

Alchemy 1651

Chapter 1651: Small Changes

Alex first suppressed the Yang aura on his body. To his surprise, it was suppressed into his body so easily. It flowed back into his Dantian without forcing anything else, and quickly let his body feel a lot better.

Alex thought of letting it be and going to check on his plants, but he thought of something. Now that he had both the Yin and Yang Dao, could he do something with the two that he couldn't first do with either of them alone?

A person learning both the Yin and Yang Dao should provide some incredible benefits, right?

Thinking so, Alex connected with the Yang in his body and exerted his will on it. His Intent.

'Turn into Yin!'

He felt the world grow dizzy all of a sudden as a sharp pain pierced through his head. He jerked a bit where he sat and put one hand on the ground to balance himself.

The pain had come too suddenly.

Alex calmed down, no longer using the Intent, and let the pain flow away. It took some time. In the meanwhile, he checked to see what he had done.

A portion of his Qi, a rather significant portion, had turned into Yin Qi. It wasn't strong Yin Qi, just regular Yin Qi, but it was already working its way into mixing with the remaining Yang Qi in his body to bring back the balance that was lost.

The Yin bead in him stirred a little as well and started working just slightly more again, fighting back the power of the Yang source inside of his Dantian.

"Your Majesty!" a voice worriedly called to him.

Alex looked back and saw Yao Ning's grim face. It seemed she noticed that he had grown dizzy.

Yao Ning didn't voice the question in her, but Alex could read it on her face.

"I'm alright, Elder Yao," he said hoarsely. "I just did something slightly stupid in retrospect."

"You always jump into things before looking, Your Majesty," Yao Ning said almost harshly. "You need to stop doing that. You should eat a pill if you're hurt. We should return if the problem is with your cultivation base."

"No, I said I'm alright," Alex said, stopping Yao Ning from speaking further. "But thank you for worrying. You should prepare for departure. We leave in 10 minutes."

The old woman nodded and started speaking with the others.

Alex took one last glance at the old woman, feeling warm in her almost familial love, and returned to what he was doing.

'I shouldn't do that again,' he thought. Converting Yang to Yin directly inside of his body might have been a rather bad idea. Maybe converting it outside was a bad idea too, but he had to check what it would've done, and that was the safe thing.

'Sometimes I think too much before jumping, and sometimes I don't think at all,' Alex thought. 'Elder Yao is right.'

He left the matter of Yin and Yang and looked into his Soul Space next.

Unless Alex wanted to enter his Soul Space through a new space, the opening was almost always the last point of entry he had used. So, when the Soul Space opened, the Yang energy from the Sun had entered directly into the two plants that were now in front of him.

On his left was a nearly half-a-meter-tall sapling of golden plant that now glowed with the brightness of red hot iron. It was brighter than it had been before. That was a positive change, but it was nothing next to what he saw from the World Tree.

The World Tree sapling, not counting the roots, was nearly 3 meters tall now. Even with that height, it was still just a sapling, even younger in lifespan than the Nine Yang Divine Tree.

Even as young as it was, the World Tree seemed vibrant, flowing with vitality. The small piece of land Alex had given it had already been taken over by the tree, stripped of all its resources.

Alex would have to give it a much larger land, but that was for later. There was still a while before the World Tree would require something else.

The changes of the World Tree that surprised Alex had nothing to do with the tree's physical appearance, but rather what it was doing.

The tree seemed to pulse with every passing second, spreading out a soft aura that turned into Qi when it moved far enough away from it.

This was a normal phenomenon for the tree at this point as it had been doing so for years now. But the amount of Qi it was pouring out now was a raging river when before it had been nothing more than a babbling brook.

The Qi lingered around for a good while before they dissipated, no doubt turning back into energy he couldn't sense. Since it had used the Sunlight to create such, the Qi was turning back into light most likely.

Once the tree grew, the Qi it made would last for much longer. Still, Alex wondered if there was a way to make use of the escaping Qi. Something he could do to make the Qi not be wasted.

Without wasting a single second, Alex tore away a piece of land from the already small land the Yang tree was growing on, and put some random seed he could find from nearby.

They were mostly some low-level herbs, but Alex failed to see what they were. He had chosen them from his worst pile since he couldn't afford to grow anything strong enough to disturb the growth of these two plants.

Common plants would have to do for now.

He planted the seeds on that small piece of land and left it floating around the World Tree's sapling, far enough that the World Tree wouldn't consider it a food, but close enough that the Qi still touched them.

Once he did that, he made some more thorough searches to see any problem the intense sunrise had done to his Soul Space. There was certainly a stronger presence of Yang in here, but Alex couldn't tell if it was the sunlight or his newly found Dao.

He looked for the Blood God's Manual next and made sure it had remained in the far depths of his Soul Space. Away from the direct sunlight and away from harm. Once he was sure, he pulled out his senses from his Soul Space.

Alex finally opened his eyes and stood up on the plateau of the Celestial Peak. He stared down at the vast expanse of the realm he was in, the realm he was born in.

He looked at the land, the islands, the ocean, and the edges of the world in the far distance. From the land, everything in the distance looked like a haze, but from up here where the air was very thin, there was little haze to hide his sight.

It would be a long time before he got to see something like this again.

Alex took one last glance at everything and nodded to himself in satisfaction. He turned around, and looked at the elders and the remaining members of the party he had come up here with.

"Let's leave."

Chapter 1652: Escape

Zhao Boqin was just a nascent soul now, unaware of many things other than a few critical information about himself.

His soul had been damaged incredibly and thus had lost a lot of himself in that process. But along the way, he had managed to slowly gain back his strength, and with that had come back a few things that were gone as well.

At first, the only thought he had was to warn the Emperor about what he had learned. Even that thought had been vague and nothing more than just a feeling.

He had roamed the Martial Ground to find a way out, but no matter where he went, he couldn't move along in that direction and was forced to find a different route.

Working purely on instinct too Zhao Boqin is nowhere. He spent many days simply roaming the large lifeless expanse of the secret realm. Days passed to weeks which passed to months.

At that time, vague memories of who he was and what he was started returning. He continued his search for an exit, but it wasn't possible with just what he had.

He continued searching and more memories returned, more of him returning along with it. Days after day he grew as a soul until one day enough returned for him to know what he had to do.

Zhao Boqin knew where he was now. Transcendent Martial Ground. He had come to the secret realm and had been killed by the King of the lowly Southern Continent. He hated that man. He wanted to see him dead.

He could remember how much that man made him hate him. Not to mention how much he hated his talent and potential. How dare he have such a thing? His own subordinate was no better.

He remembered the questions the King had asked him and wondered if he could tell others the truth now that he was dead. Unfortunately, it seemed the oath to never tell anyone what he had spoken about still held true.

He could almost feel his soul being wrapped up by some invisible power, threatening to destroy him should he break his oath.

After days more, he started coming to an understanding of what he needed to here.

He was stuck inside a secret realm, and flying around randomly was not going to help him. He needed somebody else's assistance here. Or something else.

