

Alchemy 1471

Chapter 1471: Veil

"You're... you're going to get taken away?" the snake asked Senior Yang, unsure how to process this information.

"I probably will," Senior Yang said. "I have only so long before they realize that I am here. I will be taken away now, and given that I lost most of their treasures, I have my doubts whether I will survive henceforth or not."

"Senior!" the snake spoke, hearing the pessimistic tone in the man's voice.

"No need to worry I suppose," senior Yang said. "It was always coming. I was only wrong to hope that I would get to ride someone's Immortality out of here. I suppose I'm going back the normal way."

The snake worried. He wanted to use the talisman, which was meant to call for his clan to take him away in case of life and death urgency, to send the senior away and hide him.

However, it was the Tortoise that had held onto it. So he couldn't do anything.

The phoenix had yet to unlock her Soul Space so she couldn't provide him with her talisman either.

The Dragon— well, the Azure Dragon was dead. He couldn't help them at all. His soul space would take decades to decay before the things inside of it could be brought out. He could tear it out with his Immortal Qi if he was there, but that was dangerous for the current him.

As for the White Tiger, his talisman had already been used by his wives the first time he sent them away. As for going back again, he mentioned that he no longer required a talisman.

Something about his master giving him a better artifact.

The snake felt frustrated. He had heard the tales of wars and heard of the millions that had died in the past. Not just fighters that fought in the wars, but the casualties that involved innocents.

It was a horrible tale that he wished no one else would have to suffer from.

"Can't you do something?" he asked. "Maybe try to fight them?"

"I can," the man said. "But I've remained here for so long that I don't have enough Qi to fight with someone who has just come from the heavens. Besides, I will die even if I simply tried to—"

Senior Yang's eyes are unfocused instantly and stopped speaking. The snake quickly looked in the direction where the feeling had been coming from and stared.

"What's... going on?" the snake asked. "I cannot feel anything."

"They set up a veil," the senior said. "That's... why would they set up a veil?"

Senior Yang could not imagine why someone such as the people that had come down would set up a veil. Just the fact that they had set up a formation to create the veil was confusing enough given that it would anger the heavens.

But on top of that, setting up a veil wasn't necessary at all. He already knew he was there. What other necessity would there be for them to...

"Are they... hiding from the other realms?" he thought. "Are they trying to hide themselves from the demon realms?"

"Why would they try to do that?" the snake asked. "The humans own these realms. They don't have to hide from the demons. The only ones they would have to hide from are us, and we already know."

The snake realized something and became a little scared. "Are they going to kill us?" he asked.

"They won't," Senior Yang said. "Even if they do, they can't hope to do it quietly. You probably don't have to worry either, given that the Tortoise is the main body."

The snake nodded. "But it still takes a while to get my body back if I die, or so I've been told," he said. "And I will only remember what my brother remembers."

The senior nodded. "I suppose we can only wait and try to figure out what exactly is going on."

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Godslayer sensed everything that happened before the veil was put into place. "That is definitely someone descending alright. Someone has come here from the outer realms, and the only ones that have the power to do so are the strong ones."

"The weaker ones can't come?" Alex asked.

"More like they don't have the resources to break through the heavenly barrier that keeps away people of stronger realms," Godslayer said. "The only way to not have to deal with the heavenly barrier is to actually travel through the space, but that is not so easy of a task either."

"What about the Void?" Alex asked.

"If there is a natural Voidgate, sure. But I don't know how someone would manage to create an artificial one at all," he said. "That sort of stuff is practically impossible."

"Is it really impossible?" Alex asked.

"Well, not Impossible, but highly probable because of the requirements," Godslayers said. "Whatever, these people didn't come from the validate. They came through teleportation formation. The only question is why they are here and why they are hiding?"

Alex wondered for a moment if they had come here to find Senior Yang, but quickly let go of the theory as it didn't seem right. He had a gut feeling that it was not correct.

Still, just in case, he was worried for the senior. There was quite a lot he wanted to learn from him still as his knowledge had increased so much after coming to the Eastern Continent.

There were so many more questions he wanted to ask about.

The elders around Alex were looking around in confusion as well. They could somewhat sense what was happening, but they couldn't tell anything at all.

All they could tell was that it wasn't someone fighting, breaking through, or learning a new dao.

"Could this be a Birth Omen of some sort, your Majesty?" Elder Yao asked.

"No, this is no Birth Omen. We would be lucky if this were something as simple as a Birth Omen," Alex said.

"Immortals from the Immortal realm have arrived in this world, so brazenly at that. We will now have to see what the future holds for us."

Chapter 1472: The Emperor's Command

"Immortal beings?" Elder Liang looked in surprise. "Plural?"

"I don't know how many just yet. Only that they have come and hidden themselves for some reason," Alex said. "I can't tell much from here. Let us return to the palace and see if the King has received any more information than us."

The two elders nodded and the three of them quickly returned to the palace. Alex went to find the King who was in his hall, surrounded by the other elders.

"Your Majesty, are you alright?" the King asked.

"I am fine," Alex said. "Do you have any idea what is going on out there?"

The King shook his head. "His Majesty has given out orders for everyone out there to send him what has happened. I'm sure we will learn soon enough."

Alex nodded. He was curious where the Immortals had even come down to. He wondered how far to the west this even went on for.

They waited for a bit for anyone to learn anything, but no new news came at all. The elders around the palace hall were in debate as to what exactly was going on, and Alex could see that no one truly knew about the Immortals that had descended. A few of them had thrown it out as a possibility though.

"Quiet!" the King quickly spoke. "I'm receiving communications from his majesty."

Everyone stopped the moment the king spoke and let him listen to the communication. The King placed the talisman on his forehead and listened to what he was told.

He slowly placed the talisman down while processing what he had heard.

"King Tan, what did the Emperor say?" Alex asked.

