but any plants that needed a little amount of water to grow that could be found here.

Not that it would've been useful had he found it earlier.

Alex went through the fields, gathering what he could, once again focusing mostly on ingredients that had Wood energy to them. The desert fields were spacious with many plants that did not want to be near another one.

As such, it didn't take them very long to go through this field and arrive at the last one.

The last one was less specific than the other fields. It looked like it was originally made for actual trees with thick trunks, but seeing the climbers and the other plants that were growing beneath those giant trees, it had ended up becoming a hodgepodge of plants that was simply a place to find any and all plants that they couldn't find in the other fields.

This was a much denser field, so it took Alex and the rest a lot of time to get through. It was good since the girls had 5 days left in their month-long journey and had to spend it all somehow.

They took their time going from one field to another at a rate of 2 fields a day.

Alex didn't find many new plants here that he hadn't already seen back in the Forbidden Orchard. This place was quite small when compared to the Forbidden Orchard, just better well maintained.

Still, he found important Wood ingredients here that would come in handy for sure.

Once the 5 days ended, it was time for the girls to leave or else they would have to pay more to stay. Thanks to Alex's help, they had gone through all the fields fast enough that they didn't need to linger there any longer anyhow.

"Thank you, your majesty," Fang Yimu bowed next to the bridge that sent them out of the fields. "If not for you, we would not have been able to gain as many ingredients as we did this time around."

"That's alright," Alex said. "I had fun."

Talia bowed as well. "Will we get to meet you again?" she asked.

"Certainly," Alex said. "I'm not sure where you will meet me next though. I don't know where I'm going to be myself."

"Will you be participating in any of the other events around the continent? We might meet there," Fang Yimu mentioned.

"I plan to visit all if I can," Alex said. "Which ones are there again, outside of the remaining 4 secret realms?"

"There's the Golden Auction, the Cave of Frost opening, the Continental Tournament, the Azure Festival... uhh," Fang Yimu tried to think for some more.

"There's the Celestial Peak, but it's constantly open so I'm not sure if it counts," Talia mentioned.

"That's... quite a lot to be honest," Alex said. "I've heard about those too, but I don't know if I can make it to all. I'll have to see when they open. If I do end up going, I'm sure you'll find out. We can meet there again."

"Yes, your majesty," the girls said together.

"Farewell."

Alex turned around and walked back into the valley after sending them away. He had a few fields to still go through. He took his time moving back through the 10th field, going into the desert area.

There, he moved to the Poisonous area where he spent a bit of time searching through if he missed something. Then, he went to the fields of carnivorous plants as he had definitely missed a few fields here.

He spent a day roaming the entire 10 fields, getting what he missed. It didn't take him long to go through it all and once he was done, he finally went back to the fields with mushroom.

He hadn't even roamed half of it when he had been called to the man's aid. So, he went through it from the start, looking for what he could have missed.

He found what he could in the first few that he could and started gathering more mushrooms in the remaining fields.

To his surprise, on the 7th field, he found the World Defying Mushrooms.

"Woah! They have it here too?" he wondered in surprise. This was definitely something he couldn't miss out on. He started gathering the mushrooms and saw a few of them that had already been tainted with people's energy.

There was also a lot that had been taken away, which made Alex wonder what they were going to use it for. Surely they hadn't gotten the clean mushrooms, right? Or did they know how they were supposed to pick these mushrooms?

No one came when Alex gathered the mushrooms, so he freely used his space powers to cut through the mushrooms, gathering them all.

He left about half of it behind as he didn't want to take everything. It wasn't his place to take it all after all.

Not that the ones he left behind were of much use to him anyway. They were either young or tainted. Their only use would be to spread and grow some more.

He went through the remaining fields and finally left the Hundred Blossom Valley, and left it, going back to where the elders were waiting for him.

It had been more than a month since he had gone into the Valley, so they were a little worried. However, they needn't be as Alex returned just a few days later.

The elders immediately started questioning why he took so long, why he decided to stay back when the Cloud Iron sect had already left. Alex told the two about the girl he had to help heal, not mentioning who or where she was from.

After realizing they had been worried for nothing, the group prepared to go back to King Jin's palace.

King Jin had been waiting for their return. He was more than happy to see Alex again and wanted to talk to him about his haul at the Hundred Blossom Valley, hoping to learn something from him.

Unfortunately, Alex didn't have the sort of time.

"I'm sorry, I'm in a bit of a hurry. I can sense my cultivation reaching a bottleneck and must work toward it," Alex said. "I will talk to you about it after I leave."

"Of course," the King said, showing an understanding.

"Thank you," Alex said. "In the meantime, would you mind contacting the Crown Prince?"

"Sure," the man said. "What do you want me to tell him?"

"Ask him if it is possible for me to go see the Beast Paradise in the near future."

Chapter 1413: Breakthrough

Alex had cultivated in small bursts throughout his time in the Hundred Blossom Valley, which he had to do to keep a handle on his Yin Qi that built up inside the dantian.

A day of Qi buildup would disappear in just a few minutes of cultivation, so it was easy enough for him to do it.

However, when he felt that he didn't need to do it all the time, he stopped towards the end of it. The few days he remained there hadn't been bothersome, but once he left, the build-up had reached a limit that he needed to go for a long cultivation period.

He could tell that he was also going to break through soon, so he decided to enter closed cultivation as soon as he could.

He told King Jin what he had to do before disappearing into his room and started cultivating. Immediately, a tremendous amount of Yang Qi gathered onto him, turning into the higher grade of Qi as they entered his dantian.

There, it immediately fought with the Yin Qi and started forming neutral Qi that flowed back into the Dantian, refining it even more so.

He struggled for a bit with the strong Yang Qi and stopped an hour later when he couldn't handle it anymore. There was still a lot of Yin Qi, but he could rest now without worrying about what would happen to him.

Once he felt ready, he started cultivating again.

It took about 3 short cultivation sessions before Alex got rid of all the yin Qi. Once it was gone, he could go back to cultivating normally.

He didn't just cultivate, of course. He also improved his body, eyes, and spiritual energy. At the same time, he started learning the Wood ingredients in order to make a pill that would improve his Wood Spiritual Roots.

Since he had no help this time around, unlike the time with Water and Earth pills, it would certainly take him a lot longer than he could expect.

Since he couldn't spend every day on this, it would take much longer than anything before. Maybe just as long as it had taken him for the Dao pill.