After thinking for a bit, he knew exactly the thing he needed to find. He went around the secret realm then, searching for what he knew he had seen multiple times before but was not sure if he remembered the way.

After searching for what felt like days, he finally found it.

His dead body.

His corpse lay in a heap, hidden beneath a fold of grass that seemed to have grown around his body. The corpse was in 2 parts, cut in half. 3 if you counted his missing hand that had been cut as well.

Zhao Boqin didn't know how to feel seeing his corpse. He knew he was dead, or at least had lost his body and had come to be in peace. But seeing his body again brought back the terrible understanding of his lack of a physical body.

What was he to do about this? He wasn't certain at this point. The only thing he knew was that he couldn't let this feeling of him stop him. He needed to continue moving.

He reached for his body, but not for his storage pouch or the weapon that lay right next to him. He knew he wanted to take them, but as a soul, he couldn't take them away with him.

He hated that fact. Even then, he reached for something else.

He reached for the talisman that was given to him when he entered this place.

He found the talisman and at the same time, it seemed as if it had found him as well. The moment the talisman came in contact with what little Qi his Soul had, a wave of silver energy surrounded him.

Was it luck? Was it fate? Or was it just how the talisman was constructed to work? Zhao Boqin didn't know. All he knew was that he had accidentally done what he had wanted to do with the talisman.

He wanted out, and it was taking him out.

In the next moment, the transparent soul found himself on the shore of the island. He could see the ocean water, and hear the splashes.

He was finally outside.

He could finally do what he needed to do as a soldier of the Empire.

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Nearly 2 months passed since Alex had been traveling along with the Ebony King, going from city to city to visit all the different locations that were considered 'must visit' in the Kingdom.

The Ebony King had his own work to do there, so he had no problem giving Alex the proper tour as he wanted.

They had arrived in the Darkstone City just 2 hours earlier, and somehow Alex was surprised to find someone had arrived to meet him.

"Your Majesty!" the Crown Prince bowed ever so slightly when he met him once again.

"Prince Fangyu, I didn't expect to see you here," Alex said. He truly hadn't. He was alone in his room in the courtyard that they were assigned to when the man had arrived out of nowhere.

Alex would question how he even knew where he was, but there were too many points of leak for him to care.

"I have been waiting for your arrival to the city for a while, Your Majesty," the Crown Prince said. "As soon as I learned when you would be coming here, I left for this place too. We are to meet with my Fiance a short distance outside of the city after all."

Alex nodded slowly. The man had indeed planned that, but Alex wanted to visit her alone if possible. He could remember the pleading eyes that he could swear asked for him to come alone.

Alas, it seemed he was not going to be alone.

Chapter 1653: Before Departing

"Rest for tonight, Your Majesty," the Crown Prince said. "I'll have Luoyang let her father know that we're coming tomorrow. Family head Zhan would most certainly want to meet you."

Alex was alone after the Crown Prince left him. There were still a few hours remaining before sunset, but he decided to not bother with anything else for the night. He focused on his cultivation.

The Yin bead in his dantian had stopped working as well for the first 2 weeks after his descent from the Celestial Peak, but after 2 months it was back to doing what it did before.

Yin still formed in his body, but he wanted that. That was part of what helped his cultivation scale up so fast. In fact, with his Dao of Yang, he could now force the Yang in his body to slow down the formation of Yin or control it so that Yin formed at a faster pace.

By making the balance between the two work in his body, he could now cultivate even faster. Although controlling Yang and Yin did use up a lot of Intent, leaving him slightly dizzy if he did that throughout the day.

It was a small strain, but throughout the day it added up.

About 5 days of regular Yin buildup had happened in just half a day thanks to the Dao and Alex worked hard overnight to overcome the Yin. The speed of his cultivation couldn't be directly compared to the days he saved, but the speed was proportional and thus his cultivation speed was slightly faster.

The Yang source in his body had stumped him quite a bit after the first few days of descent. He was very much sure that after what he had experienced in the Celestial Peak, it would become better, stronger.

It even had for a day or two, until it released all the energy and returned to becoming what it was before.

Alex had felt what it released aiding him in some ways, but it had not been enough for anything. Sometimes he wondered if it could even be made better somehow.

The Yin bead was an object in his body, but the Yang source was just... a collection of Yang. It was no object at all, so that made it all the more curious for him. He started wondering more about it.

After thinking about it for a while, he had some questions to ask the next time he met Ronron's master.

The night passed rather quickly and the day came not long after. Alex left his room and went to meet his elders. Yao Ning and Liang Shufen were already up and together, sipping on some tea while discussing with each other.

"Maybe one won't hurt?" Liang Shufen asked.

"No, they would be worried," Yao Ning replied. "We can't send messages either."

"That's true," Liang Shufen said. "But he would probably want to—"

Her words cut off when she saw Alex walking toward them. "Your Majesty," said and quickly bowed.

Alex arrived where the two were seated and sat down himself. "What are you two talking about?" he asked.

"We were debating on whether or not to let you stay here for a year or two more should you wish to," Yao Ning said.

Alex was taken aback. "Now why would I do that?" he asked amusingly.

"So that you can enter the secret realm of this land," Yao Ning said. "You want to, don't you?"

"I..." Alex thought for a bit. He did want to go to the secret realm. But...

"No," he decided. "From what I have come to learn about it, it has nothing of importance to me there. I have no reason to search for treasures and even less to compare my strength against others when it's all made the same anyway. Besides, we won't have the time."

The two elders looked at him with a rather surprised expression. "Well, that does settle it," Liang Shufen said and shrugged toward Yao Ning.

Yao Ning sighed and turned toward Alex. "You're not going to decide that you want to go there at the last minute, are you?" she asked.

"No," Alex said with a bit of a chuckle in his voice. "If I want to, I will go there in the future. Once I'm strong enough, I will have time to visit all the locations in the entire world before I leave for the Immortal realms."

The two elders gave a surprised look again. This time, however, it had nothing to do with Alex, but his mention of the Immortal realms.

"I'm reaching close to breaking through to the Saint Transformation 8th realm," Yao Ning said. "Once I break through, it will be one more realm, and then I'll be on my way to the Immortal realm too."

"For me, it's 4 more realms," Liang Shufen said. She had reached Saint Transformation's 6th realm by now. Unlike Yao Ning, she wasn't physically old and looked rather pretty too.

Yao Ning sighed. "I had given up on trying to become an Immortal a long time ago when I realized that despite my talents, I would have died of old age before I became reached the Peak of the Saint realm. I had lost all hope."

"But thanks to your arrival, I can now once again hope for that," she said. "You have my most sincere thanks for that, Your Majesty," Yao Ning said, bowing deeper than ever.

"You have my thanks as well, Your Majesty," Liang Shufen said as she bowed as well.

Alex felt somewhat taken aback by the reaction the two of them showed. He was only explaining why he didn't need to go to a secret realm. He didn't mean for them to do this.