"I am told to take my guards and go visit the Ivory Kingdom," he said. "No one has managed to contact Queen Song just yet."

"The Ivory Kingdom?" Alex asked for a while in confusion. "Is that where... where you are going to go now?"

"Yes," the King said before quickly standing up.

"I will go too," Alex said.

"I'm sorry, Your Majesty, but I cannot take you along," the King said. "There is a chance that the Ivory Queen might be dead. There could be a danger. I do not wish to take you along with me."

"The King is right, your Majesty," one of the guards said. "We are not sure if we can protect you at all. Please understand our situation and don't force us to protect you."

"I will be fine," Alex said. "I have my own—"

His eyes wavered for a moment as he instinctively wanted to turn his head to the side as he sensed something else. He was not surprised to see that any of these people had sensed it at all.

After all, it was a Spatial manipulation that had just happened.

"You're right," he said. "I should not go. I should not place my people in danger for my own curiosity. It is not right of me."

"My apologies. I will not stop you from doing your duty anymore."

Alex turned around and walked away from the room, along with his two elders who had inquisitive looks of their own.

They quickly followed Alex as he went toward the garden.

"What happened kid?" Godslayer asked.

"I'm not confident, but... I think they left."

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Bai Jingshen was standing next to Senior Yang in case he was needed there. "Did I sense that right?" he asked. "Did they just leave?"

"They left," Senior Yang said. "Or... at least someone did."

"But why?" the snake asked. "Were they not here for you?"

"Let's not get too hasty now," the man said. "It is true that someone left, but it is most likely the case that many more have remained behind. After all, we do not know how many came down."

"True," the snake said.

"There is another possibility though," Bai Jingshen said. "Given all the inconsistencies, I fear this might be the actual possibility."

"You feel the same?" Senior Yang asked. "I don't want to have hope, but I can't help but think it in the back of my head."

"What? What possibility?" the snake asked.

"It is possible that whoever came never intended to take Senior away," Bai Jingshen said. "It is possible... that they came here for something else entirely."

Senior Yang nodded. "Or... someone else entirely."

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The Dragon Emperor sensed the chance in space as well, but he wasn't aware of what it meant. He did not have the same level of control and authority over Space as Alex did.

He contacted his vassals. "Something just changed. See if you can communicate with the Snowheart City or the area around it," he said. "If not, have Tan Qiu hurry up and see what is happening."

Once his people left, he waited there patiently, trying to learn what had happened. He waited there, not touching the alchemy ingredients in front of him, waiting for the time his talisman vibrated.

About an hour later, it did. He quickly listened to what was told, a bunch of information, and finally felt relieved when he was told that everything was alright

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Alex waited for a few hours on his own, painting something to get his mind off the worry. Then, the King returned some time after and gave him in general what had happened.

"I arrived way outside the capital to find a barrier covering most of the upper Ivory kingdom. I couldn't communicate inside at all, and couldn't tell what was happening."

"We tried to break through, but it didn't work. After a while, the Ivory Queen sent out a single piece of information."

"She said... Everything is alright, and the barrier would last for a year or so before it goes down. Until then, we will have no communication from inside there."

Alex looked at the man curiously. "No other messages? No inclination of what had happened?" he asked.

"None," he said. "We will have to wait for the barrier to go down before we learn anything else."

"Okay..." Alex thought. "I guess we'll have to wait for a year to find out what exactly happened then."

Chapter 1473: The Day before the Auction

Having delivered the news to Alex, the King returned to his quarters to rest after a rather stressful day.

Alex's hands hovered in front of the painting he was making and struggled to care about the painting at the moment having received the news.

It was all okay in the Ivory Kingdom. Could he believe that? That was certainly not possible, but what other choice did he have?

"Are you going to go check to see anything? Do you think you can stake into the barrier?" Godslayer asked.

"Are you kidding me?" Alex answered. "There are Immortals, maybe even Divinities that came down. And if my suspicion is correct, they are here for the senior. If they find the treasures on me, I will be dead."

"True," Godslayer said. "You're right. I don't want to get caught either. Don't go."

Alex was of the same mind, so he said nothing. He had talent, but he wasn't at the level yet where he could go up to potentially hostile immortals and come out alive.

"We'll see how it goes. If things get really bad, I'm sure Bai Jingshen will do something," he said. "Even if he was ready to lose me here, he wouldn't lose Pearl."

"Him not acting here means he is relatively sure that there isn't much harm to me as long as I don't do something stupid," he said. "Besides, there is a chance that whoever came down has already left, so I would be stupid to try and find them in that case."

"Let us ignore this for now," Alex said, speaking aloud so his two elders could hear him as well. "For now, let us focus on enjoying the upcoming auction. We will know what we need to know when the barrier finally drops in the Ivory kingdom."

The two elders nodded and stayed right there watching him. Even if he said what he did, they were too experienced to let Alex out of their sight. There had been too many times where he had gone out to do his own things after all.

Alex took a few breaths and finally focused back on the painting. He managed to get into the flow of the art in front of him once again and realized just how bad it was what he had drawn due to the interruption.

"You really can't lose your focus can you?" he spoke softly, continuing.

Once he was done, he left to go cultivate in his room.

A few days passed since the incident and everyone was made aware of what had happened in the Ivory Kingdom. They were all surprised to learn about the large barrier and worried.

However, thanks to Queen Song's only piece of message who said that everything was fine, people didn't devolve into mass hysteria that something like this could happen to them as well.

A day before the month-long auction was to begin, people had already arrived in the city, filling the streets as well as the snow outside.

Alex walked around the outside with his elders and other soldiers, looking at the festive environment that had been prepared out here.

So many tents of so many different colors were set up, each with space constricting formation in them to store more space inside than would be normal. Those sorts of tents could house dozens of times, if not more, as many people as they physically appeared capable to.

There were people gathered outside the tents, ready to enter the moment they were allowed to. Even though the auctions officially started tomorrow, they were all preparing to enter today.

