

Alchemy 1661

Chapter 1661: Missing Information

Hannah's body had accepted the healing and then rejected it. No, she had been healed. And then the poison had taken effect again. Why?

Alex frowned as he contemplated the question.

Long Huan sat Hannah on the bed, holding her hand, writing words of consolation into them.

"Ask her if she feels any changes," Alex asked quickly as he thought.

The man wrote what Alex said and an answer came back.

Not much change. Maybe I can sense touch better, but I may be wrong.

So, there was a possibility of her getting slightly better by the healing. Alex would have to remember that. But first of all, he needed to think about the poison.

This was something done by poison. Had it just been her regular body, then the healing wouldn't have made any changes. Her real body knew what she was supposed to look like and this was not it.

'But I used the antidote pill before this,' Alex thought. He had only given the healing pill after that. If there was a poison in her body, it was supposed to be gone by now.

"Has she shown such changes before?" Alex asked the 2nd prince. "When she ate a healing pill or antidote pill, I mean."

"No, none I can remember," the young man said, frowning a little. "And she had eaten many pills. Thousands by now, some multiple times."

"Then my pill couldn't have been a unique pill," Alex said softly. There was one unique part to it though. The pill veins.

They were higher-grade pills altogether. His pills had done something certainly, but then why were they reverted?

His mind kept going back to the thought that there was still poison in Hannah's body. But he had checked it all and found nothing. Not just that, he had fed her his best antidote pill and there was still nothing.

What was going on?

He started pacing back and forth in the room, trying to come up with an answer.

'No, stop thinking about just one part. Think about it all,' Alex told himself. He had gathered all the information he could have required. He needed to find something out of those.

'Her senses are mostly gone, her body can move but is no different from being paralyzed, her spiritual sea is gone, her Dantian is closed, her...' Alex's thought slowed down. Something was happening here. A connection that he was missing.

For some reason, he was sure this was not where the answer remained. He was doing something wrong here, but what? He had all the information, didn't he? What else was there?

He closed his eyes and went through everything over and over and over and over until he found no connections except that maybe her Spiritual sea had disappeared forever because of the poison. He didn't see how it was possible, but there were poisons of the mind, so maybe there had been some sort of effect on her Celestial-grade body.

She had been poisoned with something that killed 2 people just by being close to her, so it had to have been her body that had saved...

Alex frowned all of a sudden and stopped his pacing. Yes, there was something there. He had missed that part. In the thought of healing his sister, he had thrown away every other information to the back of his mind.

Now that he was going through them once again, he was seeing some inconsistencies in his thoughts. A fact didn't make sense to Alex.

"I heard you correctly, right?" Alex asked. "You said my sister was poisoned by your father?"

The 2nd prince grimaced before nodding a little. "I... I'm sorry he did that. I don't know what—"

"No, stop. I don't want to hear any apologies. We'll talk about this in length later, but for now, I need to heal her," Alex said. "Are you sure he poisoned her? You said you weren't paying attention."

"Yes, I'm sure," the 2nd prince said with a frown. "I couldn't pay a lot of attention, but it was easy for me to know who she was fighting. I love her, after all. I wouldn't leave her alone even for a moment."

Alex looked at the 2nd prince for a second before moving his eyes to his sister. "Why?" he could only ask.

"Why? Why do I love her?" the 2nd prince asked. "Well, that's..."

"No," Alex said. "Why did she fight your father? Or more importantly, why did your father see the need to use poison?"

"Because, if he didn't, he and the others would've lost, or even worse, died," the 2nd prince said.

Alex's eyes snapped back to the man. "What?" He thought he heard wrong. "She would've killed the Dragon Emperor?"

The 2nd prince nodded. "I don't know about killing. She's never killed before, but she would've won for certain," he said.

Alex took a moment to take in the information and immediately cursed himself. "Stupid!" he shouted out loud.

The 2nd prince looked surprised and wanted to say something, but Alex stopped him. "I was cursing myself. I'm stupid for thinking I had all the information without asking."

