

Alchemy 1421

Chapter 1421: The Ropes

They had come here to find out more about Pearl's mother, to see if they could avenge her. However, the very first thing they found out was that her father was dead.

Not only that, he had died 50 years ago, around the same time when Pearl and his Mother had flown over to the Western Continent.

Around the same time, the Lightning had struck someone in this area. Around the same time, the Beasts paradise had closed its borders.

If he were to believe his first hypothesis, then it was around the same time that the Azure Dragon had died as well.

Around the same time, players had started joining the game.

How much of this was coincidence? How much of it was not? Alex believed that a few of these could really be coincidences. But he refused to believe that all of it was.

There were things going on here that he needed to learn more about.

Clearly enough, he needed more information.

He looked at the 7 beast, especially the lion and frowned. Could he ask them directly? Would the question be too much?

What if they were involved in it all too? What if they had gotten together and killed the Shi family, killing Pearl's mother and grandfather?

'Wait no, the sword means the Azure Imperium was involved,' he thought remembering the sword in his storage ring. He had yet to bring it out in this continent as doing so would be the same as giving away who he was.

'Even if they weren't involved in attacking Pearl and his mother, they could have been involved in attacking his grandfather,' he thought. 'Or did he fail breaking through?'

Things were getting confusing now. A single possibility that he held had now branched off into different direction with none seeming too out there to not be a possibility.

'I will need to gather some facts first,' he thought. 'The more facts I have, the better it is.'

The very first fact that he wanted a confirmation on was whether Pearl's grandfather was close to breaking through to the Immortal realm or not. He was over 5 thousand years old, so there was a possibility, but Alex still wanted to find out properly.

He looked at the seven beasts and finally realized what it was that felt so odd about the beasts that had been bugging him this whole time.

He realized that... he couldn't sense any cultivation base from them at all.

That wasn't exactly correct. He could sense their cultivation aura and could tell that they were high in the Saint realm, but aside from that, there was no specificity to their aura.

It was what people felt when he used his concealment technique. Were they doing the same? He wanted to know.

"I'm sorry if I shouldn't be asking this, but I'm getting a little curious about something," he spoke up.

"Go on," the Lizard spoke. "If you shouldn't be talking about it, we'll let you know."

"Thank you," Alex said. "What I wanted to know is why I can sense your cultivation aura, but I can't tell what it is exactly. Are you using some sort of technique or artifacts?"

"Oh!" the Elephant spoke. "Because of this."

Her trunk moved around to something next to her neck and she pulled out something thick to show off to Alex that was not visible beforehand at all.

Alex looked closely and frowned for a moment as all he saw was a rope of some sort. However, when his spiritual sense landed on it, it dissipated instantly.

"Oh!" Alex realized immediately what it was that he was looking at. "That's... that's the Heavenly Silkworm's thread, isn't it? It's so big."

He saw how large the thread that went around the Elephant was and was surprised by it. He looked around at the other beasts and started noticing more and more threads woven into ropes.

The deers antler, the Ox's tail, the Lizard's arms, the Swan's wings, the Eagle's talons, and the Lion's mane.

Each of these beasts was wearing a Heavenly Silkworm's thread that was thick enough to be a rope. Even a single palm long thread cost a fortune out there and these beasts were wearing it as an accessory?

"Wait, Heavenly Silkworm's thread can hide cultivation aura? This is the first time I'm hearing about this," Alex said. "I was told that it only stopped Spiritual energy."

"If you have a lot of it, it can start to affect all sorts of energy," the Eagle said. "It's quite amazing."

"How do you have so much of it?" he asked. "Do you trade for it? I don't remember seeing any outside."

"Oh, no. We do not trade for it," the Ox said. "We have our own Heavenly Silkworms that we raise and get the silk from."

"Wow! You have your own silkworms, huh? That's amazing," Alex said. He tried to sense their cultivation base even through the threads, but it didn't seem like it was working.

Would it be too much to ask them to take it off so he could see what their cultivation base was underneath?

For the sake of not appearing suspicious, Alex decided to ask the burning questions in his mind later, and for now actively participated in the conversation with the beasts.

They talked for a while, asking the Crown Prince how the Emperor was and asking Alex how the Phoenix was. They didn't seem familiar with who she was, but they seemed to revere every heavenly beast at the same level instead of just the Azure Dragon.

They asked him about his age and his journey, all of which Alex had to mostly lie with some interweaving truth to make them trust him.

He did tell them that he had a beast but didn't show any to them. If he did, it would be Whisker, and he didn't want to show off his Saint realm cultivation yet.

At least not in front of the Crown Prince.

Through the Crown Prince, Alex got to know that the Emperor was still in closed cultivation, and wouldn't come out for a year at least.

"So, young prince," the Deer spoke up. "I hear you are here for one of my kin."

"Ah, yes Leader Lu," the Crown Prince spoke. "I'm making a pill and through some research, I've come to find that bone marrow from a 6-Eyed Deer would be a perfect ingredient for my next pill."

"That's quite the requirement for a pill," the 6-Eyed Deer said. "You do realize that giving away that much would weaken us quite a bit right?"

"I do, leader Lu," the Crown Prince said. "Which is why I've brought gifts for any one of your kin that is willing to go along with this stupid plan of mine."

"Haha, I'll have to see who is stupid in my Colony then," the Deer said. "Would you like to leave now or after the sun comes up?"

"Let's leave after the sun is up," the Crown Prince said before turning to Alex. "Will you be coming with me, your Majesty?"

Alex thought for a bit and looked at the Lizard. "If Senior Hua is willing, I would like to stay in the colony for a while longer. I feel as though I have many things to learn from him."

Chapter 1422: Heavenly Mulberry Tree

The beasts and men talked for a long time before they left. It was morning when they walked out and the Crown Prince left for the Deer colony along with Lu Youmei, the Deer Leader.

The other 5 leaders left soon after as well, asking Alex to visit them soon. Alex wasn't sure if they were truly interested in him coming to their colonies or not, but he sure as hell was going to use the opportunity.

"Let me show you around the colony," the Lizard said and took Alex with him to go visit the rest of the colony.

The beasts were up early morning and the young ones gawked at Alex as he walked through the colony. He looked around at the poorly made houses, the large trees that gave shade, and the giant pool in the middle of the colony.

The fields outside the colony grew a mix of food and readily sought-after alchemy and talisman ink ingredients. He was taken around to show more of the colony and the many beasts that lived there.

From what Alex could see, the beasts that were the most here were reptiles like lizards, snakes, and crocodiles, but there was also every other variety of beasts.

Most had lived here since their birth, but many came from the other colonies as well. Not only that, there were others that were wild at first and sought refuge in this place.

Other beasts knew to not come here and thus it was a safe space.