Since there was no such thing as VIP seats in such auction houses, the people were forced into having to find a seat there themselves. And the further back they were, the less appealing the seats were to these people.

Alex had no such worries. The auction house he was going to was only for VIPs and no one else. Each VIP would get their own room, so he could roam the city for ages and still arrive at the auction house to have a place for him.

Even if he was not a King and just a lowly cultivator, as long as he had a VIP room, that would be the case.

"I wonder what sort of items they sell in these auction houses," Elder Liang said. "I wonder if they even get to Saint-ranked items at all."

"Some of these are definitely for lesser cultivators who will have no way of entering the bigger auctions, but most should be for the better ones."

"After all, what is the point in setting up an auction for a Dec-annual occasion, if only to set one to sell mediocre treasures," he said.

"Sure, but there could be treasures that the ones selling or buying don't consider treasures," Elder Liang said. "What if we miss it?"

"Elder Liang, there are hundreds of auctions being set up here. We are bound to miss every other good thing but the one we will be going to," Alex said. "We're bound to miss a lot of good stuff. Unfortunate as it may be, we can't be anywhere."

Liang Shufen sighed and nodded. "You are correct," she said. She sighed a little still, and Alex could understand her feeling. He was a little sad about having to miss various things as well.

"Let's leave," he said. "We should return to the palace and prepare to head over to the actual auction."

"We should do that," Yao Ning said and had the soldiers lead the way. Alex looked around as he walked back and arrived back in the palace a while later.

When he did, he found someone inside who he was surprised to see here.

"Lady Zhan?" he couldn't help but call out to the woman. "What are you doing here?"

Lady Zhan, who had been in the hall resting by herself looked around toward Alex. "Your Majesty," she quickly got up and bowed a little. "It's a pleasure to meet you again."

Chapter 1474: New Arrivals

"It is indeed a pleasure to meet you again as well," Alex said. "What are you doing here?"

"I arrived with His Highness for the auction," she said.

"Oh, the Crown Prince is here as well, is he?" Alex asked.

The girl nodded. "King Tan took His Highness somewhere to speak privately. They should be back in a bit," she said.

"I see," Alex said, sitting down on one of the chairs. "I'm sorry if I'm misremembering, but I believe you said that you couldn't visit the auction, didn't you?"

"Ahem," Lady Zhan looked a little embarrassed. "I did, didn't I?" she asked. "Well, I'm afraid things have changed a little and I now have time to visit the auction."

"You now have free time?" Alex asked, thinking for a moment. "Oh, the pill you were making, did you manage to fully make it? I remember hearing you were successful."

"Yes, I made the pill," she said.

"How was it?" Alex asked. "It was a rather difficult pill to make with strong ingredients that could easily cause the entire process to become invalid at a moment's notice. It was a success, then?"

"Well..." Lady Zhan hesitated a bit. "It was as much of a success as it was a failure."

Alex frowned a little. 'What does that mean?' he couldn't help but wonder to himself. "I'm sorry, Lady Zhan, but I must say I cannot decipher the meaning of your words. Would you mind elaborating?"

The woman hesitated a little before shaking her head. "I'm sorry, Your Majesty, but I cannot speak any further on this matter. It... is of the private sort," she said.

"Oh, my apologies if I made you feel uncomfortable. You do not have to explain to me anything you do not wish you," Alex said. "Still, do not hesitate to me to ask for help if you need it. I will always be available."

"Thank you, Your Majesty," the woman said, smiling softly as she did so.

"Then, now that you have made that pill, will you be using it to try and strike the Level 10 barrier?" he asked.

"I... will probably not," she said. "It was not a pill I made on my own, so I cannot swear the oath that proves that requirement. I will have to devise another pill, one perhaps not as difficult."

"Good luck," Alex said.

Lady Zhan nodded.

As they continued talking, the King and the Crown Prince walked into the hallway a moment later.

"Your Majesty, you're back," the Crown Prince said with a big smile. "I haven't seen you in a while now."

"It has been a while, hasn't it?" Alex asked the Crown Prince. "How have you been doing, Prince Fangyu?"

"Not so great," the prince said. "With father in closed cultivation, I was forced to handle everything on his behalf. Unlike father, I also don't have anyone to share my workload with, so I'm stuck doing it all on my own."

"You have my sympathy," Alex said with a slight grin. He knew what it was like when the actual ruler decided to take the time off and dump it all on the other one.

"Oh right, I heard you helped my Luoyang when she was struggling with her pill. Thank you," the Crown Prince said.

"It's not a big matter. I just happened to be there and happened to be interested," Alex said. "It's more so for my own entertainment that I helped her with the pill."

The Crown prince smiled. "I wish I can one day reach such a level where I too could help others for my own entertainment," he said.

"I'm sure you'll reach such a level sooner than later," Alex said. "You just need a bit of time to try."

The Crown prince nodded.

As they talked, someone else arrived.

"Your Majesty!" the Emerald King said in a loud voice. "Your Highness, Brother Tan. You're all here. Lady Zhan, my greetings."

With the Emerald King's arrival, the place got a little rowdy. The man was successful in bringing an uplift to the conversation that the ones there otherwise could not.

Queen Mao Yingtai, of the Silver Kingdom arrived a little later, and they had already been notified that the other two Kings would not be coming at all.

So this was all that was going to be there for the time.

Queen Mao greeted everyone in his silvery white dress and sat down to talk with them. Her very first question as soon as she arrived was if they had more information about Queen Song and the happenings in the Ivory Kingdom.

Not a single one could answer her. They were all trying to ignore the issue and being reminded was not fun.

The giant barrier was still there and would be there for a while.

"The barrier will remain there for a year as we heard in Queen Song's message. All we can do for now is ignore it," the Crown Prince said.

"It's a shame that most of the important folks from the Ivory kingdom won't make it to the auctions this time around then," Queen Mao said with a sigh.