"Oh!" The 2nd prince didn't know what to say. "Okay."

"I'll need the information directly from you. Make sure you answer it correctly," Alex said.

"Sure," the 2nd prince replied. He wondered what Alex was going to ask.

Alex continued cursing himself in his mind before taking a deep breath to calm himself. "What is my sister's cultivation base?"

The 2nd prince thought for a bit. "Right now, it's weak so I can't answer," he said. "But before she had been poisoned, she was a Saint Transformation 7th realm cultivator."

Alex's eyes went wide. "Such a high cultivation base?" he asked. "When was this? Answer me if you can based on when the players arrived."

"It was over 50 years ago," the 2nd prince said, before falling into a thought. "The players had arrived for a year maybe by then? She was cultivating rapidly before, but then she slowed down for a bit. But after that, something happened causing all the players to go into a frenzy, and she changed too. She started cultivating quickly again."

"By the time we had to run away, that was half a year after the change happened," the 2nd prince said.

His sister had fought and nearly won against the Dragon Emperor with a Saint Transformation 7th realm cultivation base with only 20 months of cultivation.

Alex had a hard time wrapping his head around that thought. Could he have been as strong as her, as fast as her, if he had no bottleneck at all?

He usually didn't have a bottleneck for the cultivation itself, but he faced them through Inner Demons. He wondered if his sister had those or not.

Now was not the time for that.

"That was what I was missing this entire time," Alex said softly, but loud enough that the 2nd Prince heard it.

"You know what is wrong?" The 2nd prince looked at him with eyes that held hope.

"I don't know what is wrong, but I do have a guess," Alex said. "I know what to look for now. Can you tell her I'm going to check her body once more?"

Chapter 1662: The Problem

Alex arrived at his sister's side by the time the 2nd prince had told her what he was going to do. Then, he crouched in front of his sister and held her hands, closing his eyes to sense everything around and within his sister.

Hannah was incredibly weak right now, with her Dantian mostly closing up, with only a trickle of it coming out. So, Alex hadn't realized what her cultivation base actually was.

He knew he should have asked, but given how long ago she had been poisoned and had remained without the ability to cultivate, he felt that she had to be weak in cultivation.

At least, he figured that she had to be no stronger than a Saint Foundation realm cultivator. The punch that hurt him barely gave her any strength either, helping to add to the misinformation.

But now that he had heard what her cultivation base was, he knew what mistake he had made. He had assumed her cultivation wrong.

Adding it into the mix with everything else, painted a different picture of the puzzle. A picture so simple he couldn't believe he had missed.

Saint Condensation realm was when one first became a true cultivator by opening their Dantian.

Saint Foundation realm was when they made their Dantian stronger.

Saint Core realm was when they took their previously weak spirit into a golden core inside the Dantian to help it become stronger.

Saint Soul realm was when the spirit came out as a Nascent Soul, stronger than ever.

Saint Transformation realm was when the Soul grew and became one with the body. It was when the body and soul were connected far stronger than they ever were.

When the Soul and Body became equal at the end of the realm, that was when they were finally allowed to become Immortal.

That was the missing piece of the puzzle. His sister was in the Saint Transformation 7th realm, with a soul that was closely connected with her body to a point where a wound in her soul would manifest in the body.

At the same time, an attack on her body would manifest in her soul. It was a dangerous connection, but one that was required if one wanted to become an Immortal.

Then... where the hell was Hannah's soul?

After the Saint Soul realm, the Spiritual sea became a part of the Nascent Soul. While the Nascent soul was part of the body, the Spiritual sea manifested where it always did, in one's mind.

But when the Nascent Soul wasn't there, it couldn't manifest anywhere in the human body.

That was what Alex should have questioned the moment he sensed the missing Spiritual Sea. However, since he thought her too weak, he didn't even consider that she could have a soul, and thus assumed there was a problem with her spirit and not her Nascent Soul.

Since she had no Spiritual sea, it meant her Nascent Soul was missing from her body.