Pearl and Whisker were right there with him, training with him. Pearl was close to entering the Saint Foundation realm, so Alex helped him.

Due to Pearl's Dao knowledge, he would be assaulted by an Inner Demon. Even knowing that Pearl bravely entered cultivation to break through.

Alex had no idea what he went through in there, but when he came out, he had broken through to the Saint Foundation 1st realm.

Whisker was excited to see that and wanted to break through himself. However, having no real way of cultivating himself, on top of having a rather average talent, he couldn't even break through past the Saint Condensation 2nd realm he had reached a long time ago.

Alex cultivated for nearly a month after that before he was ready to break through as well. His breakthrough came suddenly and passed just as quickly as well.

All he had to do when he reached the bottleneck was to think of breaking through and try it. With his talent and preparation, he easily did it.

Now, the Golden Core in his dantian was starting to fill 80% of the entire thing. Once it grew to 90%, he would be in the Saint Core 9th realm, and when it reached 100%, he would finally move on to the next realm.

Alex looked forward to that.

After a day or two of cultivating to stabilize his cultivation base, Alex walked out of closed cultivation and went to meet up with his elders.

They congratulated Alex for his breakthrough, and soon the others in the palace came as well.

King Jin happily spoke to Alex. "Congratulations, your majesty. You broke through successfully," he said.

"Thank you," Alex said. "It took some time, but yes."

"Ah, how jealous I am," he said. "If only I could break through so easily like you too. May I ask how you broke through twice in a row?"

"Twice in a row?" Alex was a little confused. "Ah, no, no. I didn't. My beast broke through with me."

"Your beast?" the King looked surprised. He hadn't known that Alex had a beast with him.

"Yeah," Alex said. "I would introduce you to him, but he's quite shy and doesn't want to come out."

"That makes sense," the King said. "I was a little confused when I thought you broke through but your cultivation base only went up by one. I was foolish."

"How long was I in closed cultivation?" Alex asked. "Two months?"

"A month and 22 days," Lady Yao quickly mentioned.

"I see," Alex said. '4 months before it will be 2 years since I came to this continent. I should go meet the alchemists soon.'

"Oh right, your majesty," King Jin spoke. "His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince replied to your request."

"My request? About the Beast Paradise?" Alex got interested in the topic.

"Yes," the King said. "He replied about a month ago. He said that you could go, but it will have to be a few months later."

"How many months later?" Alex asked.

"About 8? No, 7 now," the King said. "The Prince said that he needed some ingredients from the Beast Paradise himself for some pills he was planning to make and said that he was going to go there on his own."

"If you wish, you could join in 7 months later in his journey."

Alex frowned a little. "I can't go there on my own?" he asked.

The King hesitated a bit. "It's like this, your majesty," he spoke. "Ever since some time ago, the beasts have stopped being friendly for some reason and had completely stopped allowing people to go through their borders."

"Why?" Alex asked curiously.

"Honestly, I think it's because of your people," the King said.

"My people— oh, the players," Alex realized. "Did the players do something?"

"I'm not really sure. But around the time when the players started to grow a lot, there were instances of some stronger ones going to the Beast Paradise to hunt the beasts. While many that tried were killed, people still came."

"So, they closed the Beast Paradise entirely and now only do trades around the border and exclusively with the few merchants that are allowed to go to its borders to trade things that come out of there," he said.

"If the rumors are true, even the Crown prince won't get to enter simply. He will be escorted. Only his Majesty should have the authority to go in and out without worrying about the consequences."

"I see," Alex said. That part of history wasn't written in the books. Was it because it was recent?

He wanted to curse the people for making the situation like this for him, but then again, he too had killed many such beasts himself, all to improve himself.

So he really couldn't do anything.

"Then... 7 months later it is," he said. "Can you contact the Prince and tell him that I wish to go in there with him?"

"Of course," the King complied.

Alex now needed to think of how he could spend the next 7 months. Did he go back to the Capital and spend his time there, or did he just roam around this land?

Since there wasn't much he could do back in the capital right now, he decided to roam the cities of the Emerald Kingdom, as he had in the recent past.

Before that, King Jin had truly wanted to gain some Alchemy lessons from Alex, so Alex decided to teach him a bit.

The man had been more than helpful to him on multiple occasions, so he didn't feel it bad to teach him a bit. He kept the more important knowledge to himself, but even the ones that he didn't hide were new information to the King who easily gobbled it all up.

Jin Xiaojian was a competent alchemist on his own, reaching Level 7 long ago when he had been in the Royal School of Alchemy. It was partly also his proficiency in Alchemy that had gotten him this position anyway.

They all had something in them that adhered to that Kingdom. He was an alchemist, Mao Yingtai was an excellent fighter, Tan Qiu was a merchant, and so on.

King Jin could make pills in the Immortal grades regularly, but not consistently. After Alex taught him a little more about how the pills worked and how symmetry was important, his level in Alchemy was sure to improve.

Alongside that, Alex left him 5 different generic pill recipes that would certainly help him improve even more.

The man tried making pills with the new recipe and his average harmony on all those pills went up by nearly 7%. If he worked even harder, it would go up even more in the future.

After spending a month on just this, Alex finally decided to leave Greenheart City for good.

He would probably return in the future, but it was impossible to say when. King Jin wanted to come with him and try to learn more from him, but he had a kingdom to rule, so he couldn't rule.

Reluctantly, he said his goodbyes, letting Alex roam the remaining cities.

Alex went through the rest of the northern cities, visiting the unique places in the 6 months of time that he had.

Then, 6 months later, he arrived at Brightfalls City, where he was to wait for the Prince who would be arriving there any day.

Chapter 1414: Brightfalls City

"Your majesty," the Crown Prince Fanyu spoke up in great delight when he saw Alex. "It is so good to see you again after so long."

"Prince Fangyu," Alex smiled at the man. "How have you been doing?"

"Great," the Crown Prince answered.

They were inside a luxurious room in Brightfalls City, with its window facing directly to the Brightfalls that gave this city its name.

The Brightfalls was a massive waterfall that was nearly 2 kilometers wide, the water in which flowed from the east region to the north.

The water fell from such a height that it turned fizzy and white on the way down, and as a result, caused it to light up the surrounding area with white light due to its massive area.

The city, at least the part that was facing the falls, was completely white, with even the roads getting as bright as the sun on a cloudy day.

It was an incredible sight.