Alex thought for a bit. He realized that he wouldn't be seeing the girl with white hair either. The connection he had felt back then would need to be explored at a later date.

"Not all of Ivory Kingdom is caught in the barrier, it's fine," the Crown Prince said. "Those who can come will come. It's better for them to escape reality in this festive environment for a few days."

"And most that would come already came to mine in the golden mountain, correct? The ones left behind should be the ones that were already reluctant to come."

"You are correct, your Highness," the other kings said.

The group talked for a while, and after a while, Alex left his room. He cultivated overnight and when the morning came, he left for the auction along with the other Kings.

Chapter 1475: Auction Starts

Alex was escorted to his VIP room somewhere. He arrived in a massive room with no windows at all. Instead, there was a formation that projected an image of the auction in the air.

"Do we not get to see the auction directly?" he asked the woman that remained behind them as the doors were locked.

"I am afraid that is how things are done here, your Majesty," she spoke. "Because of how the size of the auction, and every guest being a VIP of equal importance to us, we decided that this was the best approach a long time ago."

"My words may not mean much to you, your Majesty, but I can assure you that you will not dislike this experience, different as it may be."

"I am glad to hear that at least," Alex said, sitting on a comfortable seat, leaning back with a leg perched on his knees. The two elders sat next to him and looked at the floating image of an empty stage by themselves.

"How long before the auction starts?" he asked.

"The time intended is in about 20 minutes, however, the auction will start once all the guests are ready and comfortable. If you wish for it to proceed, you can let me know so I may relay it to the house."

"Yes, we are ready," Alex said.

The woman nodded and quickly sent a message outside that this room was ready.

Alex looked around a bit at the room with his spiritual sense and tried to search for any flaws in the room. He was important enough that they could do something like that, but his senses found nothing.

He turned toward the woman and asked, "How much of what happens here do you relay to your higher-ups?"

"We have sworn an oath to never divulge a guest's secret of whatever they say in this room. So long as they don't do anything untoward to the staff, their secrets will die with us," the woman said.

Alex smiled. "May I ask you to speak the same oath again?" he asked.

The woman nodded and spoke to them. Alex listened to her words, and so did the elders. They searched for loopholes, and after finding that there weren't any, Alex felt a little more relieved.

The woman did wonder why he was being so secretive, but most of the ones with importance did the same, so she gave no thought to his request.

Then, to her surprise, a large beast appeared in the room.

A completely black Tiger.

The girl was beyond surprised to see a beast of that type. She had never seen a tiger without stripes of any sort, so she wondered if it was a very rare type of beast.

She even wondered where Alex could've found it. Aside from that, however, she said and did nothing.

Alex let Pearl sit on one of the empty seats while Whisker ran up to his shoulder and sat there, watching the empty screen.

In the time that took for the auction to start, the woman went over the basic etiquette of the auction, just in case.

Alex didn't have to listen to anything, but he did. The elders listened more intently as they would be the ones doing the purchasing.

The auction finally started as the young woman that Alex had seen a few weeks earlier appeared on the floating screen. She wore a bright red dress that fit tightly to her curves with no sleeves and cut off around the knee.

Her red dress was bedazzled with gold that seemed to be sewn into the fabric itself, the glittering lights making for a glamorous sight.

The woman had already been pretty before, but somehow the makeup she wore today made her look simply marvelous. Her hair was tied in a bun with a single hairpin keeping it there.

The hairpin had a head of a dragon on one side, and that alone could have been the most important item to be auctioned in many of the auction houses outside the city.

The young woman smiled and bowed deeply for a few seconds before standing up.

"Greetings guests. I am Hu Biaolin, your auctioneer for the day," she spoke with a voice that sounded smoother than a breeze in a grassland.

"It's finally getting started," Alex said with a small smile. "I wonder how low they are going to start with. The first item should still be a Saint-ranked item, correct?"

The two elders nodded.

The woman in the room was a little confused. "Your Majesty, did you not receive a talisman with the list of items prior to the auction?" she asked. "If you didn't, I have one—"

Alex stopped her with a gesture of his hand. "No, we got it," he said. "I simply didn't read it. I like being surprised at an auction. It's one of the last places where you never know what to expect. Except, you know that whatever you are presented with will be a treasure either way, so you expect a good surprise."

Yao Ning smiled at his response. "I think there are a few things you will like. One thing, in particular, should catch your eye," she said.

"Oh, is it a great treasure?" Ning asked excitedly.

"I wouldn't say great," she said. "At least not compared to what else we have. But it is one of the better for certain."

"I see," Alex said. "Oh right, I've been meaning to ask. Is my pill the best thing being sold?"

"No, the Dao pill is the second-best item being sold in the auction," she said. "The first... I'll let it be a surprise."

Alex nodded and looked back.

Hu Biaolin had spoken some customary speeches in preparation as a large object was brought out for the first auction.

The object was placed onto a platform. At the same time, something flickered in the space between him and the screen and an object appeared, hovering mid-air.

A large box with a cloth on top of it.

"Oh... interesting," he couldn't help but say. "Is this an image of what is being presented in the auction right now?"

"It is a replica image, that not only replicates the shape and color of the object but also reproduces its aura to its best capabilities," the woman said. "You may also freely view it from where you sit by simply turning it around in the air to get a better look."

"Nice," Alex couldn't help but say. No auction he had ever been to had let the guests get a closer look at the item in front of them, except that one time when Heaven's Impact was sold.

"Can I take this black cloth off?" Alex asked.

"My apologies, but you'll have to wait for the staff to take it off on the other end," she said.

"Very well," Alex said, returning his attention to the woman on screen who seemed to be looking directly at him when she spoke the next few sentences.

"Let us start the auction with the first item that we will be selling today," she spoke and gestured for the staff to take off the black cloth over the item.