But that should be impossible, as far as Alex knew. If one's Soul wasn't in one's body, the body would fall unconscious. It wouldn't die, but it would be no different from a patient in comatose.

Hannah was showing no sign of that. And her body was showing signs of poison that wasn't present in her body.

'A reflection of the Soul.' Alex understood.

His spiritual sense reached deeper and deeper, looking for anything he might have missed along the way, but he was sure he didn't. What he was looking for had to be in the first place he had looked at and didn't bother checking again.

The Dantian.

The Dantian was closed, which Alex ignored the first time around as an effect of the poison. But now that he was looking at it, it was no effect of the poison. It was something the Dantian was doing on its own.

A person with a Nine Revolution Celestial body, where the body would automatically cultivate them, preparing them for the upcoming breakthrough. There was no way such a body would have a simple Dantian.

This Dantian knew what it had to do in the case of such dangerous poison. Hannah's body knew how to protect her, as it should.

'Her Dantian hid her soul, to protect it,' Alex thought. He was damn certain of that.

"Tell her what I'm about to do next might hurt her," Alex said. "She might not feel anything hopefully, but there is a possibility of pain."

The 2nd prince quickly wrote down what Alex wanted Hannah to know.

Alex wasn't looking and only knew Hannah was ready when the 2nd prince spoke what she had said. Knowing that his sister was ready, he sent his Spiritual sense into the tiny opening to her Dantian and pushed in.

There was some resistance at first. Dantian by itself was not something one could use their spiritual sense to prod in the first place. Pushing one's spiritual sense into a Dantian, even with the person's complete concession to their body, still proved difficult.

Alex tried but found it nearly impossible to send anything in. He would have to use more force.

He took a moment to consider but decided that he had to do it anyway. Hannah was ready for the pain, so he had to do it right now. He couldn't give her false hope of it being done and give her sudden pain.

Hannah grunted in pain as Alex began.

Alex pushed more Spiritual sense into her Dantian, more and more, until he finally made it into it.

As soon as Alex was in, he felt dread.

Poison.

Such an incredibly strong poison.

Alex saw a glowing pool of energy inside the Dantian, surrounded by a dark aura that was the poison. Where was the soul?

Prying inside a little more, Alex found Hannah's soul half dead inside the pool of Qi itself.

That was problematic.

Her soul was damaged, she was poisoned, and her body was hurt.

A spirit healing pill, an antidote pill, and a regular healing pill would be required to treat her. But how was he to make them work?

He saw only one way to make it work and that was to open up her Dantian. But that brought more complications.

Another problem Alex saw was the lack of Qi in Hannah's body. A trickle came out every time she needed to use it, but nothing went in. So, after decades, her Dantian was only half filled with Qi.

Seeing as how it was her Qi that protected her soul from the poison, he couldn't open the Dantian, as that would make her use up her Qi, and cause the poison to take effect.

'I need to close the dantian,' he thought. At least for now, he needed to close it. He would open it later when he was ready to treat her.

'How do I treat her?' Alex thought. He needed to know that firsthand. His senses lay on the poison, feeling it's terrible dread, and he steeled his heart.

"I need this," he thought and used his senses and his intent to grab onto a portion of the poison.

If he wanted to make an antidote pill, he needed to understand the poison first.

Chapter 1663: Testing the Poison

Directly handling the poison turned out to be more trouble than Alex had expected. He had known the poison was strong enough to cause his sister to fall to such a fate, but he hadn't expected to have something similar happen to him at all.

When he finally did touch the poison, albeit with his spiritual sense, he found pain flaring in his senses, as if acid itself flowed in his veins. His pain was momentarily intense, stopping only when Alex let go of it.

He frowned slightly, falling into thought to see what he could do. To see what options he had.

'I have to take out some of the poison for sure,' he said to himself. 'But it will have to be a smaller portion than before. I can't afford to bring out too much.'

His body may have been able to completely burn all of that poison, but his spiritual sense had no such ability. Even then, it was better to just take a bit of it out to check if his body could handle it.