The light from the Brightfalls entered Alex's room and painted the walls in white light as well. It was a natural source of light and thus they did not need to use any lanterns during the day.

"How has your trip around the Emerald Kingdom been, your Majesty?" the Crown prince asked. "Are you enjoying our empire?"

"It has been incredible," Alex said. "So many unique cities, so many unique cultures. I think I will be tired of the next city I visit, but each one entertains me so much that I never do. Truly, it's an amazing land with amazing people."

The Crown Prince laughed out loud in pride. "It truly is," he said. "I should visit it all some times in the future."

"Oh, have you not?" Alex asked the man. "I would imagine the Crown Prince would have gone through his entire Empire at least one."

"That's not such an easy task, is it?" the Crown prince asked. "Surely your Majesty haven't been through all the cities in the Southern Continent too."

"No," Alex told the truth. "But I've only been alive for less than 70 years. Compared to me, you have had a lot more time."

The Crown Prince sighed. "Fair enough," he chuckled a bit. "Truth is, I don't really like visiting other places. I don't like new places, so I try to stay in the Capital whenever I can. I only leave when I'm forced to."

"Huh?" Alex chuckled. "You're the complete opposite of your brother, aren't you?"

The crown prince gave a sheepish look. "Why do you say that?" he asked.

"Well, he likes touring, doesn't he? You mentioned that he has been on a tour of the empire for a long time, didn't you?" Alex asked.

"Ah, right," the prince said. "But that isn't really because he likes touring, really. It's just that he doesn't have anything else to do."

"Nothing else to do? As a prince?" Alex asked.

"I'm the Crown prince, so most responsibilities fall upon me. The only thing that could be his is the Azure throne for the Azure kingdom or a high-ranking spot in the Head Legion. But he has never been the type who wants to lead, so he was never forced to."

"As a result, he has nothing to do in the capital," he said. "He goes around the world, doing what he wants."

"Does he not come home?" Alex asked.

"He hasn't in a while," the Crown prince said. "But as the Prince of the Empire, he has nothing to worry about."

"I suppose," Alex said. "You also mentioned he has an important figure protecting him?"

"Senior Linfan, our head chef, yes," the Crown Prince nodded.

"I see," Alex said. "I wonder if I'll meet him on my journey. Do you know where he is right now?"

"Hmm," the Crown prince thought for a bit. "I believe he was somewhere in the Silver Kingdom the last time he sent us any sort of notice. It was a year ago, so I am not sure if he's still there."

"I see," Alex said. "Let me know if he wants to meet me. I'm curious about him."

"Surely," the Crown Prince said. "Anyway, let us move away from this discussion. I'm actually curious why you wanted to enter the Beast Paradise, your majesty."

"Why not?" Alex asked with a smile. "It's an interesting place with nothing but intelligent beasts. There are not many places in this world like that, are there?"

"I suppose not," the Crown prince said. "It's a shame you were half a century late. Had you somehow come earlier, you wouldn't have to be in such an awkward situation to enter that land."

"I was merely a teenage half a century ago, prince," Alex said. "I'm not sure a young me that was a mortal would have been lucky to have come to a forest full of beasts."

"Ah, right," the Crown prince shook his head. "It is so difficult to imagine that someone like you is so young. Truly, I'm very jealous of your talents, your majesty."

Alex smiled. "So, what is truly going on with the Beasts Paradise? Why have they closed their borders?" he asked.

"Honestly," the crown prince sighed. "I'm not sure. Most people will tell you the reason is because of the players that came and attacked the land."

"While that could be true, it's a mystery why they did it for so long. I mean, the players have integrated into the society, so why haven't they opened it already, I'm not sure," the Crown Prince said.

"Unfortunately, I do not have the authority to command them to answer me, so I am as oblivious as anyone else."

"Huh?" Alex was a little surprised. "What do you mean you cannot ask them? Do they not respect you, the Crown Prince?"

Fangyu shook his head. "While I may be a Crown prince of the Empire, the Beasts Paradise isn't truly part of the Empire, so they get to refuse me," he said. "It's a weird situation. We call it part of the Empire and tell everyone the same, but the top brass knows that's not it."

"I'm confused. Would you mind being more clear about it?" Alex asked.

The Crown Prince nodded. "The truth is, since the Beasts Paradise is something that is formed by the former subordinates of the first Azure Dragon and their family, they have a claim to sovereignty in that land."

"At the same time, they are also a part of the empire. So the situation has come to be where while they are under the empire, they are still their own free region."

"The only one they answer to is the person on the Dragon throne, my father," The Crown Prince said. "So, if you really want to learn more about the Beast paradise, you will have to ask my father."

"Or... I could ask the beasts themselves," Alex said. "Right?"

"I wouldn't get my hopes up, your majesty," he said. "These beasts don't really like humans all that well."

Alex nodded. "I am fine with disappointment. At least I won't regret not asking," he said. "So, when do we leave?"

"Later in the evening I will go notify the beasts that I am here, and tomorrow at dawn, we should be able to leave for it."

Chapter 1415: Beast Paradise

After a night of cultivation, Alex prepared early to leave for the Beast Paradise.

He was more than surprised that his request had been accepted. Even more so, he was surprised that he would get to leave this early into his time on the continent.

Just a little over 2 years had passed and he was on his way to the Beast Paradise.

"What do I do?" Pearl asked, confused a lot by the situation. "Should I hide myself? Or should I show myself?"

Alex thought for a bit. "Hide yourself for now," he said. "I will call you out if I need you to reveal yourself. I don't want to give away the fact that a White Tiger is alive in this land. Who knows what lies they have been fed by the Emperor."

Pearl nodded. "There is a chance that they blame my grandpa for the Azure Dragon's death, don't they?" he asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "So, we will have to tread carefully. We'll try to get as much information out of them as we can while giving as little as possible."

Pearl nodded. He turned into a flash of light as he disappeared into the Beast space, but even there, Alex could sense that he was very anxious and scared, and even a little excited to meet his actual grandfather and grandmother.

Alex walked out of his room, going to meet the others as it was close to dawn.

People were gathered outside, not to go along with them, but to give them a farewell.

As unfortunate as it was, no one aside from the Crown Prince and Alex was allowed to go into the land of the beasts. Truth be told, Alex liked it this way.

The fewer people there were, the more he had the chance of doing things unnoticed.

"You will need to take care of yourself, your majesty," Elder Liang said. "We won't be there to protect you, so it is all up to you."