Chapter 1476: Stallion and Gauntlet

The black cloth was removed to show the cage of the slumbering little horse. The horse's body was of silver color with not a single flaw anywhere in its body.

"This is a baby Silvermane Stallion," she explained. "As all of you most likely know, Silvermane Stallions are some of the fastest beasts both on land and in the sky."

"As if blessed by the wind, they can run with..."

The woman continued speaking and Alex looked at the little horse's replica floating in front of him. To his surprise, he could truly sense the fair amount of wood aura coming from the image.

"Quite nifty," he said, moving the image around for everyone to see. Whisker ran down to his thighs, looking at the beast while Pearl got closer.

"The little fellow is sedated, right?" Pearl asked.

"He is," the woman answered from behind.

"Who auctioned off this horse?" Alex asked out of curiosity. "Where did they even find a horse like this in the first place? The Beast Paradise has been closed for some time now."

He wasn't really expecting an answer and was just speaking to himself. However, the woman still answered him.

"This horse, along with a few other beasts that you will see in the upcoming days were beasts that were sold by the Royal School of Beast Taming."

Alex looked toward the girl. "The Royal Schools auction their stuff here too?" he couldn't help but ask in surprise.

"They do it just to be part of the festivities," the woman said. "They aren't looking to earn from these sales."

"I see," Alex said. "And are you allowed to reveal this information to me? Especially about the seller."

"The Royal School and various other guilds and organizations would rather they not be anonymous in the auction," the woman said. "Their names being spread around when asked helps them more than it hurts them. They would rather the people know where the item came from so they came back for more."

"Ah," Alex said. "Makes sense. I wasn't asked if I would want to remain anonymous or not."

"Individuals are all kept anonymous despite their choices," the woman said. "Although in your case... it might not help much."

Alex chuckled. "Of course, it won't," he said. He shook his head and turned back to the screen.

The explanation on the stallion seemed to have been over, and the auctioneer was moving on to the bidding.

"The bidding will start at 400 Saint Spirit stones," the woman said. "Please begin placing your bids."

Numbers suddenly appeared on the screen next to the woman, and it kept changing every single second.

500.

550.

600.

650.

700.

Alex sat back and looked at the screen with not much worry. He looked at his two elders and saw their expressions.

"Do either of you want this stallion?" he asked.

"No," Yao Ning said straightforwardly.

"We're too old to be rearing young beasts like that," Liang Shufen said. "It would find youngsters more than us."

"Youngsters... I wonder if Ronron would like this," Alex thought. "Do you think I should get it for Ronron?"

"Forgive me, Your Majesty, but isn't the Princess bound to leave for the higher world sooner rather than later? I'm sure there are dragons and phoenixes waiting for her to bond in the higher realm."

Alex thought for a bit and nodded. "You are correct," he said. "I shouldn't be thinking about buying this beast right now."

The bidding war went on for a while before it stopped at 1400 Saint Spirit Stones. The bid ended when no one bid anymore for a certain period.

The bid was set to end automatically, so there was no unfairness here at all.

Once the bid ended, the cage with the stallion fawn was taken away, and replaced with something else.

Alex watched as all sorts of items were bid off. Formations, talismans, pills, whatnot. He didn't just watch either but also participated in the auction a few times when he thought he could catch something good.

"Next up, we have another great item that I know most of you have been waiting for," the girl said and turned toward the staff.

The cloth was lifted from the box, which was a square glass container, containing a metallic gauntlet that gleamed with the colors of blue and green, all shining in a gradient around the gauntlet.

Alex looked at the gauntlet with slight curiosity as it was not every day that you got to see an item being sold that could only be used in close combat. As cultivators could send out attacks that spanned cities, if not countries, the necessity for weapons for close combat was no longer there at all.

"This is the Dragonheart Gauntlet," the woman spoke, explaining the item to the guests. "It is made by master Guanxin of the Royal School of Artifact from the scales and skin of a Dragonborn lizard that was killed in the eastern ocean a few dozen decades ago."

"There is absolutely no metal involved when making this artifact. All that came from that very lizard," she explained. "The gauntlet is appraised to be a Saint-ranked Heaven-grade item and is something you will want to lighten your storage bags for."

The woman went on to explain more about the gauntlet while Alex looked at the gauntlet carefully back in his room.

He moved it from side to side, seeing the colors on the surface, the leather inside of it. As someone who could now be considered more than just an amateur at making artifacts, he was more than confident in the fact that he could never make a gauntlet this good with his current level of knowledge.

He needed more practice, and more experience to make something as great as this was. As he was now, he couldn't do it. He heard the woman's explanation of what it did out of focus and was surprised to hear that it had multiple uses.

"Woah!" he couldn't help but say when looking at the gauntlet more carefully after that. He hadn't realized it at first, but there were runes carved into the scales to provide the user with 3 different types of powers.

The first was simply weight. It added fake weight to one, giving them much stronger attacks altogether. It didn't just have to be punched, but even swords could be swung much better with them.

Aside from that, it also allowed one to shoot out a Wood energy punch that at around Saint Transformation 1st realm strength as well as use a defensive technique that helped them protect as well.

Alex wasn't impressed much by the product's last two skills, but the first two made it sound amazing to his ears. It increased one's weight to give damage to one's attacks.

The two skills weren't bad either, especially because they used spirit stones and didn't require the user's input to work.

Replacing them would be troublesome, but that was nothing as Saint Spirit stones would last the gauntlet for ages.

Alex thought a bit more about the first skill, and the more he thought about it the more it made sense to him.

"This will be the perfect artifact for Father."

The bidding began at 2200 Saint spirit stones. That was an amount that a regular saint realm cultivator would take ages to collect and the last item of the first day was being sold at that price.

The price increase throughout the day had been gradual but significant. However, from this point it would slow down for certain, increasing by about 2000 Saint spirit stones at the most in a day.

Alex told the elders to bid without stopping and they did.