The colony was surprisingly way smaller than anything Alex could've ever expected. He had imagined something large like cities in the other locations, but this was more of a village at best.

Showing around, the Lizard leader took him to a small shed where the Heavenly silkworms were kept. It was under constant guard who also fed the worms.

"Each colony has them?" Alex asked.

"All," the Lizard said. "We share around our resources, and thus these little worms are shared around too."

"I'm curious," Alex said. "What is so special about them that they don't exist anywhere else? Or do you just have a monopoly on this and refuse to sell give it around?"

"Hmm, both," the lizard said. "We do have a monopoly and don't spread it around, but that is not the only reason why you won't find these worms elsewhere."

"They are special silkworms that only eat the Heavenly Mulberry tree leaves," the man explained. "These are special trees that don't grow just anywhere and need a special way to grow it."

"Heavenly Mulberry tree?" Alex asked.

"Yes," the Lizard said. "Don't expect me to give away more secrets though. Hahaha!"

The lizard left the shed where the silkworms were kept and started walking. Alex looked at the shed once and walked away, following the lizard while his mind quickly found the information he was looking for.

The Heavenly Mulberry tree was named as such because it was a mulberry tree that the Heavenly Silkworms loved to eat the leaves from.

It was a special mulberry tree that was fed on the manure of beasts that ate various different herbs. Most beasts with high cultivation bases never ate anything, so it was mostly ones with low cultivation that even bothered to eat herbs full of energy.

Since they couldn't digest it all, they left manure that was surprisingly full of energy. These manures were used to grow the Heavenly Mulberry tree and those leaves would then be consumed by the silkworms, and would then lay the silk threads.

There was surprisingly a lot of information on the mulberry leaves in his mind despite their lack of use as an ingredient for alchemy.

Now understanding its usage, Alex went on with the lizard.

After going through the colony, Alex was given a simple room to stay in while he was there. He entered and immediately set up a few simple formations to hide himself from outside notice.

Pearl came out in a flash of light, looking around at the room. "Is this the Beast Paradise?" he asked the moment he was out.

"Yes," Alex said. "I have... bad news."

Pearl looked at him, confused. "What bad news?" he asked.

"I found out last night that your grandfather, Shi Guyong, died half a century ago," Alex relayed the information.

"... what?" Pearl looked at him with a blank look. "My grandfather is dead?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I do not know yet how he died or what happened, but I will try to find out soon."

"What about Grandmother?" Pearl asked.

"I do not know," Alex said. "I am currently in one of the 7 colonies in the Beast realm, ruled by a Lizard. We will need to go to the Lion's Colony, where another Golden Lion is currently a leader."

"If I'm not mistaken, he is a cousin to your mother, so you are somewhat related," Alex said. "I don't know if I can have you meet him or not though."

"Why not?" Pearl asked.

"Because I'm worried that he might be involved in your grandfather's murder," Alex said. "I still don't know how he died, or if someone was involved in his death. I don't know if your grandmother is alive or not."

"So, I need to remain vigilant of everyone here, just in case they all are somehow involved," Alex said.

Pearl got quiet for a while. "Can we force my Uncle or whoever he is to speak?" he asked. "I'm sure he has information."

"Hmm," Alex thought. "I don't know what his cultivation base is though. We'll be taking risks if we try."

"Will we get anywhere if we play it safe?" Pearl asked. "I think it is time to take some risks for sure."

Alex gave it some thought. "If we are going to even think of doing such a thing, we'll need to be stronger. I'll need to be stronger," he said. "I'll need to get some blood from the beasts."

"Let's do it," Pearl said. "Even if everything goes wrong, we can at least know who was involved in mother's death."

Alex nodded. "Alright, I'll do something about it," he said and they stopped talking about it. Right now, it was time to get stronger.

Alex cultivated, getting ever so closer to his breakthrough. If he let the Yin in his dantian fester for a while longer, he could certainly reach the next realm in just a month or so.

After he was done with the cultivation with both Pearl and Whisker, he walked out of the room and went to find the Lizard.

The Lizard did nothing but go around the colony, enjoying his time. He stayed by the pond with others and basked in the sunlight.

Alex went up to him and asked, "Senior, would you mind if I were to ask everyone here for something?"

"Hmm? What do you want to ask?" the Lizard inquired.

"As I mentioned the day before, I made pills for beasts that gave me their blood. Would it be okay if I were to do the same thing here as well?" he asked.

"Our blood for pill?" the Lizard asked and looked around for a bit before turning back toward Alex. "Unfortunately, we have no need for pills. Thank you for your concern though."

Chapter 1423: A little bit of Lightning

Alex was taken aback a little at the refusal. "You... refuse?" he asked. "But these are good pills, senior."

"What need do we beasts have for strong pills?" the Lizard asked. "Besides, we get good pills from the traders all the time. I can assure you, we do not lack pills."

Alex wanted to speak again, but the Lizard cut him off. "I know you want our blood to improve yourself, but it just isn't going to happen. It's simply impossible for you to buy something like that with just mere pills; ones mind you that we already have."

"May the ones from the other colony will accept it, but I won't," the Lizard said.

"Can I not ask the beasts directly?" Alex asked. "What if they wish to—"

"No," the Lizard said. "In my colony, everyone will follow my rules. If all you wish is blood, go find it somewhere else."

Alex was stumped for a few seconds. He wasn't expecting an outright rejection at all. He couldn't even ask the other beasts it seemed.

He was a little surprised at the rudeness and turned around to leave. He had nothing to do here.

The lizard watched Alex leave and smirked to himself. He was a cunning fellow. While he acted as if he was wise and kind on the outside, on the inside, he has a sly personality and did not want someone else to profit off of him if he could allow for it.

After learning that Alex could improve himself through other beasts' blood, he was a little envious. In his envy, he decided to not help him at all.

"Hmph," he spoke softly. "He will leave soon enough. You better not give him anything for the pills. We have no need for the pills."

The few beasts that were around them nodded.

The lizard continued laying on the sun for a while longer when the sun suddenly disappeared.

"Hmm?" the Lizard opened his eyes and looked up to see dark clouds filling the sky. "It's about to rain, we better—"

Before he could finish its words, a lightning bolt fell from the sky, landing somewhere in the colony. The Lizard quickly jumped up, surprised and fearful of the lightning.

He had been scared of lightning for a while now, and this one happening this close to him cared for him even more.

"Leave, go to your house. Hide!" the Lizard shouted, quickly rushing to his house where there were defensive formations to protect himself. He heard another thunderous strike and felt fearful.

He could tell these were no ordinary strikes of lightning and that scared him.

He was scared that these might be the same lightning that he saw all those years ago, one that left him terrified.

He flinched as he felt another loud sound of lightning falling from the sky. He tried his best to control himself, but the next bolt of lightning scared him even further.

