

Alchemy 1511

Chapter 1511: The Dragon's Reason

"That is an interesting proposition," Alex said to the Dragon soul. He made an expression of contemplating the offer in front of him, but there was no way he was going to accept it.

He was only thinking of how to lightly reject.

Even if there was a chance that he would never reach the Immortal realms on his own, which he knew with his talent was nearly impossible, there were still far better choices for who he would go to the Immortal lands with.

Scarlet was the first obvious choice with their bond, and then Bai Jingshen. However, if Pearl reached the Immortal realm before either of them were to leave, then he would go with Pearl.

There was no reason to accept the Dragon's offer right now.

After thinking for a bit, Alex asked the Dragon something. "How long do you plan on staying in this realm?" he asked.

The dragon thought for a bit and frowned. "To be honest... I do not know how long it has exactly been since I came here," he said. "Wait a minute."

He spent a short time counting the number of years where he had to work on the trail. "I have been here for nearly 75 thousand years. Maybe a little less," he said.

Alex couldn't help but let his feeling of shock show through his face. "75 thousand years?" he asked with his eyes widened. He put the numbers together and came up with something. "You came here with the 2nd Azure Dragon?"

"Yes!" the Dragon said with a surprised look on his face. "You know when which ones came?"

"I know they change every 15 thousand years, and the next cycle is going to end in less than a thousand years," Alex said. "Another Azure Dragon should come then."

The Dragon soul nodded. "That is correct," he said.

"So... do you leave with the current one?" Alex asked, trying to discern the features in the soul's expression. He wanted to see if he had any knowledge of the outside world.

Especially when it came to the life and death of the Azure Dragon.

"No," the Dragon soul said. "I leave after 105 millennia. That is the deal I made before I came here."

"Deal?" Alex couldn't help but ask. "May I ask what sort of deal it was?"

"A simple one," the Dragon soul said. "Because I lost my body already, I needed a new one. As such, I was made to make a deal where if I remained here for 105 thousand years and tested the human's alchemy knowledge, I could go back and have the Azure Dragons make me a very strong body."

"Oh, is that why you agreed to this?" Alex asked with an understanding look. Internally, he couldn't fathom that someone was going to stay somewhere for 105 thousand years just so they could get a new body.

That was such a long amount of time that Alex couldn't even comprehend it entirely. He hadn't even lived for a hundred years, and the Dragon soul was waiting a hundred thousand, just as a soul.

"Yes," the Dragon answered Alex. "With the resources I have, I could never make a body for myself that would fit me. But the Azure Dragons? Oh boy, do they have the resources?"

Alex slowly nodded. "Is that so?" he said. "Your world sounds amazing, senior. But if it's going to take you 30 thousand years more to leave this place, I do not know how you could take me with you. I would either reach the Immortal realm myself by then or die trying."

The Dragon paused and then grimaced at the thought. "You are correct," he said. "I guess I didn't think of how long a Saint realm cultivator could live."

"It's okay, senior," Alex said. "Thank you for thinking about me at least."

The Dragon said nothing and simply nodded. "I suppose we have nothing else to talk about then. I will return to handling the trials—"

"Actually, senior!" Alex quickly interjected. "I have something else to ask of you."

The Dragon stopped in his tracks and looked at Alex. "What do you need to ask?"

Alex hesitated a bit, but he had to ask this. "Are you able to leave this place as you want?" he asked. "Maybe go outside for some time? I was wondering if—"

"If I could help you?" the Dragon asked before shaking his head. "Ignoring the fact that I am but only a soul, and that I am an Immortal in a lower realm, I have also spoken an oath to forever remain in this place and never intervene in the matters of the mortals."

"If you are in need of help, then I am afraid that I cannot help you."

Alex frowned a bit. "Even if the matter doesn't pertain to the mortals. Can you still not help me?"

The Dragon frowned a little. "I can never leave this place. That is the main obstacle here. No matter the type of conflict you are in, I cannot help you."

'Dammit!' Alex said internally. It seemed he wouldn't get any help in regard to the Azure Dragon's death.

"Thank you anyway, senior," Alex bowed a little as he had nothing else to say.

"Are you still going to take part in the trial? You seem good enough to pass it all."

"Even if I'm good enough for it, I plan to sit through it all," Alex said.

The Dragon soul chuckled a bit. "Why did you even come here?" he asked. "If you knew you were good enough for this, I don't see the point of you coming to the trial. Is it to show off?"

Alex laughed along with the Dragon at the question. "Show off? No," he said. "As I said, I am not from the Eastern Continent, so this is my first time coming to this trial. I simply wanted to see how it was handled and what sort of tests were held here."

"Is that so?" the Dragon asked.

"Yes," Alex said.

"But you knew you were going to do well, didn't you?" he asked.

"I didn't doubt it," Alex said. "Besides, my reason for coming here wasn't just for the Alchemy trials. I actually wanted to see how far I could go for all the trials, except the music ones."

"You want to test yourself on the other 5 trials?" the Dragon asked with a surprised look on his face. "That's quite daring. Are you good with the other professions?"

"Not as good as I am in Alchemy, but I can say I'm decent," Alex said. "I'll have to see how well I do there."

The Dragon nodded. "Good luck on getting it all white then," he said. "I will leave you to it now."

The Dragon disappeared and arrived back outside where he started giving out other various trials to the many that were inside.

Alex looked at the talisman on his hand once the Dragon left him. He had tried to pay some attention to it while the Dragon was there, but it seemed impossible to fully focus on it with the Dragon looming over him.

Now, however, he could finally read through the entire talisman and see the pill he had obtained from the trade between the two.

The Forbidden Immortality Pill

Chapter 1512: Hardest Trial

Just as the Dragon had mentioned, the pill would grant one a fake Immortal cultivation realm that could give them the strength of a newly ascended Immortal. However, when used, the backlash alone would wreck one's body and soul.

Alex wasn't worried about having his body wrecked as much, but if his soul was hurt as well, that could be problematic.

'Well, it's a worst-case scenario pill in the end,' he thought. 'A forbidden pill, only to be eaten when you're about to die. There's no point in worrying about my body and soul at that point.'

He looked through the ingredients in the list and frowned a little. Most of the ingredients were fine, nothing hard to obtain even if they were considered rare.

But the main ingredient that made up the pill was something called a Fire Coral. Alex knew about the ingredient simply based on the name and what he had in his mind, nothing else.

He had never seen this ingredient in real life as it grew only in the deepest parts of the ocean, on top of a fire spirit vein.