"You are both welcome," Alex said, and the two straightened back up.

A servant brought Alex some of the tea the two women were drinking and he enjoyed it too while waiting for the Crown Prince to arrive.

The Ebony King arrived before the Crown Prince and explained how he needed to leave.

"I must have made you spend a rather long time with me," Alex told the King. "I apologize for having to make you put me over your duties."

"It is of no matter, Your Majesty. I enjoyed our travels," the Ebony King said. "But now I must speed up my visits again and return to the Capital as soon as I can. With people coming in preparation for the secret realm, I cannot spend too long outside the capital."

"I wish you good luck on your travels, King Wan," Alex said. "I'll see you again in a few months."

The King nodded goodbye and left the room.

An hour later, the Crown Prince arrived in the courtyard along with his fiancée.

"Your Majesty," Zhan Luogang gave a meek little smile and bowed in greeting. "I'm happy to see that you decided to come."

Alex stood up and gave a small bow. "I couldn't not come after you invited me so sincerely," he said. "But why are you in the city? I thought we would be meeting you in the manor."

"She had some talismans to get from the guild in the city," the Crown Prince answered in her stead. "Now then, should we depart?"

Chapter 1654: The Carriage Ride

The Darkstone city was small when compared to many of the major cities in the Ebony kingdom. With only a handful of sects or families living in the vicinity, there wasn't much need for people to come and expand this city.

One could cross from one end of the city to another in just 3 hours of walk. There were smaller settlements outside, with large fields for crops and pasture lands. Half an hour's walk away from that was the manor house of the Zhan family.

The Zhan family was a small family when compared to many of the different clans and sects, and the only reason it even had any sort of authority about it was due to the young lady of the family.

Zhan Luoyang's engagement with the Crown Prince had placed the standing of the family at a much higher place in the empire, and they were slowly improving with time as well.

Alex and the 5 others rode in the carriage, with the rest following in a carriage in front and a carriage behind. Alex sat comfortably in between his two elders while the Crown Prince sat at the center, with Zhan Luoyang to his right and Long Huogang, the Crown Prince's personal bodyguard to his left.

Alex had only met the man Long Huogang a couple of times despite meeting with the Crown prince so many times. Still, he had come to understand just how strong and smart this man was.

He was part of the Head legion like all of the individuals at the top of any command were. But this man in particular was even at the top of the Head Legion.

The Head Legion had exactly 3 Heads.

One head was in charge of everything to do with the Royal family, be it the direct blood or indirect ones. Another head on was in charge of the part of the military that involved itself in more politics than anything.

The final Head was in charge of the military that involved itself with war and the safekeeping of the Empire.

Alex had learned that information by chance through the Crown Prince during one of their many talks and knew that this man was the one in charge of the political side of things.

With the Dragon Emperor in closed cultivation, this man helped the Crown Prince with almost everything while on top of being the body guard.

Alex also suspected that the person who appeared to be the Dragon Emperor's bodyguard, a spindly old man with gray hair, was the one who was in charge of the Royal family.

As for the last one in charge of the war, he had yet to find out anything at all. There were no hints of any sort to his presence at all. He hadn't even seen anyone that could fit the criteria.

At times, Alex suspected it was the Dragon Emperor himself. But that wouldn't make much sense from a structure standpoint. The Dragon Emperor could not and should not be regarded on the same level as the other two heads.

He shook away those thoughts. Maybe he would learn in the future.

"How's your pill coming along, lady Zhan?" Alex asked. "Are you close to becoming a Level 10 alchemist?"

A few eyes moved toward Zhan Luoyang at the corner at that mention.

The woman gave almost no change in expression except maybe a glint of embarrassment, and Alex wasn't even sure if he was seeing it right.

"I'm still years away I fear," the woman said. "But I have been making steady progress. So I should have a pill prepared in the near future. After that, it's just preparing for the test."

"Oh, I would've assumed you already made some pills," Alex said, a little surprised. "Still, I wish you good luck then."

"Thank you, Your Majesty," the woman said. "And I have made some pills, but they're just not to my liking. I'm going to try and make better pills."

"She's made so many different healing pills and antidote pills, but she still argues that she won't take the test," the Crown Prince said. "I've tried talking sense into her that she's good enough, but she just doesn't want to bother."

Zhan Luogang gave a sharp look to the man beside her, before looking aside. "I'll do what I want," she said.

The Crown Prince chuckled a little and held his hand. "Okay, okay. Don't get mad," he said quickly. "Haven't I let you do what you want until now?"

Alex didn't know what to say. "Why exactly are you not taking the test, Lady Zhan?" he asked. "Are you not confident or are you planning to make a wave with your test?"

The girl immediately flushed upon hearing the question.

"She's not like that, Your Majesty," the Crown Prince said. "She doesn't look for fame or power. I don't know why she's not taking the test, but I'm sure it doesn't have anything to do with making a wave. As for confidence, she has plenty."

"It's not either," the woman quickly said. "It's just... I have something occupying my time. I am trying to make many pills in the meantime, and hopefully, by the time I am done with what is occupying most of my time, I'll have a pill I can be proud of to take my test with."

"I see," Alex said, nodding to himself as if agreeing. Truth be told, he had no idea why the woman was wasting her time. She could just take the test, be a Level 10 alchemist, and then continue what she had been doing.

But if she was stubborn enough, then he let her be. He had no reason to change her mind. He had his own problems for now.

The carriage slowed down and Alex peered outside of the window to see a flower field with servants standing to look at the carriage that passed through a large gate.

It seemed they had arrived at the Zhan family's manor house.

She seemed to fall into some thought and shook her head. "

Chapter 1655: Zhan Family Manor

The Zhan Family manor house looked no more extravagant than any regular manor house that Alex had seen. In fact, it was even more moderate in comparison to most. And yet, it held an air of nobility to it that made Alex feel like he had truly come to the house of someone big.

A few people stood where the carriage stopped. One of them was an old man with a bald head and gray mustaches. He wore a creamy white robe and held a smile on his face.

The man was Zhan Laoyin, head of the Zhan family.

The Crown Prince got off the carriage first and directed a wide smile toward the Zhan family head.

"Senior Zhan, it has been a long time," the Crown Prince spoke. "My apologies for not coming sooner."

"Your Highness, there is no need to apologize," the old man said. "I'm just happy to see you again."

"Sisters, brothers," the Crown Prince bowed to the people standing around the family head, who were mostly the family head's children or nieces and nephews. Almost every one of Zhan Laoyin's generation had died by now, so he alone was present there to accept the guests.

Alex walked down, along with the rest and the family head bowed deeply.

"Welcome, Your Majesty," Zhan Laoyin spoke. "I'm honored by your presence."

"Thank you for having me, Senior Zhan." Only after Alex's reply did the man look back up. He smiled slightly and welcomed the other two elders too. He then gave a small nod toward the Crown Prince's bodyguard, and then they were off into the room.