"Don't worry," Alex said. "I won't be rash"

"Try to come out as early as you can," Yao Ning said. "Don't make us wait for too long or we will get anxious."

"I'm not going in there to fight the beasts. I'm just going on a friendly visit. I will come when I'm done exploring all that I'm allowed to," Alex said. "Don't worry and just cultivate. The next time I see you lot, I want to see you have broken through to the next realm."

"What? That's impossible," Elder Liang complained. "It's not like us old folks can break through whenever we want to."

"We'll try our best," Yao Ning said and simply bowed. "Have a great journey."

Alex said his farewell and walked away with the Crown Prince. They arrived outside of the hotel they were staying at and flew over the Brightfalls waterfall to arrive on top of the massive river that flowed out of the Beast Paradise.

The sun started to come out from the east, so they continued along and flew on their own for a few kilometers before they arrived near an area that had strong beasts waiting for anyone that came by.

They sat at a fort created on a giant tree that was over 30 meters tall and just as wide with branches twisting in every direction.

There were multiple such small forts created along the side of the entire region with beasts staying as a guard.

There were human soldiers way ahead of this that already stopped everyone from coming, except for a few merchants that were specifically allowed.

Today, however, they were sent to pick just two humans.

One was the son of the Emperor on the Dragon throne, and another was a King that was directly under the Vermilion bird. Even if they disliked humans in general, they would be respectful here.

"Welcome, guests," a Swan with pure white feathers and a brilliant orange beak spoke to the two of them with a male voice. The Swan's feather was almost translucent to the point that when the first ray of sun hit his feathers, it spread around him as if the bird was glowing on his own.

"Greetings," the Crown Prince spoke. "I am Long Fangyu, the Crown Prince of the Dragon Imperium. His Majesty here is the King of the Southern Continent, Alex Benton."

"Greetings," Alex said as he cupped his hands.

The Swan unfurled his wings and bowed a little to both of them. "I am called Jian Kugong. I was sent here to take you all to our leader," he said. "Please, follow me."

He flapped his wings and started flying. Alex and the Crown Prince started flying behind it, going into the large forest that covered most of the Beast Paradise.

Alex was a little surprised to see the beast's cultivation base. A Saint Soul realm beast was always a rare sight, and he couldn't believe that one had been sent just to be their guide.

He could also tell how much intelligence this beast had, which likely meant that its bloodline was a very strong one.

He remembered the Swan courtyard back in the Dragon Palace, which had been formed in honor of the Swan which was one of the 7 beasts that had come along with the first Azure Dragon.

'Could it be one of its descendants?' he wondered. There was a major possibility.

Alex's attention was immediately pulled away after just flying a few hundred meters into the forest. He could sense the many alchemy ingredients around him, which both confused and surprised him.

There were so many of them here that he nearly believed it was an alchemy garden that he was passing through.

He looked around at the thick forest and realized that due to the lack of human interference, it had grown to a point where it was full of resources and the resources were not being used efficiently.

He didn't say anything about it and simply flew along with the Swan silently as the only sound he heard was the wind moving through the forest and the swan flapping his wings.

He looked below at the river that flowed through the forest. It was a big one and multiple such streams flowed from the Beast Paradise that gathered at the end of it and fell as the waterfall there.

"Where does this water come from?" Alex asked. "Is there a source in the north?"

"There are snow mountains in the north. During the winter, it snows there, filling them to the peak. During the summer, they melt and make the river that you see below you," the Swan said.

"I see," Alex said. Not every place had such a system for getting water. Both Southern Continent and Western Continent survived mostly on rainwater as well as spring water.

They saw multiple beasts as they flew and flew close to a large pond that formed from one of the streams. He could see many beasts relaxing next to the pond, bathing in the warm sunlight that had just started creeping through the forest.

"How long will it take us to reach the leader?" Alex asked.

"If you do not wish to sightsee, we can speed up and reach there in half a day," the Swan answered.
"What should we do?"

Chapter 1416: The 7 Colonies

Alex decided to take his time going through the valley. He was in no hurry at all, so he would rather take a gander at the scenic mountains and valleys that were completely filled with plant life.

A couple of hours into the journey, Alex saw an open space with beasts flying in the sky and enjoying the sunlight on the ground.

There was a massive open space with a river flowing through the middle, and the beasts on either side. They were enjoying their time along with their younger ones.

Some of the beasts saw them and many started looking up as a result to gaze at them. It had been a while since they had seen humans.

Alex looked at the trees surrounding the small grassland and showed a little surprised expression.

"Do these beasts below us not have houses?" he asked.

In the Beast Realm back in the Southern Continent, many of the beasts had houses. They weren't as detailed as human houses almost always, but they were houses. They were built with wood and planks, with rooms in them.

There were so many of them there that seeing not a single one here made him feel a little awkward.

He knew not every beast had these. The Demonic Beasts Forest in the Northern Continent certainly didn't have that as those beasts were less intelligent overall.

However, he at least thought that this, a forest that was closely related to the Azure Dragon would have that at the very least. The one controlled by White Tiger did after all.

"These are wild beasts, left to their own devices. What they do or do not do is of no concern to us," the Swan said. "There are ones that decide to build houses, but it seems intelligence is lacking amongst these ones."

Alex looked at the Swan after he heard the answer. He thought for a bit and asked, "May I ask what you mean by Wild? As far as I can tell, they are beasts that can cultivate, and there were even 3 Saints down there. Do you still call them wild?"

"Wild here doesn't necessarily mean wild in the normal term, your Majesty," the Crown Prince spoke up. "It also means lawless, left to their own means."

"Ah," Alex finally understood. "Wild, I see."

But that only made him more curious about other things. "Does this land have no rules then?" he asked. "No law?"

"These ones don't," the Swan mentioned. "But our seven colonies most definitely do."

"I'm not sure you know this or not, your Majesty, but when the first Azure Dragon came from the sky, he brought with him 7 main subordinates."

"While they were here, those beasts procreated and left descendants behind that each rule a single colony," the Crown Prince answered. "Outside of those 7 colonies, the land is lawless."

"I see," Alex said. "May I ask why you decided not to put a law in this place? As far as I am aware, you guys hold the sovereignty to this land."

"We do, and all of this falls under the jurisdiction of the 7 Leaders. But even after that, we let almost everything remain lawless," the girl said. "After all, that is the natural order of this land. We cannot hope to maintain it if we start putting restrictions on what a beast can and cannot do."