Alex grimaced a little when reading that. The chances of making the pill had suddenly become minuscule. "I might have to ask Bai Jingshen for some help once I return," he thought to himself.

That was the only way he could think of acquiring it as he was now. The deep ocean was a scary place after all.

After some time, Alex was given another trial as well. In this one, he had to make a pill recipe using the ingredients listed and get as close as he could to telling what the pill would do.

This wasn't as hard for Alex, and he easily completed the task in a quarter of the hours allocated. When he passed the trial, the color around his wall changed once again, growing lighter.

The dark blue walls had changed to a shade of a lighter blue that could still go a shade or two lighter. When they were fully rid of all the colors, the wall would become entirely white, which was what the Dragon had wished him good luck on.

When the walls became white, it meant that the trial was over and that he had passed it all.

The next trial came earlier than the allocated time was entirely over. Either the participants had all left or had all passed. There was no in-between here.

The next trial was rather simple. It asked one to make multiple pills in the same cauldron. One would have to change recipes ever so slightly to deal with this, but Alex had gotten used to this for so long that he didn't even think about it at this point and just did it.

The speed at which he finished this one surprised the Dragon. Thankfully, Alex hadn't bothered to make pill clouds so he didn't show off a lot.

Once the pills were made, his walls became a light shade of blue that had nearly lost its color.

One more trial and he would be done.

Only, this was going to be the hardest one yet.

The trials were never made with the intention that there would be someone amongst the saints who could make pill clouds. It was never even made with the intention that someone could reach Immortal grade with their pills.

The quality of the pill was never the concern of the trials. Only the knowledge and skill to make them good enough.

So, it was true that even people without any skill to make the best pills had a chance at passing all the trials.

Still, there was a reason why barely anyone passed through all the trials. In the 75-thousand-year-old history of the secret realm, there was a reason why only a handful of people ever reached white.

And that had to do with the final trial that Alex was being given.

Alex's eyes widened in shock when he heard that final trial. He was asked to do something he wasn't even sure was possible. After all, he had never even thought of doing such a thing.

The trial demanded that he make two pills. That would be simple enough if he wasn't supposed to make two different pills, at the same time, and in the same cauldron.

Alex frowned at the thought of what he was going to have to do for this trial.

2 different pills in the same cauldron. What sort of maniac would do such a thing? The entire point of making a pill was to weave together the energies of different ingredients in one place so they produced different effects.

If you tried to make two pills at the same time, the energies would mix together, rendering a failure for both pills. So then why was it that the Dragon put this as the last challenge? Was it really possible?

Alex had 2 whole days to complete the challenge. He had already been in this place for nearly 3 days, so now having 2 days meant that he would be here for 5 days.

5 days each in 6 different trial rooms of the Realm of Trial meant that a single person could complete it all in a month at best. Given that the trial was supposed to run for only a month, one was never meant to go through it all.

'2 pills at once?' Alex asked himself. 'How do I do it?'

His heart was telling him to use pills that didn't need as many ingredients and were thus not as complicated. However, for some reason, his pride stopped him from choosing the pills for such a reason.

If such a thing was possible to be done, then he would do it with an everyday pill. He randomly chose a simple healing pill and a pill to improve one's cultivation speed.

Once he chose them, he looked through the two ingredients trying to find conflict between the two. But that didn't feel right again.

Alex saw two possibilities here.

The first possibility was that you were not supposed to be able to do this. In which case, the trial here was to know that it was impossible and thus not do anything. Alex didn't believe that was the case.

Then the second possibility would be that you were supposed to be able to do this, and you were supposed to be able to do it with any recipe you had.

"I will have to try with these two then," Alex spoke softly. Memory was on the furnace in front of him, ready to accept whatever ingredient he was to put in.

However, Alex couldn't bring himself to put in any of the ingredients. What did he put in first anyway? The Hanging pillar vine for the healing pill or the Silver Rite citrus peel for the cultivation pill?

Did it even matter?

He stayed there for a good half hour before coming to a conclusion.

"It doesn't matter," he thought. "My task right now is not to do it correctly, but to do it wrong and learn from it. There is no point in trying to do it correctly from the start when I've never done this before."

Thinking as such, Alex took the Hanging Pillar vine and put it into Memory to begin.

Chapter 1513: Success

Alex knew what the result would be the moment he put the two ingredients into the cauldron. Due to the difference in the temperature and the motion of the two ingredients according to their recipe, one of them had to burn while the other one barely cooked.

The energy released from the two ingredients wasn't what they should have been either. While the vine had released regular energy, the fruit had burnt and released its energy way too quickly.

Alex stopped and quickly threw away everything before clearing the cauldron.

"So, I can't send them in at once," he spoke out loud. He liked talking through what he was doing and it certainly helped him. "One at a time then?"

He tried.

He first threw in the vine and controlled it until it was reduced to nothing but powder with the energy in the cauldron. Then, he threw in the fruit.

The fruit turned into powder as well and its energy was released inside the cauldron. However, as he had expected it to happen, the moment the energy was released, it mixed with the energy from the vine, ruining both of them at the same time. This was not the way to go well.

Alex cleared the cauldron again, but this time he noticed that they were separate powders, neither of which was ruined. "So the Energy is the problem. Not the powder?" he wondered. "Does that mean that if I can keep the two energies separate somehow, it will be possible?"

He tried for the third time. He pulled out the two ingredients and did the same as before. Only, this time, he tried his best to use his Qi to keep the two energies separate from each other.

He made the energy from the vine remain on the upper section of the cauldron, while the energy from the fruit remained on the lower section. It was a somewhat difficult task, but it was certainly not impossible.

It didn't even burden him as much as he would've thought it would, but that simply meant he had stronger Intent now and could do more without losing much spiritual energy.

Once the two energies stopped mixing, it was time for the third ingredient, which would be the second ingredient for the healing pill.

Alex took out the ingredient and put it in, without a care in the world for making be good. However, the moment he put it in, he realized there was a problem. The energy at the bottom of the cauldron belonged to the ingredient that did not belong to the recipe that was for the ingredient he just put.

So, the moment he added it, he knew something was going to go wrong. And it did.

This try of his was a failure as the wrong ingredients mixed together, creating the wrong combination. He had to give up right then and there.

"That was wrong as well," Alex thought. "Then should I have put the fruit's energy on top? No, it would work for the 3rd ingredient, but the 4th one I put would be in the same problem."

That stumped him for a few seconds. He thought for a moment, trying to deduce what the core problem here was. And the answer was surprisingly simple.

Gravity.