The insides of the Zhan manor house were no better than what it was from the outside. Decorations filled the hallways with gilded lantern holders, paintings, engravings, and whatnot. But none of them stood out.

The hall they were taken to was slightly better looking with a high ceiling made of glass that let in plenty of light. Paintings and tapestries hung around the room's walls, with a soft fire burning in the hearth to the side.

Several people sat in well-cushioned seats, with Alex and the Crown Prince being given the best seats of all. Zhan Luoyang sat close to the Crown Prince rather than her father, surprising Alex a little.

Most people in the room remained silent while the three people with authority in the room conversed with one another.

The Zhan Family head seemed to want to know about Alex and he also seemed to learn about the Crown Prince's recent activities. They talked plenty, and only occasionally would someone butt in to answer something that the family head couldn't immediately answer.

"Not counting sister Luoyang's pills, our biggest source of income has been the herbs and flowers we grow in the back garden," one of the women said when asked about the financial situation of the house.

"Right, right," the family head said. "People don't want to plant alchemy ingredients around here since most expect to buy it when it comes from the Emerald Kingdom, so there is a bit of a market here. Of course, we also sell many spirit fruits and those do quite well too."

The talks stretched for a long few hours with only the three talking. Many left and many came to see them, but there weren't many others involved in the talk.

Alex got to try the spirit fruits that the family sold and was surprised to find out how delicious they were. They were nowhere near what one could find in the Dragon's Palace, but this fruit would still be considered very much acceptable.

Alex told the family about his journey as a player and how he had come to become a King. Of course, what he said was a lie he had prepared since long ago, on he had spread every time he had to speak of his origins.

They left the hall sometime later to go visit the various fields that they had talked about.

Surprisingly, despite not being a large family, the Zhan family held a lot of open land, with most of it being the fields.

There were other houses on the property, either for the servants or for when there were too many guests. On one occasion, Alex even saw a house covered in a barrier so thick that anyone walking past would be very curious as to what it was.

"That's where I make pills," Zhan Luoyang explained. "I also practice with terrible poisons in there, so I keep it blocked off at all times to protect the others from accidentally entering or the poison leaking outside."

"Oh, you are a poison master too?" Alex asked the woman. He hadn't been aware of that, but alchemists learning about poison wasn't that uncommon. In the first place, she had been practicing making healing pills and antidote pills, so learning about poisons was quite useful for that.

Alex looked at the building again, wondering if he should have a place of his own where he could practice safely, away from potential harm to those around him.

He put away the thought for now and continued with the others to go around the house.

Seeing the various things took some time, and by the time they were done, it was already late in the afternoon.

"Your Majesty, you must be tired now," Zhan Luoyang spoke as they returned. "You will most likely want to rest. I'll show you to your quarters."

Alex nodded. "Thank you, lady Zhan," he said and left along with his two elders.

The room they were to take was in the back half of the mansion, in a fancy room worthy of a very important guest. Alex and the others got their own rooms.

The two elders were shown to their room and finally, Alex was taken to his quarters, which was a majestic room with a large bed, intricately carved closet and nightstands, and silk linen and drapes all the room.

"Thank you," Alex told the woman and remained to close the door. But Zhan Luoyang didn't leave immediately.

She waited for a bit, almost hesitating for a moment before she looked around and spoke in almost a whisper. "I'll come later past midnight once everyone has retreated to their rooms, Your Majesty," she said. "Please don't cultivate or put up formations."

She turned to leave, but Alex stopped her.

"Wait, what do you mean?" he asked.

The girl turned around. She gulped a little and spoke. "I will need something of you," she said. "That's why I brought you here to my house. I will give you time until tonight to prepare."

"For what?" Alex asked.

The girl hesitated even more. "I cannot tell you," she said. "Please just wait until tonight. You will know."

She didn't remain any longer and walked away from the room, leaving Alex almost slack-jawed. What the hell was that about?

To call it suspicious would be to call a storm windy. It was so much more than just suspicious.

'What is she trying to do? What is she trying to hide?' Alex wondered. Was she plotting his death? Did she know something about him and was trying to blackmail him in the night?

Many thoughts went through his mind, but most of all, one thought remained true.

He wanted answers.

So, he would do as she said. He would prepare for what was coming.

If it wasn't a trap, he would have nothing to worry about.

But if it was a trap, then she would realize that she had trapped a beast, one that would destroy the trap and kill whoever set up the trap.

Alex did everything he could to prepare, other than telling the elders about what was going to happen. If he did, Yao Ning would no doubt call him impulsive. And she wouldn't even be wrong.

At least, he was thinking through before jumping, even if he didn't know what he was jumping into.

The wait was the most boring part of the entire ordeal, and even that was not as bad as other times as he wondered what was going to happen the entire time.

Midnight had long since passed and the manor was as dead as it could be with everything and everyone asleep.

Then, Alex heard the faintest of tapping on his door.

'I didn't even sense anything,' he thought before slowly walking to the door and opening it.

Luoyang stood outside in a white night robe, holding onto a lantern that wouldn't be necessary for a cultivator.

"It will be better if you hide all your aura," she told Alex.

It was then that Alex realized that she was almost completely mortal to his senses. Not only that, he couldn't even sense her using his spiritual sense. There was some sort of artifact she was wearing that stopped her from being sensed easily.

He could tell there was something wrong in that location now that he saw her stand there, but had he not known, his spiritual sense would've moved past her easily.

'Interesting,' he thought and took in his cultivation base until he felt no different from a mortal as well. His Immortal Concealment technique could've done the task as well, but it wasn't as good at concealing all aura ever since he had reached the Saint realm.

It only made it difficult for others to tell his cultivation base properly.

"So, what are we doing?" Alex asked her.

The woman glanced around. "If you will follow me, Your Majesty." She started walking. "Please don't make a lot of noise."

She walked on ahead and Alex followed her. They had only made it to the back door of the manor house when Alex saw someone standing by the door, almost completely hidden in the darkness.

Alex prepared himself for a trap to be sprung at any time now.

Chapter 1656: Trust

Before the figure could even move out from the darkness, Alex could already see who it was. And that had surprised him quite a bit.

It was the Crown Prince.

'What is going on?' Alex wondered. Were the two of them working together? They had not given him any sort of hints to this.

Either the two were too good. Or...

"You better have a good explanation for what's happening, Luoyang."

The Crown Prince finally walked out and Luoyang gave a slight start in surprise. She had not known he would be there, or at least hadn't expected it.

"Fangyu!" the woman said softly, trying to keep her voice steady. "Wh-what are you doing here?"

"I should be the one asking that," the Crown Prince said. His eyes turned toward Alex. "Your Majesty, what are you doing with my fiancée this late in the night."

Alex was somewhat confused for a second. He had realized they weren't working together, or they were making him think they weren't working together. He couldn't tell which one it was.

If this was a trap by some chance, he had to act as if he had been caught in it.

"I was told to wait until after midnight and follow her when she came for me," Alex said. "I'm trying to figure out what it is about myself."