"To begin with, how do we make laws for the rest of the beasts to follow when many don't even have a concept of law?" the Swan said. "A beast needs to have an incredible bloodline to be intelligent enough to understand the laws."

"Most beasts need to enter Saint realm to gain intelligence. Even then, they can't control their primal instincts. Given that most beasts have a really low cultivation base or no cultivation base, it is an impossibility to make rules that everyone will follow."

"You are correct," Alex said, agreeing with the swan. Unlike humans that only took a few years and no cultivation base to be intelligent, the beasts took forever to do that.

It wasn't just either. Bloodline was a huge factor in intelligence as well.

That was why most aquatic beasts were so quick to attack someone as they only followed their instincts and never their intellect.

"And of course, there is the problem of diversity too," the swan said. "Unlike humans, who are all basically the same species, how do you make laws for something so diverse as a forest full of animals?"

"Do you make hunting not allowed, thereby starving an entire chunk of the population?"

"Do you make flying illegal, thereby making it impossible for birds to go anywhere?"

"Do you make destroying herbs illegal, starving the herbivores?"

"Do you make killing not allowed, and effectively stop the only method of cultivation for nearly 99% of all beasts that are in this forest?"

The Swan's question stumped both the humans at once. The Crown Prince hadn't properly heard the reasoning for the lawless nature of the land, and had chalked it up to just beasts being beasts.

However, after hearing this, he realized that the lawlessness was actually created out of necessity. Or else, the entire ecosystem of the beasts would disappear.

Alex nodded as well, understanding more about the intent of the beasts. "Then I expect the 7 colonies to be lawful? Are they as strict as human lands, or a little less?" he asked.

"To be honest, I do not know how lawful or strict the human land is myself, but from what I've heard, it's about the same," the swan saying. "No killing, no stealing, no making it hard to live, etc, etc."

"I suppose the only thing we don't have to worry about is the economy," the Swan said. "We don't have spirit stones that we trade for things. We use natural material that we find."

"Everyone is free to go out and get what they want to, so there is no need for a single currency that controls all."

"Do you guys not use spirit stones?" Alex asked.

"We do, but it is not different from the plants we find or the material we discover. It is considered no different," the Swan said.

"And where exactly are we going right now?" Alex asked. "One of the 7 colonies?"

The Swan nodded. "With the Emperor's son coming and with another King's arrival, our 7 Leaders have gathered in the Lizard Colony, and that is where I am taking you."

Alex was happy to hear that. 'The Lizard colony, huh?' he thought. He wished it was a different one, but there wasn't much he could argue here.

He talked with the Swan for a bit longer, trying to understand a bit more about the world that he had entered. As they talked, the topic slowly went toward one that Alex wasn't certain if he could ask or not.

After thinking for a while, he didn't see anything wrong with questioning that.

"I heard that your leaders closed the border of this land half a century ago. May I ask why they did that?" he asked.

The Swan thought for a moment and shook his head. "We had a large amount of humans come hunt the beasts in these lands and it was causing problems. So, we decided to close this land for the beasts to reproduce and recover."

Chapter 1417: Trade

Alex didn't believe that. The Crown Prince knew he didn't believe that as well.

He had already been told that this wasn't true, and this was in fact something that was a lie that was told since they didn't want the truth to come out.

As for what the truth was, Alex was looking forward to knowing it. He wanted to know if the players really did have anything to do with it, or if it in fact had everything to do with the Azure Dragon that died around the same time.

Alex was almost certain that was the reason more so than anything. The timing fit, although the reasoning did not.

Why would the beasts close their border?

Realizing that he was wasting his time trying to come up with an answer, he stopped wondering. He looked toward the prince who flew next to him.

"How many times have you been here, prince?" he asked.

"A few times, but not the long way," he said.

"The long way?" Alex gave a confused look. "Do you mean there was a shorter way than this?"

"A teleportation formation," the Crown Prince said. "There was one that linked this place directly to a location behind the capital that was only accessible to our family."

"However, when humans were no longer allowed, the formation was stopped effectively, cutting off our method of short travel to their lands," the prince explained.

"Ah, that would've been the perfect way to come here," Alex said. "I suppose this isn't bad either. I do get to see much of the Beast Paradise, which was my intention in coming here for anyway."

Alex started asking other questions, mostly about how far the jurisdiction of each colony went on for, if the beasts had absolute authority over their own colony, how the outside trade worked, etc.

Alex was given the answers directly.

The colonies were overall ruled by the laws made by the 7 Leaders. The 7 Leaders always came from 7 important families of beasts and were changed only when a leader no longer wanted to work, or when they were unable to.

It was not so different from the 10 council elders back in the Southern Continent.

The 7 Leaders maintained the same law in their own colony, but they were the only Leader when it came to it. If another leader came to that colony, except for certain scenarios, they would have to accept the other one's authority.

The trading system between the Beast Paradise and the humans was a weird one.

It wasn't a normal trade situation as every trade happened in bulk.

Before going to trade, each colony would provide the same amount of materials to the pile that would be traded. They did so every month for 5 months in a row.

The items they gave away included anything from a piece of shiny rock to their own fur and feathers. Anything a human would buy, they would give up for the trade.

Once everything was gathered, and all 7 colonies had provided equal worth of materials, they were taken to trade.

Over the course of the next few weeks, they would trade the items they had with the merchants. They would sell what they could, and what they couldn't, they threw away as waste as it wouldn't be sold.

The things that they would usually buy were talismans, cultivation and technique books for beasts, formation flags and plates, pills and pastes, and various other items that they liked.

Once the trade was done, the newly traded items were taken back to distribute amongst the crowd.

This happened once every six months, so the residents of the colony got excited every time the trade was done. After all, that meant that they finally got to see the things that they had gotten from the trade.

The things that were traded for were always a surprise to everyone but the ones that were involved, so it was a fun time for many.

The 7 Leaders sat down and distributed what they had gotten amongst everyone as they all reaped the benefits of the trade together.

"That's an interesting system," Alex said. "Did it start before the border was closed or after?"

"It's always been like that," the swan answered. "We are always in need of resources that aren't natural, so we've traded for it all the time."

"Hmm, do you not have beasts that came to do those things as well?" Alex asked.