Anything he threw in there would fall to the bottom where the heat was present from the fire. Normally, it all had to fall to the bottom as not all the cauldron would heat the same, at least not if you wanted to make the pill quickly.

However, with Dao of Heat, he wasn't limited to that. With his Dao of Heat, he could heat up the entire cauldron to the same temperature every time. It would certainly use a lot more Qi and Intent than normally, but that was possible.

So... he didn't have to have the ingredients ever fall to the bottom.

"I can have it at the top." Alex slowly came to the conclusion. "I can simply make one pill on the top half, and the other on the bottom half."

He resumed making his pill again, with newfound ideas to help him.

The vine went in first, and then the fruit. Together, they formed 2 different sections in the cauldron, the top and the bottom, where their energy had settled, kept from mixing together thanks to Alex's Qi and Intent.

Then, Alex sent in the third ingredient, processing it normally as it belonged in the recipe for the bottom pill. Once done, he put in the fourth ingredient, the 2nd ingredient for the top pill.

The ingredient teleported onto the top half of the cauldron and remained there. Then, Alex used his Dao to heat up the entire cauldron to the required temperature at once and did what he would have done at the bottom.

Once completed, the energy from the ingredient mixed with the energy on the upper half, perfectly mixed as it would have in a normal pill.

Alex smiled a little and continued. One after another, he alternated between the two recipes, making the pills. It took longer than it would have taken for him to make the pills back to back, but in the end, he did it.

Once after another, he put the two pills in the cauldron and pulled it out with a bright smile on his face. Neither of the pills was even close to touching the 90% range because of how much time he had wasted while making them, but he had done what the trial had asked for.

And so, the barely blue walls around him slowly turned white. He had passed the trial.

The Dragon floated down in front of him with an expecting look. "For a second I thought you were going to fail," he said. "I didn't realize you would have such trouble with this."

"I've never done something like this before," Alex said truthfully. "It took some time for me to know what to do."

"Well, it's just making pills normally, except you split the space inside your cauldron to make it appear as if there are two sections. Once you do it, you'll be able to do it all the time," the Dragon said.

Alex slowly nodded, slightly out of it as he looked at the two pills in his hands.

"Congratulations on finishing the trial. You can leave now," the Dragon said.

"Can I stay for a bit," Alex quickly said. "I feel like I need to spend some time on what I just learned."

"Hmm," the Dragon soul thought for a moment. "Alright, I'll give you an hour. Take what you learned and try to understand it. I can't keep you here for long, so you'll have to leave after that."

Alex nodded. "Thank you, senior."

The dragon nodded back and left him.

Alex remained in there, surrounded by the bright white walls as he looked down on his pills once again. Neither of the pills he made were up to par for him at all.

And he knew the reason. It was because he wasted time between the pills. Had he not done that, he could have made two different pills in the same cauldron at once.

So, he decided to do exactly that.

Chapter 1514: Weak Memory

The main problem with making two pills at once, from what Alex had come to realize after a bit of testing, was Heat. If you wanted to make two pills at once, and truly make it at once and not one after another or alternatively, then you needed to make it so that your cauldron had two different temperatures at once.

The upper half of the cauldron, where one pill would be made, would have to have a different temperature from the other half of the cauldron. That required one not just to have a Dao of Heat, but also a Dao of Heat Conduction to stop the heat from flowing from one section to the other.

On top of that, the different temperatures in the same cauldron would cause the cauldron to have a durability problem.

Alex worried Memory would start showing such problems as well. Unlike Midnight, which he had kept with himself for the past 2 decades, Memory had been lost to him for a majority of that time, and had started making pills with it half a decade ago.

As such, Memory hadn't grown much, and that scared Alex from putting it through harsh situations. Still, he needed to do this. He needed to try and he did.

And in the end, he succeeded. But not without finding that he couldn't do much more than what he had done, or else Memory wouldn't be able to handle it.

If the cauldron's physical body was damaged, Alex could maybe find a way to fix it. But if the budding spirit inside of it was damaged, he wasn't sure what he could do to fix that at all.

So, he decided to not overdo it at all.

A lightning bolt fell from the Pill Cloud at once, stopped by Alex. 4 more subsequent lightning bolts fell, which Alex stopped before stopping altogether. He brought out the two pills, of which one was in the upper 90s in terms of Harmony, and the other one had 5 lightning scars.

Once Alex had the two pills, he stopped to think about what he had done. He had made two pills in the same cauldron at the same time as if he were working with two different cauldrons.

It required a lot of mental focus and Intent as well as Qi, but there was still quite a lot for him to spare. Unfortunately, Memory couldn't handle much more, the spirit at least.

Splitting the cauldron into two sections, each of which had a different temperature strained Memory too much.

However, even though he decided to not strain Memory too much, he had achieved an epiphany regarding something and would now have to do just that.

"I'll have to improve your tolerance to outside temperature and stress, Memory," he said softly. "It will take you some time to get used to it, but when you're done, you'll become stronger." He spoke while caressing the side of the cauldron with gentle strokes.

Alex got a vague impression back from Memory, but it wasn't close to being anything informative. Still, that made Alex quite happy.

"Rest for now," he said. "We'll begin once I'm done with this trial."

He put Memory back into his storage ring and stood up. "I'll leave now," he spoke.

The dragon soul nodded. "I hope I'll see you in the future," he spoke.

"I'll try to come the next time it opens up again," Alex told the Dragon.

The Dragon nodded. "Thank you for the technique," he said. "I'll send you out now."

Alex thanked the Dragon soul one last time and let the teleportation aura grab onto him, sending him outside the building that housed the realm of trial. He arrived outside the walls, surrounded by bright, white light.

The moment the pillar of light vanished, and he reappeared to everyone, he could see the surprised faces that surrounded him.

"White light!" someone shouted.

"Someone passed all the trial!" another person shouted.

Soon enough, everyone in the surroundings heard their words and turned to look at Alex. A few people recognized him and the information spread like wildfire.

Within a minute, every single person standing on the side of the Alchemy trial knew that Alex, the king of the Southern Continent, had now passed the trial with a white color.

He had passed with the highest grade one could get. Something that very few people in the entire history of the Realm of Trials had passed.

Soldiers surrounded Alex as guards, giving him some space in the middle of the crowd. Before Alex could decide what to do next, someone quickly flew in.

"Your majesty!" the man shouted with an incredulous look and a voice inflection that told Alex that he was very much amazed by the scene he had put forth. "What an incredible sight! I didn't think that you would have passed the entire trial in a mere 4 days."