The item being sold was good. A Gauntlet with not one built-in technique, but three was certainly not something one could come by every day. As such, everyone bid on it.

They stopped bidding as the bidding continued, and past 4000 Saint spirit stones, no one truly wished to continue for longer. Alex, however, kept on, and at 4400, double the starting price of the gauntlet, he got it.

He smiled a bit, knowing that he had received something that was good, and waited for the next set of products to be brought out.

Instead of a product being brought out, the next thing that came out was a person. A woman with beautiful blue hair in a black dress. Her figure looked better than the current auctioneer too, more curvier. However, she wasn't as beautiful.

She introduced herself to everyone as the next auctioneer for the day while the first woman, Hu Biaolin, walked away from the stage, promising to return at a later date.

"Do the auctioneer keep changing?" Alex asked.

"They switch around every day for the entire month," the woman in the room answered. There are 7 of them, so there should be one for each day of the week."

"I see," Alex said and waited for the girl to introduce the next set of items.

The first item she brought out was a pendant with the ability to calm a person's spirit and defend them against another spiritual attack.

Alex checked the pendant around a bit and bid for it. However, when it became too expensive to bid, he stopped. There was no point in getting these, he thought.

He knew how they were made, so after a bit of practice, he could make one himself.

A few more normal items were sold after that. Pills, inks, formation plates, etc. Alex didn't find much attraction by any of the items. He did bid on a few but that was only for the sake of bidding.

He didn't receive them at all. It was only halfway through the day that he found another item that he wanted as desperately as he did the Dragonheart Gauntlet.

The item was an artifact named the Mirror of Barren Truth. It was apparently a very old artifact, made in times that no one knew about.

The woman started explaining the details of the artifact, and Alex looked at it, moving the mirror around his hand, checking the various things he could ascertain from it.

The Mirror of Barren Truth was an item that needed prep work. One had to fill the mirror with Energy in advance in one way or another and prepare it.

Once prepared, the mirror had the ability to reflect any and all types of attacks thrown at it, so long as the energy inside of it was stronger than that of the attack, it would reflect the attack directly at the one that launched it in the first place.

The most surprising part about that was the fact that it worked based on the Intent of the attack. As such, the reflected attack would always return to the one who intended for the attack to be fired.

"So even if it was an attack from a formation, it can reflect?" Alex asked curiously. That seemed to be true and was in a way quite busted.

"This seems incredible," Liang Shufen said softly. "I wonder why this item is being sold this early. Or are we perhaps missing something?"

Alex thought for a moment. "There are definitely flaws to the item," he said. "Ones that are quite glaring as well."

"What sort of flaws?" Liang Shufen asked.

"Imagine someone in the Saint Condensation rank finds this artifact and prepares it with his energy," Alex said. "That would have no effect on a real fight if his opponent happens to be stronger than him. After all, the item is only capable of reflecting attacks that are just as strong as the energy that was put into it."

"Oh, I thought of that," Elder Liang said. "But I was thinking of it more so in regards to myself. As someone in the Saint Transformation realm, especially since I have Immortal Qi... a bit of it at least, I could prepare it to protect me from any and all attack."

Alex's eyes widened slightly in surprise. "I... I hadn't thought of that," he said. That was true, wasn't it? With Immortal Qi, the mirror would end up becoming the greatest defensive item, even if it was for a single defense.

"Then it is probably because it is a single-use artifact in every battle that it is being sold this early. You also do need to prepare it for a while, so that's not very good, is it?" he asked.

"I wonder how the reflection works," Elder Yao spoke, after remaining quiet for a bit. "I wonder if it reflects using the Dao or using some other mechanism."

"Hmm, I can't feel the Dao of Reflection coming from the item," Alex said softly.

"Me neither," the old woman said. "But it is possible that this image is not capable of replicating Dao's aura. If it could, the Boundless Enlightenment domain would end up meaningless."

"True," Alex said. "I assume you do not want this mirror though."

The old woman shook her head. She had the Dao of Reflection to help her with that.

"Very well then," Alex said. "Let me get it. Bid for it, however high it may go."

The bidding started at 3000 Saint spirit stones, and it went high. It ended at 8300 Saint Spirit Stones, with Alex as the new owner.

Chapter 1478: Inkbrush

In the following days, Alex bought many more things.

He bought some beautiful dresses for his mother and daughter, and seeds of some trees to plant in the house gardens for his various sect friends and elders.

He bought an impressive wind sword for his master and serene water armor for his senior sister.

He bought books with immortal stories from the Immortal worlds to read. Fiction they may be, they were quite important.

He bought books on talismans, formations, and artifacts, not just for himself but for his mother as well. She had nearly the same talent as him after all.

He bought an Impressive Wood treasure for his daughter, and more armor for his father to wear.

He bought impressive pill furnaces that were works of art for his subordinates as well as his friends from the Hong Wu sect.

He bought more weapons and more armor and many other things. But all of them were for his elders, family or friends, or subordinates. After the mirror, no item came forth that he wanted to buy for himself.

Until now.

On the 11th day of the auction, presented by a lady in a blue dress, came an item that Alex wanted to buy.

A brush.

The brush appeared to be a simple brush with a long handle and soft bristles at first.

The handle was of red and blue color, matching its name with an undulating pattern when one color tried to take over the other, but neither managed to ever truly mix.

The bristle was stark white, made from the fur of a thick yak, cured and tempered for years before it reached the softness it did.

It was no ordinary brush either. Named the Frostfire Inkbrush, the brush was a Saint-ranked artifact deemed as a multi-functional brush that could be used for more purposes than one.

As it was a brush, Alex's first thought had gone toward Painting, and had wanted to buy it just because of that. However, when the explanation for the brush came, he was more shocked than surprised.

It was made with 3 functions as intended for its use. The first was making paintings. As a brush, it was fabulous with colors, holding onto every single drop of paint, leaving only as much as intended by the users.