"We do," the swan answered. "But they could never hope to be as good as the humans who started learning so much earlier than most of us could hope to. You can't teach something to most of the beasts as they wouldn't even be wise until they entered the Saint realm."

"Ah, yes. That is true," Alex said. He turned around toward the crown prince. "Speaking of trade, what exactly is it that you're looking for here, prince? Is it something that is not traded normally?"

"I'm afraid not," the prince said. "Your majesty might know this. It's a blood marrow from the limb of a 6-Eyed Deer."

"6 Eyed Deer's bone marrow you say?" Alex thought for a bit. He went through his mind to see what that was.

Unlike plants, the beast half of the information in his mind wasn't so easily accessible. He had to give himself a bit of time to think through before he found what he was looking for.

The bone marrow of the 6-Eyed Deer had a heavy Wood aura, on top of having a blood aura in it. If used properly, it was capable of producing a lot of energy that was useful for the growth of something.

"Are you trying to grow something? Or maybe heal it?" Alex asked.

The Crown Prince stared at Alex with an absolutely shocked look. "How... how did you know?" he asked.

"There is no other need for the blood marrow but in something that could aid another thing to grow. I guessed what it was based on that," Alex said.

"Wow, you truly are incredible at this, your majesty," the Crown Prince said. "Yes, I am indeed trying to find it for a similar reason. Well, it's my fiancée that needs it. I simply came to find it."

"Ah, lady Luoyang. But why?" Alex asked. "There are hundreds of pills that heal people already."

"It's not really to make a pill that heals people, but rather to create a new pill from scratch," he said. "This is her way of trying to take a step closer to the 10th Level which requires one to make their own pill."

"Ah! That makes sense," Alex said. "Lady Luoyang decided to go with a healing pill huh? Is it accepted even if the pill make isn't very useful?"

"It's only the success in making a new pill that matters, not the pill itself. She's made many Common and True pills, and now she's trying her hands at a Saint pill."

"If she succeeds, she would be half of the way through to the final Level as an alchemist," the Crown Prince said. "After that, all she will require to reach Level 10 is to learn how to make 90% pills."

"Then, the Eastern Continent will have 2 Level 10 Alchemists."

Chapter 1418: The Lizard Colony

The Crown Prince seemed quite proud of his fiancée's progress. His grin was very wide when he talked about her.

"What about you?" Alex asked. "Do you not wish to reach Level 10 as well? Follow in your father's footsteps and all."

"I do. Of course, I do," the prince said. "But sadly I do not have the time for it right now. With all the military stuff that I'm forced to look after, I don't really have much time in the day."

"Haha, you're more busy as a crown prince than I have ever been as a King," Alex said.

The Crown Prince chuckled awkwardly. "With father going into closed cultivation, the rest of the continent's well being falls under my shoulder. I was supposed to come here to get what I wanted nearly an year ago, but because of everything I had to keep pushing it all back. You saw how long you had to wait."

"I did," Alex said. "You made me wait for so long I nearly broke through again."

The Crown Prince chuckled at what he believed was just a joke. "But you don't have to worry about me, your Majesty," he said. "Sooner or later, I will reach Level 10 too. And for that, I will have you to thank."

"Hmm?" Alex was taken back a little. "Thank me? Why?"

"Because of your deal with my father," the prince said. "Thanks to that, I will be able to acquire the same knowledge my father does."

"You'll have to wait 100 years, you know?" Alex asked.

"Just a century, your majesty. I spent longer between Level 5 and 6. If 100 years is all it takes for me to go from Level 9 to 10, then I will be more than happy to."

Alex didn't know what to say, not that there was anything to say. He had agreed to this since in that amount of time, his own alchemists would grow and learn so much more than these two father son would.

"I'll look forward to your ascension to Level 10 in a century's time then," Alex said. "Have you made a new pill yet?"

"Yes, I've made one," the Crown prince said. "A simple pill to dampen your own emotions. Not that useful though."

"Oh, then it truly is just the other half remaining then," Alex said. "Then you are already a step beyond your own fiancée."

"Haha, I didn't want to sound ostentatious," the Crown prince said. They talked for a while about various mundane things that they wanted to.

Somewhere around noon, Alex decided that he had seen everything he had wanted from the wild and asked the Swan to speed up.

They flew for a while longer. Even at the fastest, they were told it would take them half a day to reach the colonies and they weren't being lied to.

Midnight had passed by the time they arrived at the colony that they were flying towards for nearly 18 hours.

Coming closer, they saw the colony for afar. Not only was the moon hung high in the sky, the colony itself was bright with lanterns and what not that made it look like a normal city.

There was no walls or anything surrounding the colony. Instead what separated the colony from the forest was a large area of farmland that they seemed to be using to grow some food.

Beyond the farmland were a large bunch of houses, all of which were made up of wood and didn't look very aesthetically appealing. They were of different shapes and sizes, all meant to accommodate the beasts those houses belonged to.

At the center of the colony was a patch of land with green grass growing on it with a pond at the very middle.

There were a few beasts that rested outside in the grass and many looked up to see who had come.

The swan landed outside the colony and looked toward the two. "This is the Lizard Colony. We're here," he said.

Alex looked in awe while the Crown Prince didn't show much amazement at the place as he had been there before.

The swan quickly notified someone, and before Alex could take it all in, a few beasts walked out from inside the village.

They seemed to have been waiting for them and quickly arrived to accept them.

Alex saw nearly a dozen or so beasts that came, but only 7 of them stood at the front.

"Welcome to my Colony," a Lizard slowly crawled out front from even the seven. It sounded masculine from what the two heard of it and saw that it was a sleek Lizard with smooth, scaled skin.

The scales on its body went from different shades of blue to different shades of green.

"I am Hua Xiyi," the Lizard spoke up. "The leader of the colony."

Alex bowed a little in greeting.

"Senior Xiyi, greetings," the Crown prince bowed. "Do you remember me?"

"Of course, a young prince," the Lizard said, bringing its tongue out to speak to him. "How could I ever forget about our future Emperor?"

The Crown Prince gave a chuckle.

"Let me introduce you all to him," the Crown Prince spoke. "This is Alex, King of the Southern Continent."

The beasts made a collective sound that was either them being surprised or them being confused. It was hard to tell.

"Welcome, King Alex. We've heard about you a lot," the beasts said.

"Oh, news of my arrival has reached here as well?" he asked. "I must say I'm flattered to know that you know of me."