'It's getting stronger?' he thought. He couldn't imagine how it was getting stronger at all.

And how had there been 4 bolts of lightning already?

Another lightning strike fell, one even stronger than before and he was even more terrified now.

He had no idea what was happening. The last time lightning strikes had scared him this much, there had only been 3 of them. However, with 5 this time, and all so close, he was supremely terrified to even go anywhere.

Even with all his cultivation base, the lizard did not want to face the lightning that might come for him. He stayed inside his house for a while before he realized that the lightning strikes had stopped.

He slowly walked out of his house in trepidation and looked around at the bright sunny day.

"What?" he couldn't understand what had just happened. How was the land sunny all of a sudden?

He walked out and looked in the direction where the lightning seemed to have struck. He thought for a second where that was and realized what had happened.

"Oh no," he thought. "That human. He must've died."

He quickly flew over to where Alex was staying and was about to burst through the house when the door opened on its own and Alex walked out, completely unharmed.

"Y-you, you're alive?" the Lizard asked.

"Of course, senior," Alex said. "Why wouldn't I be?"

"But... that lightning, it didn't kill you?" he asked.

"Hmm? Is the lightning supposed to kill me for some reason?" he asked with a confused look.

"But the... wait, no. This one was weaker," he mumbled to himself. "How are you unharmed still? Did the lightning not strike here?"

The lizard looked through the house and was surprised to see the lack of damage as well. It was as if the lightning was an illusion, brought forth from his fear.

But that was not the case. There had been lightning. He wasn't hallucinating it.

"What happened to the lightning strike?" he asked.

"Oh, the Pill cloud lightning?" Alex asked. "I blocked it to make my pill."

"Your... pill?" the lizard was simply unable to realize what he was talking about.

"Yes," Alex said. "My pill."

He showed the pill bottle that he was holding in his hands to the lizard. He opened the bottle and let the pill flow out with 5 clear lightning scars on it.

"Do you know about pill veins, senior?" Alex asked.

"Pill veins?" the lizard looked up at Alex.

Alex nodded. "When a pill reaches 100% harmony, it calls the pill clouds that you saw earlier. If you can defend the pill from the strikes, you get a pill with those scars known as pill veins. The more veins there are, the better the pill will be."

The Lizard looked at Alex with a doubtful look. "So that lightning... it wasn't anything dangerous?" he asked.

"Of course not, senior. I wouldn't dare do something like that if it was dangerous," Alex said. "I only wished to make a pill so I could continue cultivating."

The Lizard looked at the pill in his hand. "This is a pill for cultivating?" he asked. Now that he was looking at it, it was indeed a pill that improved one's cultivation speed. He had a few of those before.

However, the speed they gave was never truly worth their price, especially since the beasts had nothing to do but cultivate all day in this place.

Still... the smell and the aura that came from the pill, it was more intense than anything he had ever felt.

"Hmm, it looks like senior doesn't believe my words," Alex said. "Why don't you try it then? I'll let you see why I am the best alchemist in the entire realm."

"You're giving me this pill?" the Lizard asked.

"Consider this my payment in return for you letting me stay in this colony," Alex said and bowed. "I'll see you in a few days, senior."

Alex closed the door without saying anything else and left the Lizard alone outside with the pill in his hand.

The lizard looked at the pill for a while before he decided to see just how good the pill was for the human to boast so much.

'Hmph! I'll see if it's good or not,' the lizard thought and returned back to his home where he took the pill and started cultivating.

Chapter 1424: Business

Alex did nothing productive for the next 2 days aside from cultivating in his room all day long. He didn't even make a single pill as he already had all that he needed.

He cultivated with his beasts for the next 2 days, and then on the third day, he waited.

There were two possibilities in what was going to happen next, and Alex was ready for either of them. He stayed there in the room, alone for a while.

And then, the Lizard finally came back.

Alex waited for him to knock on the door before walking out.

"Oh, senior! You're back?" he asked with a surprised look.

"Y-yes, I am back. I'm sorry I left you alone for two days," the man said.

"It's alright," Alex said. "Now that you are out, I can finally ask you."

"Ask me? Ask me what?" the Lizard spoke curiously. He had wanted to speak up first, but since Alex wanted to speak, he let him.

"I wanted to ask if you could have someone take me to the closest colony," Alex said. "I plan on leaving this place."

"What?" the Lizard's eyes widened. "Why? Why would you want to leave this early?"

"Huh?" Alex stared at the lizard. "I thought you didn't want me here. Isn't that why you refused to allow me to carry out my business here? If can understand if you hate it. I will leave."

"What? No, who said that?" the Lizard said.

"You did," Alex said. "Since you don't seem to like me or want me to stay here, I will leave this place. I'm sorry I was a problem to you."

"No, no, no, no, no," the Lizard said. "I- I don't hate you. Who said that? No. I was just saying we didn't need your pills because we had enough. Bu—"

"Yeah, I understand that," Alex said. "Since you have enough pills, I will go and ask the others who will hopefully buy it from me."

"Wait," the Lizard stopped him from leaving. "Let me finish what I was about to say. I apologize, I was mistaken."

Alex turned back around, holding himself from grinning, and looked at the beast. "What did you say senior?"

"I said I apologize. Your pills are amazing, and I would love to buy them if I can. Please, don't leave," the lizard said.

"Hmm, are you sure senior?" Alex asked. "You don't have to force yourself to lie."

"Please stop acting innocent," the Lizard said. "I get it. Your pill is good. I will buy it. Just stop this."

Alex was taken back a little. So he had been seen through? Maybe he needed more lessons on how to make his acting more believable.

"Okay," Alex said. "Then can I run my business here?"

"Yes," the Lizard said. "Do what you want. It's your choice now."

Alex finally showed his grin. "Thank you for coming to an understanding, senior. Would you like to be my first customer then?" he asked.

"Hmm? What do I need to do?" the lizard asked.

"It's simple really," Alex said. "You will have to bring me ingredients to make the pills. I will give you a list of ingredients for different pills, and you can judge what you can get based on that."

"Once you get the ingredients, I will make the pill for you. The price for making the pill will be something precious."

"It can be Saint ingredients, or spirit stones, or anything, but I will take 2 main things as the most precious of all."

"The blood of a living beast that is in the Saint realm, or the Beast core of a dead one. I will let everyone decide which ones they want to use. The decision is up to you as well."

Alex pulled out the list of ingredients and handed it to the Lizard. "I have everything prepared. I have a few ingredients to make around 5 more pills, so I will get started on that. Once you bring back the ingredients, I will make even more."

The lizard grumbled, having fallen right into his trap. "You wanted this to happen from the very start," he said. "Fine, I'll get your damn ingredients. As for the payment, I can't guarantee what you'll get."