Alex looked at the handsome newcomer and smiled. "I only did what I was best at, King Qian," he answered. "I would say this was even expected of me."

"Of course," the new king of the Gold Empire spoke to him. "Still, this is quite incredible. Expectation is one thing, but the result itself can be amazing even with everything else added on top."

"The Gold Kingdom hasn't seen a white light from any of the 6 trials in what... 2 centuries now? The last one for Alchemy trials was... 3 centuries ago I believe. The Crown Prince's fiancée was the one who achieved a white rank at that time I believe. And before that... it was 6 millennia ago, with His Majesty himself."

Alex hadn't known this information about the trials before so he was surprised. 'So Lady Zhan went through this as well?' he thought. It wasn't that hard of a test, so it was understandable. What surprised him instead was that the Crown Prince hadn't done that.

He was supposed to be in Level 9, along with her as well.

"Thank you for the information, King Qian," Alex spoke. "But I must get back to the trials."

The king frowned a bit, surprised at Alex's words. "The trials? But you just completed it, with white light at that. There's no point in repeating the same trial over and over, Your Majesty."

"I never said I was doing the same thing, did I?" Alex asked.

The king was slightly taken aback. "You wish to go to another trial?" he asked.

"Absolutely," Alex said. "Aside from the Music trial, I'm going to enter all of it."

"Ah, I see," the man said. "I'll wish you luck then."

The king walked away afterward, leaving Alex to go to whatever trial it was that he wanted to.

Alex met up with his elders briefly after the king was gone to see how the other alchemists were doing.

"Most returned with indigo or blue lights," Liang Shufen said. "No one came back with any red. 3 came out a day ago with regular blue light."

"As far as I can tell, Jai Heiyun is still inside. If all goes well, she might get white light as well."

"I don't know," Alex said. "The final question was certainly quite difficult. Still, I wish her the best. For now, I think I'll head on over to the Formation trials."

Chapter 1515: From One Trial to Another

Make a circle with a 5-pointed star such that the points are touching the circle.

Make a formation to create fire and wind at the same time.

Draw a formation on the ground itself.

Draw a Saint formation in metal rods.

Link two Saint formations together.

These were the sorts of trials that Alex had to go through for his Formation trial.

The trial master here was another soul as well, but as to just what beast it was, Alex wasn't able to tell. Its name was also not something that helped him figure out its family at all.

As far as Alex could tell, the first Dragon Emperor had found someone good with formations and made a deal with them, disregarding just who they were.

As such, Alex couldn't find a way to talk with this soul at all. It was likely that he wouldn't get a chance to talk with it at all.

The Frostfire Inkbrush worked amazingly in Alex's hands, drawing the best formations it could. However, the extent of how good the formation would be was still in Alex's hands in the end.

And in the end, he wasn't good enough.

Having to divert his attention to two formations at once, crafting them side by side was not something Alex had ever trained at. He didn't even know what use such a skill would have, but the trial asked for it and he failed.

He did manage to make somewhat of a good formation, but it was not up to par for the trial master and thus he was sent out.

Alex flew back out in a light blue light, just 2 more passes away from reaching another white. His appearance didn't cause as much of a stir at first and only seemed to do so when people recognized him after the soldiers surrounded him once more.

The king did not come to congratulate him this time around. It seemed that light blue was not as impressive as white light.

The one who did come was Whisker. The Elders hadn't realized that he had let Whisker go through the trials on his own. So, when the barely blue light teleported him outside, they were all surprised.

Seeing a mouse come out of the trial wasn't an everyday occurrence.

Beasts took part in the trial sometimes, especially ones from the Beast Academies. However, after the Beast Paradise had closed itself, the number of beasts that showed up to the trials was barely any.

Not to mention, they were never good enough to nearly complete the entire challenge.

"You did good," Alex said after hearing how far Whisker had made it. "So you failed on the last trial, huh? Do you want to try it again?"

Whisker shook his head. "I don't have good enough control," Whisker said. "I will need to learn it before I do it again."

"You do need to have a strong Intent," Alex said. "I'll train you sometime later. Maybe even let you learn some Fire Dao as well. You're close to learning a few, right?"

"I've seen you use it quite a bit while making pills," Whisker said.

Alex smiled. "Good," he said. "If you don't want to go through any more trials for now, I understand."

Whisker couldn't be happier to not have to do something. He quickly disappeared into his own beast space and was no longer outside.

Once he was gone, the Elders finally stepped closer and started speaking again.

"It's a shame you didn't reach white again, your majesty," Yao Ning said. "We could've shown how incredible you were."

"Are you saying reaching light blue is not incredible?" Alex asked the elder.

"No, that is not what I meant," Yao Ning tried to explain, but Alex's laughter interrupted her.

"I'm joking," he said quickly. "I am somewhat disappointed I failed too. If I knew what I would've had to do beforehand, I might've passed that test too, entering the final trial. Alas, I failed."

"Do you think you could pass if you went in again?" Liang Shufen asked this time around.

Alex paused for a moment. "Maybe," he answered. "I doubt I would fail at the test I just failed at. I might fail at the next one, but who can say without me going through it all."

"Right? So—"

"Not now," Alex said without pausing. "I'll go through the rest of the trials and see where I end up with them. If I have the time at the end of it, which I most likely will have, I will go back to the ones I didn't pass entirely."

"That's... understandable," Yao Ning answered. "Do what you think is best, your majesty. We will trust your decision."

Alex nodded and decided to rest for a bit before going to the next trial. He could feel the coldness in his Dantian filling up and that needed to be contained.

At the same time, Pearl and Whisker hadn't cultivated for a while, so he needed to give them some time as well. They were all close to breaking through after all.

Alex especially was close to breaking through. A moment's thought would start his breakthrough. He was that close. However, he couldn't do it just yet. Somewhere deep in his heart, he knew that there were expectations in him that he needed to squash before he tried breaking through.

He could hope for his cousin to be alive, but keeping an expectation of it was dangerous. He was sure he had gotten rid of all of the things that his Inner Demon could attack him with, but he doubted he was correct there as well.

In the end, he could only wait. After the Realm of Trial was closed, he would try again. And he hoped he wouldn't fail that time around.

Two days later, once the effects of the cultivation pill wore off, Alex walked out of his hotel room again, walking directly toward the Talisman section of the Trial area.

As soon as he arrived, he was given main priority and was immediately sent inside to take part in the Talisman Trial.

Chapter 1516: Simple Failure

The trial for Talisman was surprisingly difficult. Alex was asked to do more than he had expected a good chunk of the way through the trial, and as such he was sent out.