The brush was made using compounding, so it could change in size as one wished for it to as well. It could be large or small as per the user's wish, making for an amazing brush with amazing flexibility.

It could also retract its bristles into itself, as much as the user wanted. So one could draw thin or thick strokes as they wanted to.

Because of the ability to grow small as well as the ability to grow large, and the ability to retract bristles, the brush was also fantastic for making talismans.

When Alex heard the functionality of the brush, he nearly slapped his forehead. He was so distracted by the painting's possibility, that he managed to forget about its possibility in talismans.

So, he was more than a little surprised when he heard about it. However, that surprise could hold no candle to the surprise and awe he felt when he heard that the brush could also make Formations.

The bristles could retract into the brush entirely, leaving an opening for a nib to come out, that could not only be used to write, if need be, but also carve onto a metal plate or rod.

It was strong enough and sharp enough to carve through any metal alloys, even the stronger ones. That way, it could make perfect formations.

An all-in-one brush like that meant one didn't need to carry various things to make use of it.

Alex looked through the pen on the screen that appeared before him and wondered if anyone would want to buy it as much as he did.

There was a high chance that only a few of them did 2 or all 3 of the things that the brush was capable of. As such, Alex believed the brush was safely his item.

As expected, there weren't many bidders that bid for the pen. The bidding started at 6 thousand and it went up. Alex told the elders to continue bidding and they did until they won with a bid of 11 thousand and 330 Saint Spirit stones.

"Damn, that cost more than what some of my pills are going to be sold at," Alex said softly. The pen was a genuine find, so he didn't worry much about the money.

As a King, money was the last thing he had to worry about anyway.

The amount of Saint spirit stones that he had been given by the beasts throughout 7 different colonies had been enough for him to buy most of what he wanted with that money.

It was for the other few that he had to pull out from his own pockets.

Once the brush disappeared from the auction, other treasures took its place, each wanted to be sold with as high a bid as they could get.

Eternal Lotus Incense, an incense that helped users focus during meditation was sold for 8500 Saint Spirit stones.

Frostbloom Snowstone, a Yin aura natural treasure that could provide one with Yin aura whenever required, was sold for 9300 Saint Spirit stones.

Scroll of Alchemic Ingredients, a scroll that held the list of very rare ingredients, and what they did was sold for 12000 Saint Spirit stones.

One after another, piece by piece, treasures continued to be sold for another few days until Alex came across something else that he needed to buy.

A Fan of green color with drawings of clouds was presented to everyone.

"This is the Nine Clouds Wind fan," the auctioneer spoke. "It's not a fighting treasure, even though you may use it as one."

"A single movement of this fan causes winds to spring up out of it. But not ordinary wind," the woman said. "What comes out of it is in fact winds holding the truth of the Wind Dao. if you wish to learn the Dao of the Wind, you will definitely want to buy this."

Chapter 1479: Fan and Flask

Alex thought for a moment as he looked at the fan with the 9 different cloud patterns in front of him.

"This is a good treasure, isn't it?" he asked.

"Quite great," Yao Ning said, looking at the fan herself. "Quite useless for me, but for others it would be very useful."

"Yes," Liang Shufen said. "I can make good use of it."

"I can make use of it too if brother manages to make the pill that improves Wood spiritual roots," Pearl said.

"Me too," Whisker said excitedly.

The bid for the treasure began at 7000 Saint Spiritual stones and everyone bid on it to make it their own.

No one would ever buy the fan if all it did was some wind attack. However, since it released Wind with the aura of Dao of Wind, it made it so much easier for others to learn the Wind Dao.

As of yet, there was only 2 ways to learn the Wind Dao for anyone.

First, the hard way. They would have to try and understand the wind aura by being in places with either Wind with wood energy, or just in places with a breeze.

This would normally take decades for someone to even glimpse the smallest truth about the wind and would have to spend centuries to try and learn enough of the mysteries behind the wind to finally get some help from the Heavens to finish learning the Dao.

The second method was to visit the Boundless Enlightenment Domain and try to learn about Wind Dao from there. This was easier than doing it all on your own, but depending on a person's talent, it could still take them years to learn the Dao and one would only have so much money for it.

Also, the Boundless Enlightenment Domain was expensive because of all the treasures it hold. If one could just take out the Wind treasure, it would cost so much less.

Which was what the Fan was.

A Wind treasure designed to provide the aura of Wind Dao for people to learn from it. This was no different than having something from the Enlightenment domain for oneself, and many of their friends and families to use.

Alex bid on it hard. He had a daughter with a Wind-based physique and it was very important for him to gain this fan. He also wanted it for himself, so money was no longer of any concern to him at all.

The bid increased by a lot, going into 15000 Saint Spirit stones for the first time in the entire auction. They had touched such a high price and they were going beyond.

15200

15300

15500

15800

16000

The number on the screen flipped one after another, showing just how much people still wanted it.

Alex kept going for a while until it got close to 20 thousand.

"Should we still get it?" the elders asked.

Alex thought for a bit and nodded. "We should definitely get it," he said and made the bid.

20000.

The number stopped there for a moment before flipping through to 20100. Alex flipped it to 20200. The number stopped moving again and Alex felt the hesitation of the other buyer.

The number changed to 20300 and immediately changed to 20400. Alex kept going without stopping.

The other person waited a while longer than Alex thought and when he waited too long, the bidding ended.

Alex bought the Nine Clouds Wind fan for 20 thousand and 4 hundred Saint Spirits stones.

"We paid a bit too much, your majesty," Yao Ning said.

Alex hesitated a bit and nodded. "We indeed paid a bit too much for it," he said. "But it is worth it."

Yao Ning couldn't argue there.

The auction continued and more items were continued to be shown. Over half a month had already passed by now, and it had even been a few days into the other half.

On the 22nd day of the auction, Alex bought the Voidsand Hourglass. It was an hourglass to tell time by watching the black sand inside flow through the hourglass.