The Crown Prince turned toward Luoyang. "So, what is it about?"

Zhan Luoyang grew frustrated. This was not how this was supposed to go. Alex was supposed to come to her manor on his own, not with the Crown Prince. She had tried to force the Crown Prince to change the plans many times, but he had stubbornly decided to come here.

And now when she was this close, he was going to destroy all she had worked toward. She could only grow frustrated with that.

She drew in a deep breath and let her emotions calm down. Fear, anger, hesitation. All emotions slowly dissipated inside her and she spoke again.

"Fangyu, please return to your room. This is something I must do. I will explain it to you in the future. I promise I will, but I must do this right now." Her voice was calm and pleading, and full of love too for the man that stood before her.

The Crown Prince looked at her for a long second before shaking his head. "What have you gotten yourself into, Luoyang that you can't even tell me?" he asked. "I'm supposed to be your partner. We're going to be married in a few years. If you will hide things from me, then how am I to trust you."

"Please, you must trust me for now. I promised them I wouldn't tell anyone else," Luoyang said and immediately grimaced.

"Who is them?" the Crown Prince asked.

"I cannot tell you," the woman said.

"Why not?"

"Because I promised them."

"You made an oath?" The Crown Prince frowned at the woman. "What have you been doing Luoyang?"

"No, no oath. Just a promise," Luoyang said. "But I hold my promise dearer to me than I would an oath."

Alex was curious as well. Seeing her be so secretive made him believe she was doing something that others couldn't learn about. Something illegal or maybe even evil. But at the same time, seeing her so honorable made him think she was doing something completely different.

'She's doing something that others would consider bad, but she considers it good?' Alex thought. That made him think of another group that could be considered the same.

'Damn, is she part of the Oathbreakers?' he thought. Those were defectors of the military though, so he didn't know how she could be an Oathbreaker. Did she perhaps meet them outside and decide to be a part?

The Crown Prince thought upon his fiancée's words for a while and nodded. "I'll trust you that you aren't doing anything wrong," he said.

The woman seemed to visibly slacken from relief.

"But, you will have to prove my trust. I will go along with you and see what this is all about," he said. "If I find that you are lying, then... well, we'll see after that."

"That's not how trust works," the woman protested. "You cannot say you trust me and then immediately ask for proof."

"I do now," the Crown Prince said. "You've done a lot of things during these past few years that have made me question what you were doing. But I've trusted you this entire time. But this is too weird."

"If nothing else, then for His Majesty's safety alone, I must go with you," the Crown Prince said.

Luoyang gritted her teeth. Anger seemed to return to her voice when she spoke again. "I'll let you come along if you make an oath," she said.

"I'll make no oath until you've earned my trust again," the Crown Prince said.

"Then give me your word. Make me a promise," she said.

"Regarding what?"

"Promise me that whatever you see tonight, you will not do anything. You will not fight, not report back, or let others know what is happening," she said.

The Crown Prince looked into his fiancée's eyes for a long while before nodding. "So long as my or his Majesty's life isn't in danger, I will only see what you are going to do today. If it is, I will act on it, Luoyang. Even if it is you. I won't like it, but I will act."

"That's alright," Luoyang said. "Nobody's life is going to be in danger anyway."

She sighed in the end. "I can't believe you're making me break my promise for this. You and I are going to have a long talk once this is over."

The Crown Prince was surprised to see her somewhat return to her old self.

"Where's senior Huogang?" the woman asked.

"I told him I was going to your room," the Crown Prince said. "He shouldn't know I'm here."

"Dammit, I hope nobody heard our conversation," the woman said silently, looking around for people.

"The Crown Prince has already set up a formation of sort around us," Alex said. "It's likely a sound-blocking formation."

The Crown Prince gave a hint of surprise. "You're not supposed to be able to notice the barrier while you're on the inside of it," he said before taking out a talisman from his sleeves. "How did you know, Your Majesty?"

"I have my tricks," Alex said. He could see the many flows of green color swirling around the three of them, which would usually be impossible for anyone without the Demon Eyes to notice.

"Good enough," Zhan Luoyang said. "Follow me then."

She walked out of the house and Alex followed her with the Crown Prince behind her. They walked out into the garden and then continued walking. It was a while before Alex realized what they were doing out there.

They were making their way to Luoyang's separated house where she was said to practice with pills and poison. The two couldn't help but wonder what they were doing there.

"What is inside?" the Crown Prince asked.

"You'll see," the woman said. "Don't freak out and remember your promise."

"I'm a man of my word, Luoyang. You know me," the Crown Prince said.

"I do," Luoyang said. "But this will test the strength of your resolve and your word."

The Crown Prince frowned. "Just what is inside?" he asked.

"People that I wanted His Majesty to meet," the woman said. "One is especially didn't want you to meet. So keep your promise."

"Who is inside?" the Crown Prince nearly demanded, but the woman managed to keep her calm.

"You'll see," she said. "Now, let us go in."

Luoyang pulled out a small copper plate that looked like a medallion without a string attached to it and used it to open one of the formations to the house. A small hole appeared on the barrier and she walked in.

Alex walked in behind her, his spiritual sense enveloping the entire house in a second. As soon as he did, he sensed a small large portion of the 2nd floor being covered in formations that blocked other's senses.

That was the only place in the house with a formation hiding it.

"What is there?" the Crown Prince asked after entering.

"You'll see soon," she said. "We're close now, Your Majesty."

Alex nodded and started following her.

Was this really a trap? He sensed nobody else in the house, but that didn't mean there was no trap. He did sense a lack of a formation that blocked spatial displacement, so he could teleport out if he was in trouble.

The Crown Prince walked on ahead, quickly making his way to the 2nd floor where the formation was. When he arrived, he stopped and waited for the other two to catch up.

"Who is there?" the Crown Prince demanded.

Alex felt a single spiritual sense pass through him. Someone was there alright. Based on the strength of the spiritual sense, he wasn't very strong, but those sorts of things could be hidden.

"I know, and I tried to avoid it," Luoyang suddenly spoke. They realized the person inside was sending messages to her.

"He demanded I bring him here. I couldn't bring His Majesty here without him coming along. I had no choice," she said.

The two men looked at her, wondering what she was being told.

"Damn you!" she suddenly said. "Tell him to go if you want him to go. He won't listen to me. He says he doesn't trust me."

"Luoyang, who is inside?" the Crown Prince asked.

The barrier in front of them suddenly faded and a weary-looking youth with a hesitant face stared at the three of them.

At the sight of the young man, the Crown Prince's eyes went wide.

"Brother?"

Chapter 1657: The Prince

'Brother?' Alex thought and looked at the man in front of him.

The young man looked disheveled, weary, and very afraid of whatever was happening. His clothes were simple if not cheap, and he didn't look as though he kept proper care of himself.

He was tall, just as tall as the Crown Prince, and had a slightly thinner face with more pronounced cheekbones. His hair was mostly short and his eyes looked hollow.