He arrived in a flash of purple light that edged on being indigo. It was close to blue, but not quite yet.

Barely anyone gave him any attention when he arrived. No one cared for you when there was the slightest hint of red in your color.

People noticed Alex, but this time there was no fanfare. They had heard about his achievement in the Alchemy trials already, and the Formation trial's results were not hidden from them either.

They had paid attention when he had entered, but when he came out, no one bothered to care. He can't be good at everything he does, they thought. Some even voiced it out loud.

"He nearly made us think he was perfect," someone said not far away from Alex. He had tried to keep his words a whisper, but if he spoke it out loud, he had intended for Alex to hear it.

Anyone who wanted to have a private conversation wouldn't speak out loud like this and instead would use their spiritual sense.

"What was that purple? Indigo? That's better than halfway, isn't it? He did amazing in Alchemy and Formation, so the fact that he got this far in Talismans too makes him quite the talent," another person added. Their voice held little jealousy.

Various such conversations were held around Alex, but he ignored them. He looked back at the trial, intending to return immediately, but he couldn't.

There was a reason he had failed and going back right away would still mean failure for him when he got to the same trial again.

The talisman trial asked for more than just making talismans. It asked for scripts and runes that did not need to be placed onto a piece of paper to be activated.

That was quite easy for Alex. Behind Alchemy, this was what he assumed he was the best at. After all, his mother had received a book with detailed knowledge of Talismans and he had learned a lot from it.

That was another reason why being sent out this early didn't stick right with him. However, the trials had asked for more than just runes and scripts and making talismans.

It had asked him to make an ink, any ink, and then make a talisman with it that worked. Alex lacked the ingredients to make inks.

He was never the type of man to learn how to make inks. His focus was on alchemy, so he focused on every aspect of alchemy. But for Talisman, he just focused on the runes and how to draw them perfectly on the paper.

As for the ink that he used to write in the talisman, he would just buy it from someone else who made it. That had been what had made him fail. That was why he had been sent out this early.

'I was doing so well too,' he thought. He looked through his ingredients again. There were quite a lot of it, but the ingredients for making talisman inks didn't overlap with alchemy ingredients all that often.

Alex knew a few ink recipes, but he was missing the ingredients for every single one. If he returned to the talisman trial once again, he would fail once again at the same trial.

He needed to buy some ingredients before going back in.

The elders soon found him and he told them what he wanted. The elders quickly got to it and returned with rather bad news.

"Everything in the city has been sold and nothing has been restocked yet," Yao Ning told him.

"It gets restocked every few days, but the amount of people here buy it the moment they get restocked," Liang Shufen added. "If we want one, we'll have to go to the next city."

Alex thought for a moment. "Go," he said. "Buy as much as you can. I don't need a lot, but just enough. It will take you some time, so in the meantime, I'll head on over to the Artifact creation."

He arrived inside the trial room half an hour later. He was first on the priority list, but he still had to wait for someone to come out of the trials before he went in.

After he was in, he was once again in a black room, as he had with all the different trials.

This time, the trial master was a human soul. Or so Alex thought until he saw the female's slit eyes. Nothing else looked beast-like in her physique, but the eyes told him that she was some sort of serpentine beast.

He even wondered if she was a descendant of the Azure Dragon, only so far removed from the bloodline that she barely held any of their physical traits.

She introduced herself as Shiu Longxiu, a name Alex knew he was only going to have to remember for now. She explained to the newcomers what they were going to have to do and how the trials would be held.

The first test was the simplest of all tests for an artifact master. They were supposed to make a simple storage bag. It didn't matter how good the bag was, only that it worked.

Alex started working on it immediately. He had prepared the leather beforehand, so all he needed to do right now was pour some Qi into the leather, make some Qi lines, and then use a formation to drag some of the space into the bag.

Even as he did what he was told, he wondered if it was a good idea to take away space from a room that was already being manipulated by formations. However, since the woman had asked for it, Alex trusted that she knew what she was doing.

And it seemed he was right to trust her.

The moment he was done dragging away the space, he felt the space around him expand just a little more. The formation that worked in the room was constantly working to restore the space in case of any disruption.

As a result, no one had to worry about space collapsing by a bunch of humans taking away a bit of it to make storage bags.

Alex saw his room light up bright red. He understood that he had passed and so he sat down and waited for the others to pass before the next test began.

Just 5 minutes later, his new trial was given.

Separate a metal from its ore.

That was an easy task for Alex. He didn't even have to use any specific blacksmithing techniques and neither did he have to use any forge.

He took out a gold ore and melted the gold right onto his hand, separating it so simply. He had wondered if he should use some materials on it to purify it more, but the light around the room lit up a bright red color, notifying him that he was done.

"That was simple," he thought. He put away the gold and waited for half an hour before the rest of the trials he would have to go through.

Chapter 1517: Re-Entering

The artifact trials were easy for the most part. There were some trials he struggled a bit on where he had to answer questions about different artifacts and how they could possibly have been made.

But after consulting with the knowledge he had gained while he was in the artifact school, he managed to come up with the answers that were satisfactory to the soul that governed the trials.

Alex went on for a long while, passing one trial after another until he came upon an impossible one that asked him to make a Whip with a water element attack crafted into it.

Alex was aware of how he could make a whip, and there was plenty of leather and metal in his storage to create one. However, he had no idea how one created Water element attacks in it at all.

He could create one for a sword, but he hadn't learned to make one for a whip. He tried his best for all the time that was given to him and he even tried adding the Qi lines from the sword into the whip, but that didn't work.

In the end, he failed.

Blue light surrounded him as he was teleported outside when the span of time allocated for the trial had passed. It wasn't just him. Nearly 20 other individuals had been teleported out as well.

All of them had failed the same test as Alex. He felt a little better knowing this. Seeing the situation, he could understand that not many passed the trial, if any. If they did, it would be because they know something that was not publically known.

Alex had only trained from what was available in the Royal School of Artifact. Even then, he had only learned the basics. He wasn't aware of everything that was in the school.

A few people glanced at him this time around, talking softly to each other. Alex ignored whatever they were going to say and directly went over to the hotel room to rest.

Over a week had passed since the last time he had cultivated, so he needed to cultivate once again. The coldness in his dantian was even more pronounced than the time he had come out of the Alchemy trials.

While he cultivated along with his beasts, the elders let him know that his request had been fulfilled. They had gone over two cities to find the ingredients he had asked for.