Alex put his spiritual sense to work and started pulling on a very small portion of the poison.

He started pulling it out. The poison separated from the mass, easily being pulled apart. There was no difficulty there, so he continued pulling it out.

As he did, he felt his sister tremble and soon screams followed. He wanted to see what was going on, but the poison was already making its way out of the dantian. He couldn't stop now.

'Hold on, sister,' he thought, and continued, pulling the poison more and more. The trembling and screaming continued for a good minute before it finally stopped. Alex brought out the poison, keeping it wrapped around his spiritual sense.

He couldn't just drag it out like he could his own spiritual sense. The poison was matter and thus needed to follow a path. The only path he could take was through the meridians.

Alex very carefully pulled the poison through his sister's meridians. Last he had heard, the meridians were mostly destroyed as well and had to be healed to regrow. He couldn't afford to break it again.

He was slow and meticulous, but small grunts escaped his sister's mouth from time to time as she was pained. Alex could understand why she was in pain as well. The size of the poison, including spiritual sense was quite large and was for that reason causing her meridians to have to inflate far beyond their normal sizes.

Not to mention these were the meridians of a woman who hadn't cultivated even a bit for the past 50 years. She was getting hurt. This was bad.

Meridians met with blood vessels in many parts of the body, so Alex could move the poison into her bloodstream, in which case the danger of what he was doing would immediately increase tenfold.

He had to be even more careful now.

The poison made its way through her stomach, finding its way to a blood vessel, then went into a channel that flowed toward the feet.

Alex didn't dare send the poison toward the upper half of her body. There were too many important organs there to take that risk.

He could already start to feel the strain on his mind by now. Not only was he doing something that required a lot of focus and Intent, but he was doing it with a poison that was continuously hurting him as he pulled it down to her left thigh.

Alex made a small gesture with his fingers and a cut appeared on Hannah's thigh, one that was thin enough that he would barely notice it for the next day or two. As blood spewed out of the cut, so did a small mass of black poison that Alex had dragged out.

Without waiting, he took the poison into his hand and sent it into his body.

There were 2 tests he needed to perform.

The first test was simple. He needed to see if his body was capable of handling the poison or not.

The 2nd test was to see if a regular antidote pill of his could remove the poison from one's body. Both tests were important, and Alex had to think for a moment as to which one he wanted to do first.

Both would destroy the poison, so it most likely didn't matter which path he took. The poison that was now in his blood suddenly lost all protection around it and attacked Alex's body.

Alex's body fought back. Yang Qi came out of nowhere and destroyed the poison to his surprise. He had expected the poison to fight back a little, but it had been destroyed so easily.

Had that been his body? Or had that been just because the poison was in a small amount? Either way, it probably didn't matter.

The 2nd prince was looking at Alex and had noticed his spiritual sense no longer doing anything. "Any results?" the man asked.

"Hmm?" Alex looked up. "Oh, right. I would say there is some success. I have at least figured out where the poison is and why she is being affected. But curing it is still distant."

The 2nd prince was surprised. "You found the poison?" he asked. "Sister Luoyang couldn't do that, and she tried for over a dozen years now."

"I had some luck, I suppose," Ning said. Had she not known to check the Dantian?

"So, what's happening next? Will you try to find the cure?" the 2nd prince asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "But I need to repeat what I did earlier. Please let her know that the pain won't be any less than before. In fact, it might get stronger."

The 2nd prince quickly wrote Alex's words as soon as Alex was inside again. His spiritual sense went toward the poison and started drawing out a slightly larger portion.

The pain Hannah felt this time was stronger than before. She cried and screamed again as Alex pulled the poison through her meridians and blood vessels, before pulling it out of the bloody gash on her thigh.

He took the poison into his own body and took a deep breath to force his body to not heal the poison when he let go of the protection again. Once he thought he was ready, he did so.

The poison remained in his meridians for a bit, trying to damage him, but Alex's Undying body healed all wounds even as the poison tried to hurt him. It moved through his body and slowly made its way to his Dantian.