Even through all that, he did look somewhat similar to the Crown Prince. He definitely was his brother.

This man, despite his current looks, was Long Huan, the 2nd Prince of the Empire.

"You should not have come here, brother," the young man said with an annoyed look.

The Crown Prince seemed as confused as Alex was. "What is going on, Luoyang? Why were you hiding my brother?"

The woman grumbled and looked toward Long Huah, looking for help.

"Sister Luoyang, just bind him with something. You created this problem, deal with it," Long Huan demanded.

"What is going on?" the Crown Prince shouted even louder. "Luoyang, explain to me."

Long Huan took a long look at his brother before asking something. "How much do you know?"

"About what?" the Crown Prince asked.

"About me, my situation," he said.

"About this? I don't know. I wasn't aware you were here until I just saw you, Huan," he said and turned toward Luoyang. "Why were you acting like you were going to be caught when it's only my brother here?"

The woman gave a sharp look, almost as if seeing something. She turned around toward the second prince. "I don't think he knows," she said.

"Know what?" the Crown Prince asked.

"About my situation," the second prince said, looking for hints of something.

"Neither of you two is making any sense to me right now," he said. "First of all, why are you here in the Zhan family manor? How long have you been here? I thought you were roaming the empire in secret."

The young man looked at the Crown Prince for a long time before his eyes slowly started going wide. "Dear god! You really don't know. You're not acting, are you?"

"About what?" the Crown Prince was starting to get fed up.

Alex was very curious as to what he had stumbled upon as well. The 2nd prince of the continent was hiding in the manor house of his brother's fiancée? What sort of situation was this?

From what he had been told, the young man was busy traveling the empire, and the one who had told him that was the Crown Prince. Now, it seemed that the Crown Prince himself wasn't aware of what his brother had been doing at that time.

"We don't have time for that," Luoyang spoke up. "If anyone finds out the Crown Prince and the King of the Southern Continent have gone missing from their room, it is going to create a big enough ruckus that people are going to come look in here. Let us do what we came here to do and be done with it."

The Crown Prince frowned. He wanted answers. But before he could speak, his brother spoke up.

"That's right," he said. "We can deal with him coming here later. At least it is good that he doesn't know what is going on. That would've been more trouble than I could handle."

The Crown Prince moved forth and grabbed his brother by the front of his robes. "What the hell is going on? You will explain this to me!"

The 2nd prince looked frightened for a moment, his hands reaching for his storage bag, but he stopped himself when he saw Luoyang arrive.

"Stop it!" she shouted, pulling away her fiance.

The Crown Prince saw the look of horror on his brother's face and stepped back. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to..." He turned around to look at the woman by his side. "Luoyang, I need to know what is happening. Please," the Crown Prince said.

The woman only shook her head. "I promised him to not say," she said.

The 2nd prince stared at his brother and after a bit of deliberation started speaking. "I will explain what is happening, brother. But not right now. There is something more urgent right now."

"What is so urgent?" the Crown Prince asked.

The 2nd prince ignored him and turned to look at Alex. "You must be the King of the Southern Continent," he said, slowly bowing in Alex's direction. "I never thought I would get to meet you. I should have probably gone to meet you when I first learned about you, but I was a little worried that I would be seen by my father's men at the time."

"It is a pleasure to finally meet you, Prince Huan," Alex said. "If you needed something of me, you could've come for me anytime."

The prince grimaced, thinking back to the time when he had ignored the chance. "No matter, it's better late than never," he said. "I hear you are the best when it comes to healing or making pills in general."

"I would say I have a bit of talent," Alex said. While it was a small part of the Alchemy God's Knowledge when compared to the ingredients and alchemy, he still had the medical knowledge of the Alchemy God in his mind.

That was not something one could just scoff at, despite the massive limitation he had on it.

"No need for modesty, Your Majesty," Zhan Luoyang said. "Everyone already knows you're the best. You bested His Majesty in a formal alchemy battle after all."

"You'll be surprised how much the Dragon Emperor has improved in that time," Alex said. Alex had improved as well, but he wouldn't say so.

"Please, come with me," the 2nd prince said. "I am in desperate need of your expertise on this matter."

Alex followed the prince and arrived in front of the door with a barrier on it. The 2nd prince pulled out another medallion from his hand and made a small opening in the barrier just large enough for a door.

Then, he walked in.

Chapter 1658: The Patient

Alex stood outside the door for a moment, still fully prepared for a trap. As he thought, the Crown Prince walked up next to him, stopping for a moment.

The man seemed frustrated, not getting any answers from his fiancée or his brother. He looked as if he wanted to say something but thought the better of it and walked inside.

Zhan Luoyang walked up to him as well. "I'm sorry to have brought you here under such a condition. I promised the 2nd prince that I wouldn't tell anyone he was here, so I had to try and bring you here without explaining what you were to do," she said. "I couldn't even tell you that it was for a patient."

"You must've had a difficult time then," Alex said. "Let us go in as well."

The girl nodded and walked in with Alex.

The room inside was simple with a regular bed, some small furniture, and a formation keeping the room warm. Everything else that wouldn't be of need seemed to have been thrown out.

Inside, sitting on the bed was a young woman in light green robes with a green veil covering her face. She had barely any presence in the room at all. Barely any aura to her. It was as if a corpse sat on the bed, but she was clearly alive.

"Your Majesty, this is my wife, and she's been poisoned. Can you heal her?" he asked.

"Your wife?" the Crown Prince seemed surprised. "How come you—"

Luoyang grabbed the Crown Prince's hands and shook her head. "Your Majesty, I've tried to heal her for the past 2 decades and have failed at every point. You are the only hope we have."

Alex looked surprised. "For the past 2 decades?" he asked. "Then you've used the pill recipes I gave you too?"

"I asked those for her in the first place," she said. "I was never trying to make pills for the test. That is why I'm still waiting."

"Oh," Alex said, slightly confused. He turned to the prince. "If she's your wife, then why haven't you taken her to the capital? There should be many poison masters more knowledgeable in poisons to help you."

"Right, Father can help you," the Crown Prince said.

"No," the 2nd prince said resolutely. "Please see if you can heal her."

Alex sighed and nodded. He could hear the Crown Prince whispering something to his brother, but the 2nd prince walked in front of Alex. He arrived next to his wife and took her hands. Then, he started fingering her palm, tracing along it in weird patterns.

"She can't hear us," the prince said. "She can't see us either, or smell us. She can only barely feel us."

Alex felt shocked. "And this has lasted 20 years?" he asked.

"No, longer. Much longer," the 2nd prince said. "She can feel, so I can talk to her this way. She is able to talk back, however."

Alex felt glowing red Qi flow out from the woman's hand, forming shapes in the air. They weren't pristine or even that orderly, but they formed letters and Alex could read them.

"Greetings, Your Majesty!" It wrote.

"What else is wrong with her?" Alex asked, walking close to the couple.