Alex happily accepted it when he left the other day and made his way back to the Trial of Talisman. As a person of the highest priority, he was quickly sent back in, and he arrived back in the black room where the trials were held.

The white soul of the deer-turned-human floated in the air, addressing some other people who were not them. It was only a minute later that he finally introduced himself once again.

It was the first time Alex had repeated the same trial, so it felt weird knowing what was to come. And what was to come, he passed splendidly.

The questions were all entirely different from the last time, but the essence of what was being tested was the same.

Create a talisman for protection. Create a talisman with these two runes. Find out what this talisman does. Alter this talisman to make it do something else with as few changes as you can.

It wasn't a free pass, but it was an easy path all the way to the trial that asked him to make some ink and make a talisman out of it. Each talisman had a unique purpose and a unique set of energy that made it work.

Most of them were neutral, but a lot of them had attributes like Fire, Water, and all other elements. It even included Space and Time, but only Space talismans were easy to get by.

Each of these required a different combination of ingredients to form an ink. It was the ink that gave the pattern to the runes, which would then use the Qi to do things that were governed by the heavens.

Each unique set of runes required a unique ink of its own to match it perfectly and bring out the best of its ability. Making a unique ink for each talisman was difficult.

Not only was it difficult to make so many different types of ink, it was nearly impossible to know what combination of ingredients created those inks. So, most resorted to using common ink with reduced effectiveness.

Most talented talisman makers knew how to switch up a few ingredients to improve the effectiveness of their ink, but it was not possible to make it absolutely perfect. At least, not without a ton of luck, or a heavenly fortune of some old Talisman maker.

Still, the normal inks that were made were still different for all types of talisman, and Alex knew that. His mother knew a lot more than him, but she had taught him what she knew back in the Luminance empire.

He hadn't had much time to improve on it, but he had that knowledge. So, he swiftly created a neutral ink that he knew would match the combination of runes he was going to draw next and made a talisman out of it.

He completed the trial, passing where he had failed last time, and waited for the next trial.

He reached dark blue after completing the next trial, blue with the one after that, and sky blue with another one.

For the second to last trial, Alex was made to make a single talisman with 100 different runes, each unique and working in tandem to do something of his choice. He had half a day to complete that, and given the difficulty, he started immediately.

He first chose an ink that would match fire energy talismans. For some reason, he wanted to make a talisman that had something to do with fire. Once he selected the ink, he needed to come up with a pattern.

He took his Frostfire Inkbrush and put the brush at the lowest possible setting before drawing on the empty talisman papers with thin lines.

There were a hundred different runes he had to draw. The ones that were important would have to be large, so the rest he would have to make as tiny as he could.

He had a solid idea of what he wanted with the talisman at this point so he started drawing runes without hesitation.

HOT. VIOLENT. 2 KILOMETERS. BIG. BRIGHT. WHITE.

He added small runes to describe the effect of the talisman. He drew lines to connect the runes that needed to work in tandem while leaving a large enough space at the center.

DELAY. 2 SECONDS. TARGET. STRAIGHT. TELEPORT. ATTACH. DEFEND. BARRIER. TRIGGER.

He wrote what the talisman had to do. He could feel weariness, his mental focus wavering a little. His Intent was being drawn out by the difficulty of the task.

He continued adding the smaller runes that were there just to make the number count while leaving a large enough area at the center where the actual important words would go.

FIRE. QI. HEAT. CONDUCTION. BURNING. MELTING. COMBUSTION. FLAMES. BOILING. REACTION.

He finished adding the important runes and then added the most important one in the center.

EXPLOSION.

Once he joined the runes together, he moved back, looking at the talisman in front of him. It was a talisman that he made based on the first Dao he had ever learned.

A Talisman for Explosion.

Chapter 1518: Final Test

The walls surrounding Alex changed to a barely blue color. Seeing the color, he was sure that he was on the verge of completing all the trials. All he had to do now was pass the final test.

He sat on the cold floor, wondering what the next test was going to be. He had a hunch that it was going to have to do with talisman again and not just runes or scripts.

The people of this world were more used to talismans, and most of the people who came to get tested were ones who were good at talismans. So testing any other skill was counter-productive.

The woman had already tested their knowledge of runes and scripts, so the final one had to be a talisman-based trial for certain.

He had to wait for a while longer than he had expected to. There seemed to be some participants remaining that were still trying to control the last trial. When they ended, either in victory or in failure, the female soul spoke once more.

"For the final trial, the two of you will have to make the same talisman once again," the Soul said. "Get your materials ready. You'll begin right away."

Alex frowned at the last trial. He disregarded the knowledge that there was only a single other person in the trials with him and focused on the main trial itself. Even as he brought out the ink and blank talisman paper, he wondered why the test was so easy.

Simply remaking the talisman he had already made, did the soul think he was tired or something? Alex placed the blank talisman in front of him and waited for the moment he was allowed to draw.

Since he had already made the talisman once, it was easy to repeat it. A talisman with 100 runes was hard to make the first time, but not after that. This would be a walk in the park... so long as there wasn't something the soul was hiding about the test.

"Begin!" she shouted, the chilling voice entering Alex's ears.

The moment he heard those words, he put the brush to the page and...

He couldn't move it.

He couldn't move any part of his body at all as his mind focused as best as it could against the mental assault that was pressing him. There was no aura here at all, no Qi. It was all Spiritual energy and a very strong Intent, by none other than the female soul in front of it.

'No wonder,' Alex thought, grunting a little. He flared his own spiritual sense to protect his mind and used his Intent to fight off the woman's Intent. It was difficult.

Struggle was all he could do right now.

'No wonder the test was so easy,' he thought. 'Making the talisman wasn't even the real test. It's this.' Even as those thoughts crossed his mind, he had to refocus his attention on fighting back the woman.

He struggled for 2 whole minutes against the Immortal soul's Spiritual sense and Intent before he took in anything that was happening outside. The woman had spoken.

"This will go on until you drop unconscious or you make a talisman that is acceptable," the woman said. "You better get started."

Alex felt a pang of anger at the fact that an Immortal was showing off her senses against regular Saints. Were they supposed to be as strong as her? No. Then why was she going so hard?

Of course, those were just complaints born out of the struggle. In reality, he knew that the woman probably wasn't even trying. As an Immortal, she could probably destroy their spirit with a single attack. Her Intent alone would be able to do some permanent damage to someone even without any Qi or energy behind it.