"I will wait for any that I can get," Alex said and smiled toward the Lizard, who in turn hated Alex even more. "Also, can you let everyone know that there is going to be a constant lightning strike here and they have nothing to worry about at all?"

"Huh? More lightning strikes?" the Lizard seemed worried. "But why?"

"That's how the veins are formed. If you want veins, there has to be lightning," he said.

"Alright, do what you want. I'll let them know," the Lizard said and walked away.

Alex returned to his room and started making the few pills that he had promised. He had so many ingredients that he hadn't used because he was constantly on a tour of the Emerald Kingdom.

What time he did have during those times had been spent on learning the Wood ingredients as they were his main priority. That was to say, he didn't lack ingredients at all.

Still, he was going to make someone else pay to bring the ingredients to him now.

He wouldn't have minded using his own, but with the stunt, the Lizard pulled off, he no longer wanted to.

He finished making the 5 pills he had mentioned. About 15 minutes after he was done, a young Saint Beast came up to his house and handed over a few ingredients that they had in their storage already.

Along with that, they also brought a few of the things that Alex asked for.

Alex saw a small wooden bucket full of blood as well as 2 beast cores. Judging from the aura of the cores, neither one of the beasts had been in the Saint Core realm before it had died.

"That's good enough for starters," he thought and started preparing the ingredients for the pills he was going to start making soon enough.

Chapter 1425: Improvement

Alex received a lot of ingredients from the beasts over the course of the next few days, of which over 80% he turned into pills with pill veins.

Some of the ingredients were so poorly kept in their storages that Alex would have to spend hours improving them with his Supreme Elemental Accord, which he didn't want to do.

The pills he made more than satisfied the old lizard, who happily came back to Alex to give him more and more ingredients.

When Alex said that he was planning on leaving soon now that resources here would start to run dry, the Lizard started bringing better items to entice him to stay.

Of the items he got, Alex received in total nearly 200 liters of Saint Beast blood, and around 30 different cores, 3 of which were from Saint Soul realm beasts.

He hadn't expected much from them, but he had ended up gaining quite a bit. In exchange for a few hours of pill making, that was more than what he could have asked for.

He absorbed the blood aura the moment he was done with making the pills and as for the core, he had turned around 4 of them into Blood Beasts by now, all of which had strength around the middle of the Saint Soul realm.

With the difference in the quality of the beast cores and the blood aura that he had, he could only push up the powers of the blood beast by that much.

Due to his Dao of Blood Aura which allowed him to convert Qi into Blood Aura, Alex could make Blood Beasts every day if he wanted to.

However, due to his Qi naturally running out and him not being able to cultivate for a few days after eating one of the cultivation pills, he only did it so frequently.

One of the few things he had learned about beast blood during this time was the fact that the beasts that he had already made beforehand weren't as good as the ones he made before.

When his blood aura was around Saint Soul 1st realm's equivalent in strength and he used the core of a Saint Condensation 1st realm beast, the most he would be able to bring that beast up was in between Saint Foundation 5th realm and Saint Core 1st realm.

If his blood aura then improved to Saint Transformation 1st realm, he would be able to improve the blood beast to Saint Core 5th realm at best.

However, in the same scenario, if he were to take a new Saint Condensation 1st realm beast core and used it to make another blood beast, the beast would always have a strength over the Saint Core 5th realm, few even going as high as Saint Soul realm itself.

As a result, it was always better to make new blood beasts, rather than keep using the old ones.

He hadn't had much of a chance to gain the core that he wanted to turn into Blood beasts, but now he did, and so he made them.

Nearly a month passed of Alex doing nothing but making pills, making blood beasts, and cultivating.

Then, at the end of that month, he reached the pinnacle of what he could with Saint Core 8th realm.

So, that very night, he broke through.

Alex felt a surge of power in him that was only so much stronger than the last realm but had a clear difference at the same time.

"Saint Core 9th realm," he thought to himself. It was a shock to him just how incredible his speed had been for cultivation lately.

After he reached Saint realm, his speed was supposed to have slowed down to a crawl. Spending multiple years to break through any realm was considered normal at this stage.

Even then, thanks to his own talent, amazing skills, and pill, he managed to make it faster.

When he reached Saint Foundation realm, he had assumed it was going to slow down. And yet, he made pills with Pill veins which made his cultivation speed even faster.

As his pills continued getting better, they continued improving as well.

However, when he broke through to the Saint Core realm, he had imagined that it was going to be exceptionally slower for him than at any other time.

And he was used to it.

However, with a lucky or maybe even fateful encounter with the young girl that he assumed had the Moon Goddess' body, his speed had grown even more now.

"Just 8 months," he thought to himself. It had been exactly 8 months since he broke through to the 8th realm. And 8 months later, he had broken through to the 9th realm.

This was a speed he wasn't anticipating without using any external treasures at all.

Neither Pearl nor Whisker were even close to breaking through once again, and he had. That was simply incredible.

That wasn't to say Pearl's cultivation was slow at all. He was way faster than any other person he had yet seen.

With the White Tiger's Dominating Body technique, not only was his cultivation base increasing, but so was his body cultivation.

Alex was jealous of the past him that had the White Tiger's bloodline and could cultivate with Pearl to improve himself. Now that the White Tiger's bloodline was no longer in him, he couldn't do anything.

It wasn't like he hadn't tried asking Pearl to give him his bloodline if he could. He had, but it simply hadn't worked at all.

From what Alex could tell unless Pearl gave up the 10 drops of blood essence that made him what he was, he could never regain the bloodline again.

As a result, Alex gave up on the idea of ever gaining either the White Tiger's bloodline or the Vermillion Bird's bloodline.

If he ever really did want one, he would have to kill a truly strong heavenly beast with a cultivation base he couldn't even name yet. Only then would it most likely work.

Alex went to find the Lizard leader to tell him that it was time for him to leave. He wanted to go around to the other colonies and visit them.

It was clear to Alex that the colony had nothing more to offer in terms of blood and cores, so it was time to leave.

"What? You're leaving?" the Lizard looked in surprise. "But it had only been a month. You need to stay for at least a year."

"I need to leave," Alex said. "Truth is, you guys are running out of resources and I also want to visit the other locations. Not to mention I have so much of the Eastern Continent itself to go around."

"But... just a few more days. I just want a few more pills, that's all," the Lizard said. Desperately. "I can get you whatever you want. I can even get you the Heavenly Silkthreads. Do you want some?"

"Silk threads?" Alex was intrigued. "Those do sound fun, but what about the Silk worms themselves?"

"Silkworms?" the lizard looked offended. "No!"

Alex shrugged. "Just think about it," he said. "Also, I wouldn't mind selling some more pills if you are willing to let me in on the secret as well."