"Most of her meridians were destroyed, but I've managed to heal most of them. There is some sort of problem with her dantian, causing her Qi flow to still be stifled for some reason. Also, she cannot use her spiritual sense for some reason," Zhan Luoyang said.

"I see," Alex said. "I'll see if I can find something else."

So it hadn't been a trap in the end. They were just hiding a patient here. There were many questions in Alex's mind as to why a prince of the Empire would hide with his ill wife in a small house like this for nearly 2 decades.

That made no sense to Alex, but those thoughts would have to come later. With a patient in front of him, his integrity as a healer demanded his attention.

Alex took the young woman's hands, who flinched for a moment before opening up, accepting him. He grabbed both hands and closed his eyes to send his Qi and senses through her body. His senses followed his Qi, going through her meridians that weren't very healthy from what he could sense.

They followed through her body, sensing multiple problems until he reached the Dantian. He prodded the Dantian from the outside and found that something was wrong with it, but had no idea what that was at all.

He tried to figure it out for a bit but could come up with no answer. He didn't sense any poison there, but the Dantian seemed to have blocked itself on its own. That made no sense to him at all. What he could tell was that her dantian was not where the problem was.

He left the dantian and moved up to check her Spiritual sea and why it was being blocked as well. He worried that it was where the poison had taken effect. As his senses moved up, he found his spiritual sense hit some sort of barrier. It was blocked for some reason.

Alex pulled back his senses and found that it was due to something that was around her head. Some sort of earring maybe? Or a jewelry she wore on her hair?

"Is she wearing something to stop outside senses?" he asked.

"Ah!" the 2nd prince cried out. "Her mask. I'm sorry, I forgot."

He quickly walked to them and threw up her veil, revealing an orange mask. The prince took away the mask, inside which was a very wrinkled face, hollow lifeless eyes, and gray-white hair.

Alex saw all that and even with all that change, she looked no different to him than she always had in his memories.

"Sister?" he questioned before crying out in surprise. "SISTER!" He immediately embraced her in a hug.

She was alive. He couldn't believe it. She was actually alive and he had found her.

He had finally found Hannah.

Chapter 1659: Talk

Joy and sorrow intertwined inside Alex, both emotions filling him. But the emotion that overwhelmed him at the moment was happiness.

Blessed happiness flowed through Alex. Happiness at the realization that Hannah wasn't dead. Happiness at the realization that he finally found her.

He could feel tears stream down his face, but that didn't make him let go of her. He hugged her tightly, almost as if afraid that she would disappear if he let go.

He was so lost in his emotions that he didn't even realize when a punch had landed on his guts, sending him flying back.

The Crown Prince caught him before he was sent any further. "Your Majesty," he called out. "Are you okay?" he asked.

His face was a mixture of shock, surprise, and confusion.

Alex wasn't hurt by the punch, just thrown away. There was strength in that punch, but it was only the strength of someone who had only just entered the Saint realms. Hannah wasn't very strong just yet.

Hannah was on her feet, her face showing some anger as well as some confusion. What are you doing? Words floated in front of her.

Long Huan was by her side, holding her and writing something into her palm. Then he turned around toward Alex. "What was that, Your Majesty?" he asked. He wasn't angry, but he didn't look happy either.

"You called her sister," Zhan Luoyang said. "Do you mean you know her?"

"She's my sister," Alex said hurriedly. "Err... Cousin. Us Players are used to calling our cousins the same as our siblings."

"Wait, you're her cousin? Actual blood?" the 2nd Prince asked, before quickly writing something into her hand. A look of surprise appeared in her wrinkled face.

Her hands moved a word appeared in front of her, glowing where it was.

Alex?

The 2nd Prince looked surprised. "She... she shouldn't know your name," he said, before quickly writing down something again. More words floated from Hannah.

Is it really you, Alex? Are you really here?

Alex swelled with happiness and saw more words float in front of Hannah.

What is your mother's name?

Alex chuckled softly. She was looking for proof. "Helen," he said and the 2nd prince wrote the answer into her palm.

Alex could visibly see the excitement and hope to fill Hannah.

I'm sorry. Did I hurt you? Are you alright? I'm sorry I punched you. Words appeared in front of her, barely legible with how much she was writing at once. She was never supposed to be writing this much at once. She wasn't supposed to be writing at all.

Alex walked up to her and grabbed her by the shoulders before making her sit again. He took her hand and held it tightly before looking toward the Crown Prince and Zhan Luoyang.

"Would you mind giving me some privacy?" he asked. "I wish to talk with my sister alone."

The Crown Prince hesitated but nodded in the end. Zhan Luoyang looked back and gave a small smile before walking through the formation and going outside.

"I will leave as—"

"No," Alex quickly said as the 2nd prince tried to walk away.

"But my brother—"

"Stay!" Alex said, putting more demand in his voice than he intended to.

The 2nd prince saw the look on Alex's face and found anger in it. He felt scared. "A-alright," the prince said and sat back down.

Alex's face no longer held any happiness at all. He had found his sister and that had brought momentary happiness, but seeing her current situation made him as angry as he had become at any other time.

"How did this happen?" Alex asked. "How did she get poisoned?"

"We were..." the man started speaking and paused. "No, it is better if you weren't aware of it. You can feign ignorance."

"I know it was your father, damn you!" Alex shouted at the man. "Why did he go after my sister?"

The 2nd prince looked shocked. "How did you know that?" he asked, suddenly getting apprehensive about it all. "Did my father send you?"

Alex saw fear in the 2nd prince's eyes and it was not because of him. "You're afraid of your own father?" Alex found it unbelievable. Surely the Dragon Emperor wouldn't kill his son.

The 2nd prince wanted to say something but lights floated in between them, forming words.

Why are you quiet? Talk to me. How did you come to this continent? I didn't even know you were playing the game. How did you recognize me? My husband called you a King. Are you really a King?

Alex ignored the 2nd prince for a second and looked toward his sister and her hands tightly. He tried to write in her hand, but he didn't know how to do it. How fast should he write? How thick did the letters have to be?

"Can you write for me?" Alex asked the 2nd prince, before belatedly remembering the word Hannah had used for him. Husband. "Brother-in-law."

The 2nd prince couldn't help but get a weird feeling hearing that word. He had never expected to hear anyone say it. He quickly nodded and sat down beside Hannah, ready to help the two communicate.

"For now, tell her I will explain to her in detail why I am here later." As soon as Alex stopped, the 2nd prince started writing his words. "For now, she should know that it is just not me here. My parents and her mother are here as well."

As soon as those words were written, small signs of shock and surprise filled her face. Those wrinkled faces refused to move much, but even with that Alex could read her expression.

Words floated out from her soon enough.

My mother? Aunt and Uncle? Are they alive?

"Yes," Alex answered, the words being written into her hand. "They're alive and doing well. I found them and they're with me in the Southern Continent. As for Uncle Rob... I'm sorry. We heard from credible sources that he passed away."