"We heard it in passing a year ago from the traders that came to us. They said you have incredible Alchemy talent and are also very young. That made us curious about you and we learned as much as we can."

"I'm happy to hear you seniors have been curious about me," Alex said.

"We have," the Lizard said. "But there is a confusion that I must ask you to clear."

"Please, go ahead," Alex said.

"How did you become the King of the Southern Continent? Did something happen to her majesty the Vermilion Bird that you had to take over?" the Lizard asked.

"No," Alex said. "I didn't take over anything. I was crowned a king by Her Majesty to help her take care of the continent in her absence. I am very much her subordinate."

"Huh?"

"Oh!"

And another sound exclaiming surprise could be heard from the group, especially the 7.

"Her majesty crowned you to be a king?" the Lizard asked.

"She did," Alex answered.

The Lizard seemed perplexed for some reason. "Does that mean her Majesty is healed from her battle 5 thousand years ago?"

Alex was surprised they knew about it, but then every important figure in the Eastern Continent probably knew about it, and these beasts were no exception.

"Oh, you guys must not have heard about it," the Crown Prince spoke up. "The phoenix ruler in Southern Continent healed and came out to rule again over a decade ago. That was when his Majesty was crowned a King as well."

"Oh, so her Majesty is back, huh," the Lizard said. "I see. That's good news to hear."

Finally, the Lizard looked at the two and spoke up.

"Please come into the colony."

Chapter 1419: The 6

The other 6 Lord of the remaining 6 colonies did not introduce themselves and simply followed the Lizard.

On the far left was a deer. It was a slender deer with a graceful antler that was large with bioluminescent vines growing in between them. What truly surprised Alex about the beast was that it had 6 eyes on its head.

'This is the 6-eyed deer that prince is talking about?' he wondered. The question now was whether this deer was going to give up its leg on its own, or if so, how was the Prince going to trade it for its legs?

That was something he was looking forward to seeing it taken care of.

A large swan walked next to it, its iridescent feathers gleaming in myriad colors from the light refracted from the various lanterns outside of the houses, as well as the light that came off from the deer's antlers.

It was a majestic creature and seemed even more so than the Swan that he came to this place with.

Next to the swan was an Ox. It had three horns on its head, both with an intense metallic sheen to it, like a trident growing out from it. It was a powerful Ox with a muscular build and golden fur adding to his majesty.

On the very right walked a massive white elephant with blue tattoos all over it. Alex wasn't sure if they were tattoos it got after being born or if it was born with it.

The white elephant had two massive tusks that curved over its head, and a trunk that it twisted around and lay rested on top of the trunks.

It was larger than any beast out here, nearly as tall as the houses around them, and yet it walked so softly, causing almost no vibrations on the ground.

The skins of its body were wrinkled and hanging, showing off its age, which was significantly older than most other beasts that were with it.

Next to it was an Eagle with sharp golden eyes and a body that had a patch of white at the head and the rest of it entirely blue. It was a weird color for a bird, but not something out of the ordinary really.

It was a fierce beast and Alex felt an aura around it that made it look almost threatening for some reason. He wondered why that was.

Finally, the last of the 7, was the Golden Lion. A beast with majestic golden fur, an even brighter mane, and a body that seemed to be carved out of marble by a master craftsman.

Alex looked at this beast the most out of all as this was the most important one to him in all of this land, for it was the Golden Lions that Bai Jingshen had married off his daughter to.

If he was going to find anything about her or even see her, it was his best bet as of yet.

The Colony looked no different from the ground as it did from the sky. Alex could only see more of how badly made the houses were.

There were no architects or engineers to build a good house amongst the beasts so they made do with what they had.

A few younger beasts got close to see the humans that had arrived in their colony, and the two men just smiled at the young beasts, most of which run away.

Alex walked, taking in everything as the Lizard explained about his Colony.

He pridefully spoke of how rich the Qi here was, how they had no shortage of natural Qi treasures in the forest, and how strong everyone's bloodline in the colony was.

Alex conveyed his awe to the lizard every few steps, praising the things he saw in the colony.

"This is truly incredible," Alex said. "Are all colonies like that?"

"They are..." the Lizard paused and looked at the 6 other beasts that hadn't spoken until now. He coughed once and said, "They have their differences, but each one is unique and thus cannot be compared."

"I see," Alex said, acting as if he did not see the other beasts start to get angry at the Lizard's consistent praise of its own colony while nearly bringing down theirs.

The 6 hadn't spoken up until now as they were beneath the Lizard in his colony. They shut up and let him take the lead, for now.

They hadn't spoken at all, but Alex did notice the Eagle of all looking back at him with a look that he couldn't grasp. He wasn't well versed in the facial expressions of every type of beast after all.

Still, he was curious why it stared at him so much more than the others. Surely it didn't know him from anywhere. Or was there something on him that it was curious about?

Ignoring that, Alex continued until they finally entered a large building that the Lizard brought them over to.

As soon as they entered, something seemed to have shifted amongst the group that confused Alex for a second.

As if finding new life, the 6 other beasts stood straighter and walked with dignity, unlike just a second ago.

They walked in further and saw a bunch of platforms for the beasts to sit on and realized what was going on.

'Ah, this must be one of the locations in the colony where all of them are equal,' he thought. Everywhere else, they had to be subservient to the Lizard in his colony, but in this hall, they were all Leaders.

Once they all took a seat, Alex and the Crown prince took a seat as well. They sat down in front of them and the crown prince spoke up first.

"Thank you for letting us come, seniors. I truly appreciate it," the Crown prince said.

"Thank you for letting me come as well. I believe it was short notice, so it must have been a little difficult to accept me," Alex said.

"Haha, no it's fine," the giant lizard said. "Since we're here. Let me first introduce you to my fellow Leaders. This—"

"No," the Eagle interrupted. "Before we go on, I want this man to answer me something."

"Hmm?" the Lizard looked surprised and the other beasts turned toward it as well. "What do you want to say, sister Ying?"

The Eagle jumped down from its platform and stared at Alex so closely that he thought she was looking into his soul.

"You... how many beasts have you killed?" she asked. "How many beasts did you have to kill to gain a blood aura so strong?"

Alex's eyes widened. 'She can sense my blood aura?' he thought in surprise. He had assumed that blood aura couldn't be sensed, and yet...

'No, she must've seen it. Her eyes look weird,' Alex thought.

"I won't lie," Alex said. "I've killed my fair share of beasts. Is that a problem?"