It wasn't any normal powder either. The Voidsand were powder made from pulverizing extremely rare pieces of stones known as Voidstone. It was something that existed by absorbing the void aura that flew out of a voidgate.

Such aura, infused within the sand, made it so that the sand was not affected by time at all. As such, when used inside an hourglass, it would never be affected by any sort of time manipulation at all.

That made this the perfect tool to measure time, especially during long sessions of cultivation. It would be scarily accurate, and for that alone, Alex bought the Voidsand Hourglass.

It did cost him another 14 thousand Saint Spirit stones, which wasn't cheap.

"How much money do we have?" Alex asked the elder.

"Of the money we brought over, we have about another 50 thousand Saint Spirit stones left," the elder said. "Most of it is in the form of True spirit stones."

"I see," Alex said. "We can buy a few more things for sure then."

On the 24th day came something else that was quite good, which caught Alex's attention.

Bottomless Jade Flask is what it was introduced as. It was a flask with a vast amount of space inside of it, which could hold in total a million liters of any liquid.

The Flask was advertised as something that could hold a lot of wine, but everyone understood that it could hold any other form of liquid as well.

The Flask had the capacity to draw in Qi from the surrounding, enriching the liquid that was inside of it. That made a Spirit wine all the more potent, and it also improved any other forms of liquid.

Alex thought for a bit if the flask was of any importance to him. Because of the nature of the flask, he could see where it could come in handy and desired to buy it.

The bidding started at exactly 10 thousand Saint Spirit stones.

Chapter 1480: Close to the Final Day

Alex paid exactly 19 thousand Saint Spirit stones for the Bottomless Jade Flask. The usage he could get out of the flask was way too important to not be willing to pay that much for it.

He was down a bit of money for sure now. He had to be careful about buying anything right now just in case what he could find at the end was very important.

At this point, he even wanted to learn what was going to be sold at the end, but he wanted it to be a surprise so he didn't ask anyone about it.

The auction continued for a few more days.

These days, due to the importance of the items being sold, the auctions took longer. Either that or the auction house was forced to fill the remaining time until the end of the month by forcing their auctioneer to slow down the sales.

3 things during this time caught Alex's attention.

The first was tea, which he could tell belonged to Lady Zhan. He wasn't aware how she had managed to have it be an item in the auction even though she had only just arrived the day before, but he couldn't think much about it.

There were many ways for her to do so, being the future empress of the land.

Alex remembered the taste of this tea and wanted to see how it was made. He wanted to find out the ingredients. However, it seemed that was not in his luck at all.

Due to the tea's attributes, it was sold so fast and at such a high amount that Alex simply couldn't pay for it at all.

The second thing that Alex found interesting in as a painting about a young man standing high and mighty in the middle of the room, even while surrounded by those that were bigger than him.

He smiled, realizing that this was a depiction of him. Tian Honglui had drawn this piece from what the auctioneer had mentioned and it was one of his best, according to the appraisers.

The painting's name was Eye of the Storm, representing Alex as the point of calm in the sea of chaos.

He wanted to buy this piece as well. However, with Tian Honglui's name now following his new title as the only person to ever have 3 paintings featured in the Royal School of Painting's Hall of Fame, the cost of the painting skyrocketed to over 20 thousand.

Alex could buy the painting if he wanted, but then he would be low for whatever was to come in the future.

He had to give up on the painting too.

Finally, on the 28th day, Alex was presented with a scroll of fighting techniques that caught his eye. It was called the Celestial Moonblade technique.

An obviously exaggerated technique that was capable of using the Yin in one's body to create an attack. Alex thought of buying this technique as he had no other Yin-based skill during any fight.

The only Yin-based attack he had would be the God-Rending Death Blade, but it was a skill that was carved into Midnight and was not a skill he could use with any other blade.

As such, this would be his first real Yin-based offensive technique.

Or so he had thought. When the price increased to go past 25 thousand, Alex was forced to give up. There was absolutely no way in hell he was ever going to pay for that technique when something better was hopefully on the way.

Alex would be absolutely mortified if whatever that was at the end of the auction turned out to be something he didn't want to purchase.

There would be nothing more sad than that to him. However, Yao Ning had hinted by now that whatever it was, he would absolutely love it. She had also hinted that it wouldn't just be him that loved it, but every single person out there.

As such, he gladly gave up on the offensive technique and waited for whatever it was that was coming next.

Next, were his own pills.

Alex was surprised that it had taken this long for his pills to appear, given the weaker ones weren't that good when compared to everything that was sold.

However, the auction house had decided to sell all of his pills together, so there was nothing he could do about it.

And to his absolute surprise, each of his pills was being sold separately.

There were 5 Saint Lightning Resistance pills, and each one was going to be sold separately.

Hu Biaolin was back to becoming the auctioneer on the 29th day of the auction and would be one until the auction was over.

She started selling Lightning Resistance pills one by one, with the bids starting at 10 thousand.

Normally, no pill would ever be ranked that high, especially one with such a low use case. However, even then, due to the 5 pill veins, no one complained about the pill's cost and started buying the pills all at once.

The first of the five pills was sold at 22 thousand Saint Spirit stones. It was quite great for Alex.

'If only I could use this money to buy the other items,' he thought. But unfortunately, he couldn't. He also needed to make back the money he had spent to take it back to his own continent.

The second pill was sold at 21 thousand Saint Spirit stones, a little less than the second.

The third one was sold for 22 thousand Saint Spirit stones again, jumping back to the first pill's price.

It then increased again, going to 24 thousand Saint Spirit stones for the fourth pill.

For the last and final Saint Lightning Resistance pill, the big one broke through the 25 thousand Saint Spirit stones barrier, landing at 26500 Saint Spirit stones, which was surely the most expensive pill that had ever been sold in this world.

More exactly, it was the most expensive pill that had ever been sold in this world... yet.