Chapter 1426: More Trades

"What secret?" the Lizard looked at Alex with a confused look. "What are you talking about?"

"The Beast Paradise closed about 50 years ago. I wish to learn why," Alex said. "If you tell me, I will make you 50 pills of any variety that you want, each with 5 pill veins."

"Okay," the Lizard said simply. "We closed it because the new humans were getting aggressive and killing our beasts. We closed it to keep the natural order of the wild without unnecessary deaths."

"Oh," Alex gave a surprised face. "That's it, huh?"

"Of course," the Lizard said. "Should I give you the pills I want now or later along with the ingredients?"

"You can give it to me whenever you speak an oath saying that is the only reason you did so," Alex said.

The Lizard looked at Alex with a grim look. "Young man, do not tempt me," he said. "I will kill if you try to make a joke out of this."

"It was never a joke," Alex said. "I simply wish to learn the truth. You are free to refuse to tell me. If you do want to tell me the truth, you have to simply speak the oath. I also have Truth Seeking pills that we can use to bring the truth out of you, but... I wouldn't dare disrespect a senior with that sort of pill."

The lizard glared. "I told you what you wanted to know. Now make me my pill," he threatened Alex.

"The agreement was that I would make you the pills after you told me the truth,' Alex said. "Have you told me the truth?"

"I should really kill you and be done with you for this disrespect. No one dares not follow my own words in my colony," the Lizard said, his voice getting deeper and the air around it thicker.

Alex could feel the aura around him crushing him from all sides as a strong pressure landed on him. He felt discomfort for a few seconds, and then a warm Yang energy flowed out of his dantian, on its own.

The energy from his body didn't help him fight against the incoming pressure, but it did remove the discomfort, allowing him to remain standing without worry.

He stood tall in front of the lizard, unbothered by the Saint Transformation realm aura that was pressuring him.

'So definitely in the Saint Transformation realm as expected,' Alex thought. 'But how much higher?'

The Heavenly Silk threads were ever so good at hiding the other person's cultivation base. Alex wanted some for himself.

The lizard looked surprised to see that Alex wasn't budging even a bit. Anyone else would be collapsed to the ground, but he barely showed any reaction at all.

Surprised, he stopped.

"Senior, just say no if you don't want to tell me. It's fine," Alex said. "I was merely curious."

He decided not to push it. He could ask the other 6 leaders for some information if he really wanted it. However, just the aggression from the lizard alone told Alex that they really were hiding something.

As for what it was, he could only guess it was related to either the death of Pearl's Grandfather or the Azure Dragon himself.

The lizard said nothing, but its wide eyes said enough.

"How about I extend the same thing to the Heavenly Silkworms as well?" he asked. "In exchange for a single one of them, I will make you 10 different pills of your choice."

The lizard contemplated on the offer for a while, not even making a sound the whole time. He made Alex wait for nearly 5 minutes which he took to come to a decision.

"Fine!" he said. "2 silkworms for 20 pills."

"Great!" Alex said with an excited look on his face. "I'll be waiting for the list then."

"You do know that the silkworms won't survive without any food right?" the lizard asked. "And it will only eat the mulberry leaves."

"Uhh..." Alex thought for a moment. "Yes? So I will have to get the leaves too, won't I?"

The lizard grinned. "And the leaves are not cheap either," he said.

Alex narrowed his eyes. "How expensive would you say they are?"

"Each leaf for a pill," the lizard said. "That's it."

"Each leaf for a pill? No way," Alex said. "It's fine then. I don't need them."

"What?" the Lizard got worried. "But you need the leaves to feed the silkworms."

"I know," Alex said. "But I won't buy it. It's simply too expensive."

The Lizard thought for a bit. "2 leaves for a pill then?" he asked.

"No, too expensive," Alex said.

"3?" the Lizard asked. "They will be enough to feed the silkworms for a month."

"Is that so?" Alex asked. "But still, it's a bit too expensive. I'm sorry, I won't be buying that."

"Fine," the lizard said angrily. "Then I won't be selling the Silkworms either."

"Okay," Alex said. "Then I suppose I'll have to leave for the next colony and hope the leader there will accept my request."

"Dammit, young man. Are you trying to make me angry?" he asked. "If you continue this, I will kill you."

"And will you dare face the wrath of a Vermilion Bird as well?" Alex asked the lizard, who quickly cowered at the words.

It thought for a moment and was about to answer when it realized it was better to not say anything.

"2 silkworms and 100 leaves for 40 pills," the Lizard said.

Alex thought for a bit. If he continued this any longer, he was most likely not going to get any silkworms from here. "Alright, I accept it," he said.

"Bring me anything else you can alongside that, and I will make you all the pills I can in the next couple of weeks after that, I will have to leave this place."

The Lizard sighed in the end. "Fine, you can leave once you are done," he said. "I will have them get you the list and ingredients for now."

"Thank you, senior," Alex said and returned back to his room.

Once inside, he set up all of his formations again and finally released a sigh of relief. He had been worried that he was going to get hurt angering the Lizard, but thankfully he was let go.

"Trying to sell me a single mulberry leaf for a pill? Hah! He must think I'm stupid," Alex thought with a chuckle. "He might actually kill me if he ever found out what I did."

He brought out a large wooden box from his storage and opened it to see the hundreds of mulberry leaves he had in there.

Over the last month, he had sent Whisker away every time he made a pill. During that time, Whisker would steal just 1 leaf and return without ever being seen.

With the techniques Whisker had, as long as he wasn't being searched for constantly, he could easily sneak around without being noticed.

Alex sat down, ready to make the next set of pills when he realized he had a problem that he hadn't thought about at all.

"Where am I going to keep the Silkworms?"

Alex took out a thick hide of a beast and lay it on the floor in front of him. He cleared out the translucent feathers from the hide and pulled out a random cauldron before putting the now featherless hide in there.

He then brought out a select few ingredients and placed them all into the cauldron as well, crushed to pastes and powders first.

Alex then filled the entire thing with water and placed it in a low-heat furnace. It would take some time for the hide to soak in the properties of the ingredients that he used and until he was done with them, he couldn't turn it into proper leather.

He focused on making pills in the meantime, letting the thunderous roar fill the skies and the Colony once again. He made about four different pills before he was sent the list of the pills that the Lizard wanted, along with the ingredients to get started with.

The hide needed to cure in the low heat for the entire night, so Alex let it be. Once it was done, he took out the hide that was now soft by absorbing all the liquid and brought out a hammer and anvil.

He placed the soaked hide on the anvil and used a sword to scrape away the scales on the hide. Once he did so, he hammered away, pushing out the liquid from the leather as much as he could before he was to start the next process.

Alongside that, he also had to make it all flat and uniform. There was only so much thickness that he could work with for the next stage after all.