After a few minutes of struggling, Alex felt the spiritual sense let off just a tiny bit. At first, he wondered why she was lessening her assault. But, after a bit of self-check using the small amount of focus he was free to use, he came to understand that the rate at which she was pushing on them, making him use up his Spiritual energy was exactly the same rate at which it was replenished.

That was to say that she wanted to keep doing this forever, so long as the two finalists could endure the mental strain. One could lose consciousness even if their Spiritual sea was full after all.

The little relief that the woman had given Alex was enough for him to open his eyes and look down at the talisman in front of him. He was on his hands and knees at this point, and he slowly got himself back into a position where he could start drawing the runes on the paper.

Nearly 10 minutes had passed, and not a single drop of ink had touched the paper. Alex struggled however much he could, and tried to create the first of the many runes in the talisman.

The runes were small, so he needed a lot more attention than normal. He wasn't sure if he could get them right now, but he had to do it anyway.

Only... he wondered if he didn't have to do it right away.

He paused and looked back at the soul who wasn't even paying attention to him. He waited for a moment, thinking through things, trying to make sense of what he was planning. He didn't see anything wrong with what he wanted to do here.

He stopped himself from drawing anything into the talisman and moved his body back before sitting up straight. He stared at the woman with intense eyes, fighting back her own Spiritual energy and Intent as best he could.

The woman finally noticed what he was doing. She was a little confused as to what was going on. The other finalist was still struggling, even though she had reduced her spiritual push on them so that she could replenish her spiritual energy and not run out in no time.

And yet, Alex was not struggling. At least, not to the level she had intended him to struggle. His spiritual energy's replenishment rate hadn't improved obviously, so what had made his time easier here was his Intent.

It was much stronger than the other finalist. To the point that he had freed himself from only focusing on his own survival and instead had the chance to do something else. He had the chance to draw the talisman.

She had no plan on increasing her spiritual pressure on either of them anymore, but Alex didn't know that. For all he knew, she could increase her pressure any time now. And yet he was doing nothing but fighting back her pressure while staring at her intently.

That was when she realized exactly what was happening. "This kid!!" she couldn't help but say in surprise. "Is he serious?"

She stared back at Alex and saw him struggling, but this struggle was not something that was born out of a sense of self-preservation, but rather out of a sense of improvement.

She realized at that moment that Alex was fighting against her Spiritual energy and Intent to improve his own spiritual energy and Intent.

Instead of completing the final trial, Alex was training.

Chapter 1519: Completing the Test

The woman floated in the vast empty room, surrounded by a thousand different humans, each focused on their own thing. Her Spiritual sense, which was so close to turning to Divine sense, was spread amongst all of the thousand individuals, checking each one of them.

That was how she kept track of their progress with the trials, along with the help of various formations that were set up. She had been doing this for thousands and thousands of years, so she was very experienced in exactly what she had to do.

However, even in these dozens and dozens of millennia of experience, there was not once when instead of completing the trial, someone had instead made her the source of their training.

That made the woman uncomfortable. She was put in a new spot where she did not know what she was supposed to do. Should she increase the spiritual strain on him to make it harder? Maybe lower it instead so he had nothing to train on? Or maybe she should just make him fail right away.

However, none of these felt right for her. As far as she could tell, he had broken no rules that she had set up, so she decided to let him do what he wanted to. 'Go on,' she thought to himself. 'I very much want to see how long you can continue it.'

Alex was somewhat struggling against the combined assault of Spiritual sense and Intent that came from the woman. Thankfully, his spiritual energy replenished at the same rate as that the woman was making him lose it.

Thanks to that, he didn't have to worry about running out of Spiritual energy halfway through this unexpected training method he had come across.

His Intent had been strong from the start for someone who was only at the peak of the Saint Core realm. However, that wasn't enough for him. After seeing what the fight between two high-level Saints looked like, he knew he needed to improve, wherever he could.

Since then, he had focused primarily on his body as that was what needed catching up. After his body, he trained his Intent through painting. Painting helped him improve his Intent, but there was a diminishing return with it.

Unless he got inspired to make something great, he couldn't improve his Intent a lot with it, only how to better use it.

However, with a clash of Intents like this, he could directly benefit from fighting against someone else's Intent. It was by far the best way to improve one's Intent after all.

Hours passed, but Alex kept up with it. He said nothing and did nothing as he stared at the soul that hovered in the distance and fought against her mental onslaught. He was getting somewhat tired, but he ignored it as much as he could. His main priority right now was to improve his Intent, even if that cost him a win in the trial.

He was certain his Intent was improving as time went on, but the fatigue countered his improvement and made it impossible to determine right away. The fatigue he felt was quite a lot as if he had spent hours making pills.

That was not so different after all, since making a pill or doing any of these sorts of activities cost one a strong Intent.

Alex had had ample time to wonder what the point of this final trial was, and he came to the conclusion that at the end of the trial, each one of the 6 trial sections created a test that measured one's intent.

For Talisman, it was the woman fighting against him directly, but in the Alchemy one, it was more subtle. There, the test had been to make 2 pills in one cauldron, which required quite a bit of Intent and Spiritual energy on his part.

Alex couldn't help but wonder what the final test of the Formation and Artifact trials would've been had he reached them. If his hypothesis was correct, they would've tested his Intent as well.

An entire day had passed since the test started and Alex was still struggling against the spiritual energy and Intent. It was getting intense at this point, and he wasn't sure how much longer he could keep it going.

Maybe another day at best, but what after that? Should he just faint? Without even completing the test that was to draw the same talisman from the last test?

He didn't want that. He wanted to pass the test, but he didn't want to stop whatever he was doing either. He wanted to have the best of both worlds, as long as it was possible.

He wasn't sure if it was.

"I'll let you know, the other participant from this test has already failed and been sent back out," the woman's soul spoke directly to Alex. "If you don't make the talisman, you will end up like that as well."

Alex was surprised to hear that his opponent had failed, and he was even more surprised by the fact that such information was being shared.

"I will pass, I'm sure of it," Alex spoke out loud. He hoped the soul wouldn't give him an easier time or a harder time than what he had right now.

He continued improving clashing Intent with the soul for another half a day and by the end of it, he felt drained. The mental fatigue had already taken a massive toll on his body and spirit, and he was about to faint at any moment.

However, he still had something to do. He still had the talisman to create. And he knew he couldn't do that while fighting off the constant pressure.

Midnight flew out of his storage ring with only a thought. Alex then held onto it, with the blade pointed upward.

The Soul in the distance got concerned and wondered if he was about to attack her. If he was, she would have to immediately disqualify him and throw him outside.