When it entered the Dantian, that was when the poison showed its true power.

Instantly, Alex crumbled onto the floor. That had been so strong and so intense. His body was fine for the most part, but his Nascent Soul was attacked by the poison when it entered the Dantian.

The spirit in his body was in pain. He was in pain. The wounds hadn't reflected as they would have for a Saint Transformation realm cultivator, but the spirit was still hurt, and Alex was forcing himself to keep his body from destroying it.

He needed to keep it safe.

The 2nd prince was about to speak when he saw Alex in pain, but Alex stopped him with a hand. With his other hand, he pulled out all 3 different types of pill before eating them one by one to see which would remove the poison.

The closest thing had been the antidote pill, but even it had failed despite having over 6 pill veins to it.

"I don't have anything that can heal the poison right now," Alex said, his face returning to normal.

"Huh? Are you sure?" the young man asked.

Alex nodded. "I took a small part to myself to figure out if I could heal with those pills I ate," he informed the 2nd prince. "It turns out that it doesn't. I need to make a pill from scratch."

The 2nd prince's hope dwindled a bit at those words. "Can you make a pill for it from scratch?" he asked.

"I can only say that I'll try my hardest," Alex said. There was nothing more to promise.

He sealed the poison in his body again and let it remain in a corner of his Dantian for now. He should've destroyed it, but while bringing out the poison from Hannah's Dantian, he noticed that her Dantian and meridians were taking damage by him forcefully pulling out what should've been kept inside.

He had done it two times, and he had used separate routes each time to bring it all to the thigh. As a result, 2 of her 8 possible pathways had been damaged. Considering intersections between the meridians, he wasn't going to take any risk of damaging her body.

On top of that, with his plan to shut down her dantian completely, he had to save this portion of the poison to figure out how to deal with the problem.

"Lady Luoyang, can you come inside for a moment?" Alex called out loud, and a moment later, Zhan Luoyang walked in. Her eyes moved around the three, searching for hints of what they could've done there.

"Any good news?" she asked. The Crown Prince followed behind her, curious about everything as well.

"Maybe," Alex answered the woman. "But for now, I must ask. Do you have any pills or pill recipes that can close off one's dantian?"

"Closing one's Dantian?" the woman frowned. "I don't think I have one—"

"I have a recipe for a pill like that," the Crown Prince spoke up. "But such a pill is considered more poison than healing? Is that alright?"

Alex sighed in relief. He wouldn't need to spend time creating a new pill.

"I need it to stop my sister's situation from getting worse."

Chapter 1664: Trying To Get Answers

Alex read the recipe for the poison pill that was made to shut down one's Dantian. If a person fed on this pill either forcefully or accidentally, then all openings to the Dantian would close immediately, effectively turning the person into a Mortal.

Alex closed his eyes and went through his mind to see whether the pill recipe was correct or not. After a bit of consideration, he nodded to himself. He would have to improve the recipe though.

He didn't want to feed his sister some 70% harmony pill. Considering how good her body was at rejecting poison, that sort of pill wouldn't even affect her.

"I'll make this pill later when I have the chance," Alex said. "For now, I want to hear what happened all this time. How did you two meet? How were you poisoned, everything."

He stared directly at the 2nd prince with a look that said that he would find his answers one way or another.

The 2nd prince gulped and looked toward his brother. Before he could say something, the Crown Prince spoke up. "I'm not leaving. I want to hear what is going on as well. I want to hear what secrets you're keeping from me."

"I can't tell you, brother," Long Huan said. "You're ignorant of what has happened, and it's clear to me. Remain that way and your life may be easier."

"Ignorant?" the Crown Prince glared at his younger brother. "You will tell me what is happening or I will get those answers out one way or another.":

Long Huan looked at his brother, and then at Alex, and frowned deeply. It seemed he had no way of getting out of this.

"Fine, I'll tell you," the young man said. "But you two must swear an oath to not betray me when you hear my story."