Once he was done, he put the hammer and anvil aside, before bringing out the cauldron again. Except he was going to use it not in the way a cauldron was intended to be used.

He turned the cauldron cover, starting a fire on the inside rather than the outside. It was sure to ruin a cauldron for anything alchemy related, but since this was a spare cauldron, Alex had no worries.

Once the cauldron was sufficiently heated up, Alex lay the now thin hide on it and waited for the heat to slowly do its work. The next time he took it off, it would become proper leather.

Alex left it alone, occasionally checking on it, but other than that doing nothing at all. He went back to making pills to fulfill the lizard's request.

An entire day later, Alex finally went back to check on the leather. When he saw that it was ready, he prepared a cold water bath and dunked the leather in to quickly stop the heat and set it.

When he took it out of the water, amidst the steaming water was the leather he had just prepared. He left the leather rest for a bit and finally started working on it.

He carved out as large of a circle as he could from the leather and laid it flat in front of him

Then, he started working on it.

First, he took the circular leather and started pouring Qi lines into it. He heated up his own Qi and sent it around the leather to carve through it without damaging any other part of the leather.

With the heat in control, he made multiple Qi lines through the entire leather. He continued until there was no possible way for him to add any more.

Once he was done with making Qi lines, he let the round leather rest and cool down while the Qi lines were set up. He let it be and went to make the rest of the pills.

After an hour or so, it had completely cooled down. Alex took it and wrapped it around with the string, making it look like a pouch. The entire process was similar to making storage pouches which Alex was used to.

The pouch is ready, and just like storage pouches, this one would require space too. He could use his Dao of space to add space into the pouch, just like he had with storage pouches, but that wouldn't work this time around.

This pouch needed a bit more than just space, unfortunately.

There was a formation plate that could be used, which Alex didn't have. However, making it took barely any time at all for him.

He was going for Saint formations, so he made a Saint ranked Formation plate that could easily garner over 70% easily.

Once done, he placed the pouch over the formation plate and used his Yang Qi on it. Metal formations themselves required no consideration for symmetry or ratio of the amount of Qi, but only for a spirit stone to power it.

Alex instead was using his Yang Qi, which easily activated the formation.

The moment the formation activated, he felt a disturbance in space itself. Not only that, there was disturbance in the air around him as well.

Then, a moment later, both space and air was sucked into the pouch not just from the top, but from the sides as well. The entire pouch was permeable, so the space and air were sucked in front the side as well.

Alex checked the Qi lines, seeing how many of it was in use the entire time. The space was attached to these Qi lines so only the amount that it could hold could be taken in.

After waiting for a few minutes, Alex finally stopped the formation. The space and air were both inside the pouch, exactly how he wanted it to be.

He stored away everything and just looked at the pouch. It was going to be hard to judge it on its own. He needed something to go in.

He was about to start experimentation when he sensed someone outside. He quickly went out and found the Lizard standing there.

"Hmm? Why are you here, senior?" Alex asked.

"What were you doing?" the Lizard asked.

"Me? Nothing really," Alex said.

The Lizard narrowed its eyes. "You're lying, why?" he asked. "I sensed the Space aura that you used. You were doing something."

Alex looked at the beast with a surprised look. "You... sensed space aura?" he asked. "How?"

"I have the Azure Dragon's blood in me. Sensing space is natural for me," he said.

"Oh, I see," Alex said. "Can you do anything else with this ability?"

The Lizard frowned a bit. "No," he said in an annoyed voice. "Now tell me what you were doing!"

"I was making this," Alex said, showing off the pouch.

The lizard looked at it for a moment and looked back at Alex. "You can make these too?" he asked.

"I have some practice," Alex said. "Not a whole lot though."

"Does it work?" the Lizard asked.

"No idea," Alex said. "I haven't had the time to check."

"Let's see if it works then," the Lizard said and called over someone.

A beast arrived, but not alone. He had brought over two small golden silkworms.

"Heavenly Silkworms!" Alex said, finally having seen it for the first time so close.

The Lizard took it and handed both of them over to Alex. "Try it."

Alex looked at the silkworms in his hands and after a bit of preparation, he sent them away.

The Silkworms disappeared, going into the pouch. Alex checked their status and saw that they were fine.

Finally, he smiled, happy that he had managed to successfully create a Beast pouch from start to finish.

Chapter 1428: The Deer Colony

The beast pouch worked perfectly. It was perhaps even one of the best beast pouches that was available in all of the world right now, not counting the ones that came from outside.

The most important reason for that was the ingredient Alex had used. It wasn't just as hide that he had used to make the pouch, but rather the hide of the dead 6-Winged Feathered Water Wyrms that he had killed when coming to the Eastern Continent.

With leather from such a beast like that, the leather was incredibly tough and durable, as well as being able to absorb so much energy from the other ingredients that it truly made one of the best beast pouches.

The space inside the pouch was large and spacious. Alex dropped a few mulberry leaves for the silkworms to enjoy and went about his day making pills.

The pills he needed to make for the Lizard colony were slowly coming to an end, and a week later, he was all done with it.

Now, it was time for him to leave.

He met up with the Lizard, who had prepared the beast that would be taking him away. It was a small snake in the Saint Core realm that should have been large usually but seemed to have changed its size for no reason.

"Come back," the Lizard said. "I will prepare more stuff for you."

"I'll see if I can, senior," Alex replied and flew away.

He followed the snake and went away. His next visit was the Deer Colony. From what the snake told him, the Deer colony would take just a few hours to reach.

Alex took his time, looking at the scenery of the land as he flew by. He saw many beasts and many trees, all unique in their own way.

There were so many alchemy ingredients there, but he didn't want to gather any of them. Instead, he just enjoyed his time, not having to make any pills for the first time in a few days.

It took Alex about 5 hours in total to reach the Deer colony. When he arrived, he quickly surveyed the location.

The deer colony lived next to a massive river that flowed from the north to the south. On either side of it were the many houses that were built facing the river which was the colony.

On one side of the river was a massive grassland that went out for a few dozen kilometers. On the other side was a large forest that also went on for a long while.

Between them and the houses were the many fields that were growing with food for the beasts and materials for the trade. Alex even saw a few mulberry trees growing there.

Alex landed outside the village alongside the snake and walked up to the Deer that had appeared to welcome him.

"Welcome to my humble Colony, King Alex," the Deer said. "It took you some time to get here."

"My apologies," Alex said. "I was stuck in senior Hua's Colony for a certain reason. Now that it is over, I can finally come."

"He complained about you quite a lot, you know," the Deer said. "And yet when we asked him to send you to our Colony if he doesn't want to, he always said that he couldn't do that. I'm curious why he didn't let you go."

"Probably our business," Alex said.

"What business, if I may be so bold to ask," the Deer said.