"How many?" the Eagle asked. "Is that why you're here? To kill some more for your own improvement?"

"Ah, you're mistaken about something," Alex said. "While I have killed beasts, what you sense about me is not something I gained from killing beasts. But rather, it is something I acquired from a group of beasts for providing my services."

Chapter 1420: Shi Guyong

"You were given the blood aura you have as a gift?" the blue Eagle asked. "Do you expect us to believe that?"

"I would hope you would," Alex said. "That is the truth after all."

"What service did you ever provide?" the Eagle asked. "To whom?"

"There were beasts in my journey that required some pills. So, in exchange for allowing giving me some of their blood, I agreed to help them."

"Pills you say," the Elephant spoke up in a feminine voice. "Are you saying that the beasts were interested in your pills?" she asked.

"Of course," Alex said. "It might sound arrogant of me, but I promise you that in all 5 continents, there are no more than a dozen beings that will reject my pills."

"That's quite the boast," the male lion spoke up, his voice surprisingly young compared to everyone that Alex had heard as of yet.

"It's not a lie, seniors," the Crown Prince spoke. "His Majesty King Alex and my royal father has a small alchemy competition two years ago, and my father lost the match. Senior here is truly the greatest living alchemist in the whole world."

The beasts finally calmed down a bit.

"So, did you not kill beasts?" the Eagle asked. "Did you not come here to kill some more too?"

Alex sighed. "I assure you, senior. My intention in coming here is merely to know more about this place and to gain what knowledge I can from your seniors," he said. "I will be happy to gain any strength I can from here, but I won't ever kill for it. At worst, I will trade for pills for some blood."

"Hmm," the Deer spoke in another feminine voice. "Does that answer your question, sister Ying?"

"I... guess so," the Eagle said, jumping back onto the platform where it had come down from.

"Haha, now that we've calmed down, let me introduce the rest of us properly," the Lizard said. "As I mentioned before, I am Hua Xiyi, leader of the Lizard colony."

"This is Xiang Taikong, the Leader of the Elephant colony," the lizard said, pointing to the white Elephant next to him. The Elephant bowed a little and the two men followed suit.

"This is Tian Jiguang, leader of the Swan colony," the Lizard introduced the swan.

"It's a pleasure to have you here with us, guests," the Swan bowed a little, its feminine voice soothing the two men. The gleaming light from its feather had gotten stronger than before now that it was inside the bright room.

"This is Lu Youmei, leader of the Deer Colony." The 6-Eyed Deer gave a slight bow.

"Over here, we have Ying Aoxiang. Sister Ying already made a show of her character, so you know what she is like," the Lizard said.

"My apologies. I saw your intense blood aura and was worried that you were here for a different reason than normal," she said.

"Sister Ying cares for not only the beasts from her Eagle colony but also beasts outside of it, so you should be able to understand why she is so concerned with this."

"Of course," Alex said, bowing a little in her direction.

"That right there is Niu Jianding, leader of the Ox Colony. He is the fiercest leader amongst us, so try not to get on his bad side," the Lizard chuckled.

"Please do not listen to him," the Ox spoke. "I do not hold malice against anyone for minor reasons."

Alex smiled at the ox.

"And finally, this is Zhu Xiongwei," the Lizard explained. "Oh, young prince haven't met him either, have you?"

"No, this is my first time meeting, senior Shi," the Crown Prince said. "You must have become a leader recently senior. I congratulate you on becoming a leader."

"Haha, it's nothing," the Lion said in its young voice. "You don't have to congratulate me."

"I must," the Crown Prince said. "Last time I came here... what was it? 300 years ago? The leader was still senior Guyong. It must have changed in between."

"Yes, it did," the Lion said.

"When did you become a Leader?" the Crown Prince asked.

"It was about half a century ago," the lion said.

"Wasn't it around the time we shut down the borders?" the Ox asked.

"Yeah, it was," the Deer affirmed.

"Oh," the Crown Prince said. "Where is senior Guyong then? He wasn't old enough to leave the group from what I remember. Was he?"

"He was not," the Lizard said, hesitating a little.

"My uncle passed away," the Lion finally said. "Due to some cultivation complications, he ended up passing away, and I was made the Leader."

"Ah, my condolences," the prince quickly said.

"My condolences as well," Alex said.

"It's alright. It's been a while, and... I've gotten used to it," the Lion said with a smile that wasn't genuine at all.

Alex looked at the lion, slightly concerned about something.

If what they were talking about was true, then there was a possibility that he had considered something wrong. All this time, he had a single assumption.

The Azure Dragon had died 50 years ago and it had died due to a Heavenly Judgment lightning.

It was a conclusion he had come to 2 years ago after visiting the Hall of Fame in the Painting school. There, he had seen a painting that depicted a lightning strike, and based on the people who had witnessed the strike from the capital, everyone had said that it came from the Northeast.

But... if the previous Leader of the Lion colony really had died 50 years ago, and if he were to assume he had died while trying to break through to the Immortal realms then... did that not fit the scenario of the painting?

In the first place, was Alex sure it was Heavenly Judgment? What if it was a Tribulation lightning?

He was basing his knowledge on people who knew neither, so it could be that they didn't give him a perfect impression of what had truly happened.

But... if that was the case, then... when had the Azure Dragon died?

Bai Jingshen's inability to come to this continent made it apparent that Dragon had in fact died over 50 years ago, and his not finding him up in the Immortal realm confirmed it.

If that was to be considered then... how had the Dragon died?

It was still very much likely that Alex's first assumption was the correct one. But just because the second one was less likely, it didn't mean that he could let go of the possibility.

As he was thinking about the death of the Lion, Alex paused for a moment and looked up at the Lion in front of him.

"If you don't mind, may I ask what the full name of the previous leader was?" Alex asked.

"Uncle's full name?" the Lion asked, a little confused. "It was Shi Guyong. Why do you ask?"

"Just asking," Alex said with a smile, but he wasn't happy at all.

'Shit!' Alex thought. He was completely blindsided by this information as his mind had been focused on the other thing.

'Dammit,' he thought. 'What the hell am I supposed to do now?'

One of the few things he hoped would be of help when coming to this continent had just disappeared after he found that Shi Guyong was dead.

After all, he was the Golden Lion that Bai Meirong, Pearl's grandmother and Bai Jingshen's daughter, had been married to.

He was Pearl's maternal grandfather, and he was dead.