"Betray you? What are you—"

"I swear to do not betray you for what you will tell me next," Alex swore. He had no reason to not swear. He already had a good idea of what was coming.

An answer to a question that he had for such a long time now.

The Crown Prince looked at Alex in surprise. He couldn't believe how quickly Alex had sworn the oath. He looked back and saw his brother waiting for him.

"I..." the Crown Prince wasn't sure what he should do here. From the conversation before and the bits and pieces of information he had picked up today, he had come to understand that his brother had done something and had thus gone into hiding.

What he had done was still unknown to him, but whatever it was, was most certainly something bad to have him be hiding in this way.

The side of him that was the brother and the side of him that was the ruler conflicted and he didn't know what to do. Neither of the sides felt right, and neither felt wrong.

What was he to do here? What was his choice?

What was he more? A brother, or a Crown Prince?

A hand lay on his back. "You should hear what he has to say," Zhan Luoyang said. "No, you have to hear what he has to say. It's... important."

The Crown Prince looked at his fiancée in surprise. "You know what he's about to say?" he asked.

"I was in the same situation as you and wanted to tell you that he had come to meet me, but hearing his story made me change my mind. Maybe you'll do so too," Zhan Luoyang said.

The Crown Prince nodded and turned to look at his brother. "I've already promised her not to act on anything I learn in here. She already made me promise all you wanted before I came here," he said. "If you want it in oath, I'll give it to you."

The 2nd prince looked at his brother for a few seconds before shaking his head. "It's alright," he said. "I won't ask for any oaths or promises. I will trust you, brother, to do what is right here."

The Crown Prince's face grew stern and he got ready to hear it.

The 2nd prince took a deep breath and spoke.

"For the past 50 years, I have been hunted by the soldiers of our Empire, sent in secret by none other than our father."

Alex nodded slowly. He could see the pieces fall together.

"What?" the Crown Prince had been expecting something big, but not this. Hunted by their father? He believes it. "You're lying."

"I have been running for more than 50 years, brother. You will not call my struggle a lie," the 2nd prince spoke with hatred in his voice.

The Crown Prince's face grew tense. He lowered his head slightly, shrinking in front of his brother's anger. "I'm sorry," he said quickly. "But it is hard to believe. Why would a father want to hunt you?"

"Because I have what he wants," Long Huan said. "I have what he needs."

The Crown Prince gulped. "What... what do you have?" he asked.

"The Ivory sword," the 2nd prince said.

The Crown Prince's eyes narrowed for a moment confusion filling his face. "I thought you gave that sword to father. So you took it back from him?" he asked.

"Back? What do you mean?" the 2nd prince asked.

"I mean, father had it, didn't he? So you took it back?" the Crown Prince asked.

"Why would father have the Ivory sword? We were given the two swords to keep and protect," the 2nd Prince said.

The Crown Prince was very much confused now. "I'm pretty sure father had implied that he has the sword," he said. "No, he told me he had it right before he told me that you..." His voice trailed off slowly.

"Before what?" Alex asked, leaning forward to hear the answer.

"Before... before he told me that Huan had left for a journey to travel the continent," he said.

The 2nd prince chuckled. "Is that what he told you? It seems he wanted to keep you away from the conflict then," he said.

The Crown Prince felt like he was being played with. What sort of nonsense was this? The Emperor hunting down his brother, all because of a family heirloom?

This made no sense to him. Why would anyone do that?

Alex saw that the conversation was going nowhere so he decided to step in.

"Are you saying the reason you haven't come went back to the Dragon Palace for the past half a century was because your father has been hunting you?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Long Huan answered straightforwardly.

"Why?" Alex asked and stopped the 2nd prince from giving the obvious answer. "Yes, the sword, you said it already. But why? Why would he hunt you for that sword?"

Alex remembered the Crown Prince speaking about his mother on the bank of the Azure Lake, and in that talk, he had told him about the two swords.

A black sword to teleport and a white sword to cut through space.

The 2nd Prince sighed and shook his head. "I do not know why," he said. "What I can tell you is that the sword is exactly what he thinks he needs to become a very powerful Immortal."