The words gave a melancholic feeling to Hannah that she couldn't show on her face. Weak lights poured out of her.

It is alright. I had already thought of everyone as being dead. This is more good news for me than you can think. I'm so happy.

Her emotions made her want to cry, but no tears came. Her hollow gray eyes did not move much.

Alex sighed and held her hands tightly, patting it a bit. He looked toward his brother-in-law and wanted more answers from him, but the situation of his sister made him want to deal with her problems first.

"We can talk later," he said. "I will try and see if I can heal her problems for now."

The 2nd prince nodded and told Hannah. Hannah nodded in the end as well.

Once Hannah was ready, Alex placed his two palms on her head and started peering into her mind, ever so slowly and cautiously. He sent his spiritual sense inside, looking for anything that was unusual.

Surprisingly, there was nothing in her mind at all. Alex was perplexed. What was going on?

He had been ready to be disappointed by not finding the poison up here as well, but what made him surprised was that she didn't even have a Spiritual Sea up there.

How the hell was that possible?

Chapter 1660: Diagnosis

Alex stepped back from his sister, taking his space to think of what was happening.

Is everything alright? Hannah asked, worried.

"Tell her it is nothing. I'm thinking," Alex said and stopped thinking about his sister as his sister for now, but as a patient.

If he wanted to cure her, he would have to first understand what the problem was exactly.

"Do you know what poison your father used on her?" Alex asked. A part of him wondered why a poison was even used on her, but he put away the thought. That wasn't important for his deduction of her situation.

"No," the Crown Prince said. "He just... used it and... and that was how she was after that."

"What sort of poison was it?" Alex asked. "Did he feed it to her, or made her smell it or..."

"He splashed a small vial of liquid," the 2nd prince answered. "I didn't see how much. I didn't have the time to focus on her at the time. I was busy defending myself."

"From your father and the Legions? How did you guys sur— no, that's not important right now. I'll get the answers later," Alex said. "I need to know more about the poison. Tell me everything you know."

"Only that it is extremely potent, and 3 men that tried to fight her when she was poisoned simply died when they were near. She survived, but I don't know why," the 2nd prince said.

Alex frowned even more. A poison that could kill others second hand wasn't good enough to kill her? Why? Was it some artifact? Talisman? Pills? Or...

She was Hannah, a blood kin of his family. Hers was a body constitution of the Celestial grade.

"The Nine Revolutions Celestial Body," Alex said softly. "That must be it."

Senior Yang had explained to him bits of what her body constitution entailed. She had a frighteningly strong body constitution which pretty much made her Heaven's chosen.

The main attribute of an individual with the Nine Revolutions Celestial body was that the person would never need a cultivation technique and never suffer from a bottleneck or Qi deviation. Qi would flow

into their body on its own, and after the person revolved their Qi throughout their body 9 times, they would break through right then and there.

It was a frighteningly strong body constitution. And Hannah had it. The body also provided some small benefits such as making one's spirit and body stronger, as well as protecting them against poison.

It was nowhere near as good as what Alex had, but surely that was why she hadn't immediately died and instead had fallen into the position she was right now.

'But why does she not have a Spiritual Sea?' Alex asked himself. As far as he knew, that was not a property of the Nine Revolutions Celestial Body. It had to be a side effect of the poison.

'A poison that damages one's Spiritual sea?' Alex thought. He had to come back to this. He started noting down the other things he currently knew about her.

She couldn't see, hear, or smell.

"Can she taste?" Alex asked the 2nd prince.

"No," Long Huan answered.

"Her sense of touch isn't as good either, I presume," Alex said.

"She used to say she felt numb during the first few years," the 2nd prince replied. "She had gotten used to those sensations by now."

Alex nodded and felt anger brewing inside him that he had to quell. His sister was blind, deaf, and mute. And she couldn't—

Alex paused. Mute?

"Wait, can she not speak?" Alex asked the 2nd prince. "I didn't sense any problems with her vocal cords."

"She can make a sound, but not speak," the 2nd prince said. "Here, let me show you."

He wrote something into Hannah's hands and Hannah softly nodded. Then, she spoke.

Alex only heard garbled words, as if someone had been tongue-tied. "I see," he said. "I had sensed her facial muscles straining to move. I didn't realize her tongue was doing the same as well."

That was another problem to add to the list.

"How well can she move?" Alex asked.

"Pretty well," the 2nd Prince said. "Her body itself is fine. It's just her head and her Qi for some reason."

Alex nodded. He had indeed sensed the Dantian closing off, leaving out only a trickle of Qi. But he hadn't sensed the poison on the dantian, so he had forgotten about it.

He thought some more and realized he had all the information he needed, and now he only needed an answer.

"First of all, let's try an antidote pill," Alex said, bringing out a normal antidote pill that couldn't harm her in the slightest. He brought it next to her.

"We've tried all sorts of pills," the 2nd prince said. "I don't know if that pill—" He paused when he saw the pill veins on the pill. His eyes went wide and he no longer said anything, letting Alex feed the pill to his sister.

Hannah ate the pill and everyone waited.

A wave of energy coursed through Hannah's body, but nothing happened. Alex sensed the energy going through everyone, even her mind, but nothing was removed. He wondered if there was no poison.

Maybe he should have tried the healing pill first.

He fed her another pill and this time there were changes.

The wrinkles on her face disappeared immediately, the hair on her head growing black unnaturally. Her eyes which were grayed out and hollow now had color and moved around.

A gasp leaked from Hannah's mouth, and her hands moved instinctively to touch her face.

"I..." she was surprised to hear her own voice. She looked up and saw Alex. "Alex!" she shouted.

Alex smiled happily. "Sister!" he said. He couldn't hide his joy.

Hannah quickly hugged him. "I can see. I can finally see again," she said. "I can finally cry again."

She was crying.

"Honey?" the 2nd prince called.

Hannah froze and turned around. Her teary eyes looked at her husband. "Honey... you... you look so tired. I'm sorry you had to take care of me all this time," she said, quickly hugging the 2nd prince as well. "You had to suffer because of me all this time."

"That's my duty," the 2nd Prince said. "Don't cry. It's alright now." He was crying himself.

Alex felt teary eyes himself. He should have just healed her from the start. His pills were good enough after a—

"N-no!" Hannah suddenly shouted. "N-n-n—"

Her words croaked in her throat, never leaving.

"Honey?"

"Sister?" Alex rushed to her.

The 2nd prince pulled her away from him to see what was wrong. "No no no no no no..." he slowly spoke. "No, you were healed. What is happening?"

Hannah's wrinkles had returned, her eyes graying again, and her hair turning white. Her face became impassive, the tear stains on her cheek no longer fitting where they were.

"Honey?" the 2nd prince cried out, but even as he did, he understood. She could no longer hear him.

Words floated out from Hannah's hands.

What is happening? I thought I was healed. Alex, Help me!

Alex steeled his face as he realized what was happening. These were the effects of the poison in Hannah's body.

It appeared he had yet to deal with the poison itself.