"Uhh... how about we don't talk about it right now?" Alex said. "I would like to enjoy a day or two here before I do something like that. Worry not, I won't show any bias amongst all 7 leaders. I just wish to rest for a while."

"You must be truly tired from doing something that you don't even want to speak about it," the Deer said. "Very well, come with me."

The Deer took Alex and walked him toward a house. Alex looked on either side at the houses that were once again not that well built.

Someone quickly flew toward them and Alex turned around to see who it was. When he saw the person, he was surprised.

"Crown Prince?" Alex called out.

"Your Majesty!" the Crown Prince spoke. "You took quite some time coming here. Why did you take so long?"

"Stuff happened," Alex said. "What are you still doing here? I had assumed that you had left and just forgot to tell me about it."

"Of course not," the Crown Prince said. "I'm still here. I haven't done what I came here to do."

"Oh, you haven't received the bone marrow yet?" Alex asked.

"I did," the Crown prince said happily. "It took some time to convince one of them, but I managed to in the end. Letting them know that I was the next Emperor helped quite a bit."

Alex smiled. "So, now that you've received it, are you leaving?" he asked.

"I will, in a few days," the Crown Prince said. "I needed to let the bone marrow sit on the sun for a week or so before it was ready to use, so I remained here for the past 10 days."

"I just got done with it and decided to leave after a few days. I was in fact planning on coming over to the Lizard Colony to see if you were leaving as well," the Crown Prince said. "But... it doesn't look like you want to leave so soon."

"I don't plan on leaving until I've thoroughly visited all 7 Colonies," Alex said. "I have no idea when I will next get to visit this place."

"Makes sense," the Crown Prince said, nodding to himself before seeing the Deer and the rest around Alex. "Ah, I must have stopped you guys on your tour. Let us carry on."

"It wasn't really a tour," the Deer said. "I was simply showing him to his residence for however long he will be staying with us."

Alex was then taken to his room by the Deer and was left to rest for the remaining day and night. He was quite tired, so he used the opportunity to truly rest for the entire day.

The next day, he was taken on a tour of the Colony by the Deer, along with the Crown Prince, and was shown the many things that the colony had to offer.

Alongside that, Alex spent the next 2 days talking with the Crown prince about various things and was reminded that he couldn't stay in there for too long.

In just a year and a half, the Golden Auction, the Continent's most anticipated auction would take place. Even before that, the Golden Mountain range would be open everywhere and was a place that Alex would not want to miss.

Alex promised to get out of this place before that. He had other things he needed to take care of anyway.

3 days later, the Crown Prince left the Colony and was taken out of the Beast realm. He was gone and would not come back for a long time.

Alex had rested long enough as well. So, he brought out the talisman he had prepared and handed it over to the Deer leader along with a single pill for him to test.

Chapter 1429: The Other Colonies

Alex stayed in the Deer Colony for precisely 29 days.

Thanks to him being efficient about everything, he managed to have the beasts prepare everything in advance that they wanted to get.

Alex made the pills for them and they were happy to get it. The Deer especially was more happy than anyone else as he hadn't broken through in such a long time and he finally got to see some chance at that.

Alex also received 3 Heavenly Silkworms after showing that the Lizard had indeed caved in and given him some in exchange for 10 pills each.

Seeing that someone else had already made the mistake of giving away the silkworms, the Deer had no qualms in doing so as well.

Aside from that Alex also gained blood from the many beasts that lived in the Deer colony, giving him a boost in Blood Aura that was enough to send him to the Peak of Saint Transformation 1st realm.

Now, he could make 8-veined pills without using anything other than just his blood aura. A colony more and it would jump into the 2nd realm for sure.

As for beast cores, he received over 20 of them. It was less than what the Lizard gave him, which was nearly 30, but it was a good number too.

Aside from making pills, Alex didn't really do anything else in the Deer colony. He proposed the exact same thing he had done to the Lizard. He would make 50 pills for just saying the real reason why the Beast Paradise was locked up.

Unfortunately, the Deer didn't answer as well. The Deer was much more well behaved compared to the Lizard, and even then he got a little annoyed at the question.

Alex knew not to ask anymore and left the topic behind.

Once everything he had wanted to do there was done, he left the place as well.

He arrived at the blue eagle's Colony that was built on top of giant trees like tree houses. Most of the beasts that lived with the Eagle were also flying beasts, as well as a group of weak beasts that the Eagle seemed.

The Eagle, despite her attitude, had the most gentle heart of all. She took care of all the beasts in her colony like families rather than members of colonies.

She was once again worried about Alex's blood aura, which had grown, but once Alex handed her the talisman with his trade offer, she finally calmed down.

Since the Eagle colony's beasts were on the weaker side, while they improved Alex's Blood aura to the 2nd realm, that was all he reached. She didn't even have beast cores to hand over.

The Eagle also refused to hand over any silkworms or information from 50 years ago, but she did give him some mulberry leaves for free so he could keep the 5 silkworms he did have alive before he found a way to feed them.

Alex quite liked this eagle. So, he started making more than the amount of pills as he promised, including letting Whisker make many True rank pills for the beasts that were going.

40 days later, before leaving the colony, Alex handed over the pills to the Eagle who was simply too surprised. She didn't want anything like this, and Alex didn't want her refusal.

So, he left the Colony with the Eagle still holding onto the pills.

The next stop in the journey was the Ox's Colony. The big, muscular ox was a simple fellow who didn't care much for the world around him and did nothing but have fun.

The Colony was at the foot of a snow mountain, but there was enough heat on the ground that normal plants grew without worry.

Alex was surprised to find that this continent too had volcanic ice mountains that had magma flowing beneath the ground, heating it up, the soot giving it nutrients.

The Ox gave him 3 Silkworms as well as a lot of blood from the various beasts in his colony and himself. Alongside that, the Ox also gave him 37 Beast cores, highest in any colony yet.

The Ox was tight-lipped as well, not telling Alex anything about what happened in the past. Alex had hoped this one would give him some information, but it was the same old refusal.

At this point, Alex wondered if they simply weren't allowed to say anything rather than refusing to say anything. He started becoming worried that there was likely an internal oath pact that they had made, like the 10 council members had made in the Southern Continent during Scarlet's absence.

They could have made a similar oath in the Azure Dragon's absence as well.

After spending a month and a half in that colony, Alex moved on to the next one belonging to the swan.

The Swan's colony was on water. It was on a giant lake where the swan and many birds as well as aquatic creatures called their home. For beast that didn't live in water, houses were built all around the lake, which was also surrounded by many forests and fields where they grew food.

For beasts that wanted to live on the water, but couldn't do so without constantly flying, they made houses on boats that simply floated around the giant lake.

Alex was given residence on one of these boats as well. After resting for a day or two, he gave the Swan the talisman as well, and the Swan was more than happy to gain new pills.