However, Alex did no such thing. Instead, Spiritual energy gushed out of him as if a dam had been broken. It flowed into the sword, surrounding it as it created a spiritual sword and then extended outward from the sharp edges of the blade, slowly surrounding him.

When the spiritual energy surrounded him completely, it formed a strong barrier that pushed off all spiritual energy that was being used upon him. Not a single shred of it remained.

The woman felt a sense of surprise at the technique. 'What is this?' she couldn't help but ask herself. 'What sort of technique allows a Saint to stop my spiritual attack?'

She knew that if she wanted to, she could force the barrier to break, but that would require an effort that only an Immortal could handle. If she used it here, Alex would immediately die the moment the barrier was broken.

So, all she could do was sit back and watch as she could do nothing against the Spiritual technique created by the Weapons God himself.

Spiritual Providence.

With the relief that came from the lack of Spiritual pressure on him, Alex easily created the explosion talisman as the trial had asked him.

Once done, he showed the talisman to the female soul while taking back his sword. The spiritual pressure and Intent were no longer there, and the walls turned white.

He had done it.

Chapter 1520: Surprised Crowd

Alex prepared to leave now that he had passed the test. He placed the talisman into his storage ring and waited for the trial master to send him out.

However, he wasn't immediately sent away. He frowned a little and turned to look at the soul that was now staring back at him rather intently. That surprised him a little.

Unsure what he was supposed to do here, he quickly bowed in respect and said, "Thank you for helping me train."

"That was training for you?" the woman's voice finally drifted into his ears.

Alex nodded softly. "That was a rather opportune moment to improve my Intent. Please forgive me if I did something that I was not supposed to do."

"You certainly did," the woman said. "But I do not care about that right now. I care about something else."

Alex was taken aback a little. "What are you concerned with?" he asked her.

"You did something at the end there," the woman said. "With your sword? You weren't suffering from my spiritual attack. What did you do?"

"Oh, that," Alex answered quickly. "It's a technique to protect one against spiritual attacks."

"What sort of technique?" the woman asked.

"A very good one, I think," Alex answered.

The woman frowned. "You know I'm not asking you what the technique is like. I'm asking what it is and what exactly it does."

Alex had to take a moment to think what he was going to say. After a moment, he understood. "I can't tell you," he said. "It's not a technique I'm comfortable with sharing."

"I'll buy it from you then," the woman said.

"I'm not comfortable selling it either," Alex said with a gentle smile, hoping the woman wouldn't get angry.

"I'm a Level 8 Immortal Talisman maker. You might now know how good that is right now, but if you ever go to the Immortal lands, you will know that this is a rank that not just anyone achieves. And I am willing to share my knowledge of talisman if you—"

"I'm sorry to have to cut you off right there, but I have no interest in giving away anything regarding the technique," Alex said.

"But I am a Level 8 Immortal Talisman Maker. I can make scripts you can only dream of. Do you not want that?" the woman asked.

Alex scratched his head a bit as he spoke again. "Actually, I'm an alchemist so I don't really care about talisman."

"A what?" the woman's face was an incredible sight to see right then as she tried to process what Alex had just said. "An... alchemist?"

"Yes. When I get to the Immortal realm, I'll learn what I can about talismans on my own. If I don't, it doesn't matter to me since I'm primarily an alchemist. Talisman is just a hobby of mine," he answered.

The woman looked at him in shock this time. "Hob- Hobby?" she asked, wondering if she misheard him somehow. "This... is just a hobby for you?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I simply entered here to see how good I was with the talisman, and I'm happy to learn that I'm quite good."

"Good?" the woman asked. 'Good? Does he not know that nobody has passed it all in the last few centuries?'

"I'm sorry, senior, but I can barely hold it all together. I need to rest to recover from my mental fatigue. Would you mind sending me outside?" Alex asked.

The woman stared at him for a few seconds before nodding. She paused right before activating the formation and asked, "Will you come by again? I can teach you more about talisman."

"Maybe I'll come with my mother," Alex said. "She's better at this than I am. It won't be anytime soon though."

"I see," the woman said. "If you want to make the deal I proposed earlier, come back. I'll be willing at any moment."

There was no way Alex was ever going to trade away a technique created by the Weapons God to a mere immortal. Still, he nodded. "I will if I think I need it," he said. "Thank you for everything, senior."

The woman finally nodded and flicked her wrist. The silver teleportation light surrounded him along with the white light that represented how far he had come in the Talisman trial.

He arrived outside, in the midst of many people once again with white light surrounding him. There was a silence around him that wasn't normal at all.

He looked around, seeing everyone's eyes land on him. They were all shocked to their core to see Alex come out victorious in all the trials. The ones who knew he had come out with a very bad result the last time around were even more shocked to see how far he'd come.

They couldn't imagine how he could have improved this much in just a couple of days.

The crowd erupted at once in a loud cacophony of exclamations, questions, and congratulations. They all cheered for him, calling out his name while trying to get close to him.

The soldiers quickly surrounded him, saving him from the crowd's words. He did what he could, smiling back at the crowd before looking away at a figure that walked into the soldiers.

The Gold King was there once again to congratulate him like last time when he had come out with a white light around him. Only this time, the king wasn't smiling at all. His face held a deep sense of shock that he couldn't get rid of.

It emulated the same shock most of the others in the crown held. The inability to come to terms with the fact that the King of the Southern Continent was not just a master of Alchemy and Pills, but also a master of Talisman and Scripts.

They had not known about that before. They did now.

The king quickly scampered to congratulate Alex after having realized that he was staring blankly for a bit too long. He gave kind words like the last time that Alex had to suffer through before being able to voice out the fact that he was abnormally tired.

The king himself led him back to the hotel before leaving him with his elders.

"Your Majesty! You completed the entire Talisman trial?" Yao Ning asked in surprise.

"You have learned a lot from her Highness, haven't you?" Liang Shufen asked. "I never knew your Talisman skills were as good as your Alchemy skills. Why do you always focus on Alchemy?"

"They're not," Alex quickly said. "They're realms apart. My head hurts right now. I'll go rest."

He left the two elders full of questions that they would have to wait for it all to get answered.

Alex got in a meditating position and started cultivating while resting his mind. He couldn't help but find it funny that the two elders thought his talisman skills were as good as his alchemy skills.

That was a disrespect to his Alchemy skills.

The only reason they both seemed similar in skill was because the tests in the trial stopped at a certain difficulty. If the test had continued increasing in difficulty, he could have shown just how great his Alchemy skill was.

Then no one would doubt exactly what it was that he was good at.