Alex moved to the land when making the pills, so as to not terrify every single animals that stayed in the pool during the lightning strikes.

He made the pills for over a month and in return, he was given over 30 beast cores, 3 Silk worms and finally enough blood for Alex to make a substantial way into the Saint Transformation 2nd realm.

As for the question of why the Beast realm was closed, that remained unanswered.

Alex went to the Elephant Colony after that, as it was the one that the Swan sent him to.

The Elephant Colony was in the middle of a large grassland, surrounded by massive trees in the distance.

They had simple houses, but most of the beasts here liked to remain in the open. Alex enjoyed his time with the elephants that were friendly and were more than happy to help him with anything other than answering why the beast realm was closed.

Alex made many pills for the Elephants, while gaining a lot back as well. He gained over 50 beast cores and 8 Silk worms. Along with that, since the beasts were also massive in size, he received a lot and lot of blood from them.

That blood was enough to push Alex's blood aura to the very peak of the Saint Transformation 2nd realm.

8 months had passed since Alex had arrived in the Beast Paradise and in that time, he had once again gotten close to breaking through to the next realm. It would still take some time, however, so Alex decided to go to the next location that he had been wanting to visit since the day he arrived in this place.

The Lion Colony.

Chapter 1430: The Lion Colony

"Welcome, King Alex," Zhu Xiongwei, the Golden Lion, Leader of the Lion Colony warmly welcomed Alex into his colony.

For the past 8 months, he had heard from one leader after another about how well Alex's pills had helped them and was very excited to finally get Alex in his own colony.

Alex smiled and greeted back the lion. "It's great to see you, Leader Zhu," he said. "It's been a while."

"It has, hasn't it," the Lion said warmly. "Come, come. You must be tired from the journey. Let me take you to your place."

Alex nodded and walked into the lion's colony.

The Lion Colony was located in a thin forest surrounded by trees with golden leaves on them that made it look like it was forever autumn.

The sparse forest had many houses built in it, most of which to Alex's surprise were as good as human houses. The houses were not only made with wood, but stones and other materials as well. They were also painted in various colors, each brightly standing out amongst the others.

It was also quite large, larger than all the other Colonies, which was another thing that surprised Alex.

"It almost looks like a human town," he said. "I surprised how much of a human touch this place has."

"Of course it does," the Lion said. "We had humans build this after all."

"Humans came here to build stuff?" Alex asked.

"Yes," the Lion said. "But it was a senior of ours that did so, over thousands of year ago. We've only maintained what was done back then."

The lion sighed. "But of course, it won't happen again until we open the borders," he said.

Alex thought of something that he hadn't asked anyone else yet. "When will it open?" he asked. He had been so concerned about it being closed that he hadn't even thought of it opening up.

"I don't really know," the lion said. "The other leaders are my seniors, so even when we are equal in standings, they don't tell me much about their plans on opening the place."

"Oh," Alex said. "Do they not treat you as well because you are young?"

"No, that's not it," the Lion said. "I just don't think anyone has planned anything. We closed it because we had to, but no one really wants to talk about opening it again, I believe. And as the youngest one, I don't really want to bring up this topic."

"I see," Alex said. "Do you know why it was closed in the first place?"

The Lion chuckled. "Do I get 50 pills for answering that?" he asked. "They said you would ask me that."

Alex's eyes widened a bit in surprise. "I see," he said, giving a foolish smile. "My curiosity has made my name go around the place."

"Curiosity huh?" the Lion said. "One might just think you want something out of that information."

"Of course not," Alex quickly said. "I was truly curious."

He looked around the Colony and the various beasts that lived there. There were an assortment of beasts in the Colony, from reptiles to birds to mammals and all sorts of other creatures in between those classifications.

The only type of beasts that there were barely of was aquatic, which was absent due to the lack of a nearby water source.

Alex was brought to a nice looking house with walls that were colored in white and green. He walked in along with the Lion, arriving at a courtyard after a couple of walks.

"This is a nice place," Alex said.

"It is, isn't it?" the Lion said proudly. "This is where our guests live. You can stay here for however long you like."

"Thank you," Alex said.

The lion nodded. "By the way, how long do you intend to stay here?" he asked.

"Hmm... I have about half a year before I need to be somewhere important. Before that, I have another few places to visit. So, I will most likely staying here for a month," Alex said. "2 at the most."

"Oh! Good," the Lion said. "Then I most likely won't have to worry about not managing to make a lot of pills then."

Alex smiled. "I will make you all the pills you will want, Leader Zhu," he said.

"When do we start then?" the Lion asked.

Alex brought out a pill from his storage ring and handed it over to the Lion. "Why don't you test out how the pill is first?" he suggested. "I will rest in the meantime. Once you are done cultivating, you can come to me with the ingredients and treasures you have, and we can start."

Alex handed over the talisman as well that recorded all the different ingredients for the various types of pills, as well as the list of things he wanted in return, and how much he was willing to pay for them.

"Are they really handing over Heavenly Silkworms to you?" the Lion asked, seeing the list.

"Yes," Alex said, opening his Beast pouch which held nearly 2 dozen Silkworms at this point.

"Wow! They really are doing that, huh?" the lion said. "I suppose I will have to prepare that too, then."

The lion left after that, gone to cultivate on his own while asking the other beasts to prepare various things for him so that he could make Alex create some more pills for him.

Alex turned around and looked at the gigantic courtyard with a golden tree in the center. He walked into the courtyard, going up to the golden tree to see it.

He checked the leaves and realized it was sharp as a blade and yet flimsy as a thin sheet of silk. He remembered seeing a tree like this in the Demon realm once. He wondered if it was still there.

He left the tree and went inside a room that was prepared for him and quickly set up a safe space for himself using various different formations plates.

Pearl flew out of his beast space after everything was prepared. He looked around the room for a moment and back at Alex. "Are we... here?" he asked.

"Yes, we're finally here," Alex said.

"Can I go out and see?" Pearl asked.

"I'm not sure that's a good idea," Alex said. "Just look at the recording for now."

Whisker walked out of Alex's robes, wrapped in a few strands of Heavenly Silk, carrying a talisman in his hand.

"Here," he said. "I recorded everything I saw and sensed with my whiskers."

"Thank you," Pearl said and took the recording. He started looking through it and quickly finished everything.

He put it down and had a solemn look on his face. "So... this is where my grandma married and came to," he said. "This... is where my mother was born."

"Yes," Alex said.

Pearl stood expressionless for a few minutes before looking toward Alex. "Do you know what happened yet?" he asked. "Why my mother was attacked? Why grandpa died?"

"I don't know," Alex said. "I just got here. Don't worry, I will research what I can in the next coming days."

"Please, brother," Pearl said. "Try to find something, anything. I'm sure you can."