Chapter 1665: Old Zhou

The Crown Prince tried to think of how his brother could see a problem at all in his own words. Their father was going to be a strong Immortal. What was so bad about that?

"And you didn't give him the sword?" he asked.

Long Huan shook his head. "Of course not," he said.

"Why not?" the Crown Prince asked.

"Because he's gone mad," the 2nd prince said. "I don't know if it's madness or what exactly, but he's not right anymore. I saw it in his eyes when he asked me for the sword. Have you not noticed it? Or does he hide it well now?"

"I..." the Crown Prince thought about it for a bit. "I don't get to see him that often. He's always too busy in closed cultivation. But still, that's no reason to think father had gone bad or any—"

"He hunted me down when I ran away," the 2nd prince said. "He tried to kill my wife because she fought back. Had it not been for old Zhou, she would've been dead."

"Not only that, he fought with complete disregard for everyone else's life. Everyone was just... a tool to be used. I saw him attack through a person to catch my wife blindsided."

"I don't want to think what would've happened to me, but I doubt it would be anything good. I don't believe he would kill me, but I can see him imprisoning me in the palace for life."

"It was a good thing I ran away," the 2nd prince continued. "I was doing it out of mere instincts, and I realize now that I might have done something good."

That had been what had put his life in danger in the first place, the 2nd Prince had realized that, but he didn't want to think about it.

He turned to look at his brother and found him looking shocked and aghast.

"What did you say about old Zhou?" the Crown prince asked. "He saved you?"

"Yes," the 2nd Prince answered. "He knew he was going to die in the process too, but he acted to save me. I am forever indebted to him."

"Old Zhou saved you? Are you sure about it?" the Crown Prince asked.

Now that he was thinking about it, the Crown Prince remembered that what his father had told him was that his Brother was going on a journey around the world, and Zhou Linfan was going along with him.

He had always been a part of the story that his father had formulated, but it seemed unimportant to the Crown Prince. Now that he was hearing it again, maybe it wasn't so unimportant.

"I'm sorry, who are you guys talking about?" Alex asked. He remembered nobody named Old Zhou in any conversations.

"Old Zhou, he's uhh... Zhou Linfan," the 2nd Prince said. "He used to work in the Palace."

"Zhou Linfan?" Alex thought for a moment. He had heard of that name before, hadn't he? Not just once too. He had heard about his travels with the 2nd prince which was a lie.

He had also heard about Zhou Linfan being a great cook.

"He's the missing head cook from the palace, isn't he?" Alex asked, finally remembering. He remembered not just about him from the Palace, but the Royal School of Cooking as well.

Zhou Linfan was a Level 10 cook.

"Did he die saving you?" Alex asked the 2nd prince.

The 2nd prince said nothing for a moment, looking to his brother for an answer.

"I... don't know if he's dead or not. All I knew was that he was out on a journey alongside Huan," the Crown Prince said. His thoughts were still lost on his father.

Alex started thinking about the information he had received from the Oathbreakers.

Something terrible had happened during that very battle, causing many to leave the military and join the resistance. Was it the sight of a father trying to kill a son for not giving what was his?

Was it the sight of a young girl with a very high potential being poisoned and killed? Or was it the complete disregard for human life?

Attacking someone to catch another person off guard. Using a poison whose presence alone killed two people.

Or maybe it was a collection of everything together that made them worried that they were not doing the right thing. Not everyone felt that way certainly, but it was a significant enough portion that one could be sure they were not entirely wrong in choosing to oppose the Emperor.

Alex took the opportunity to speak again. "If I remember correctly from what the Crown Prince told me a few years ago, the swords you mention are keys to the Azure Dragon's realm, right?" he asked.

The two brothers turned around and slowly nodded.

"You gave your sword to your mother and it was destroyed. What did that sword do again? Teleport?" Alex asked.

"Yes, it helped you teleport," the Crown Prince said.

"Then the White Sword that Prince Huan has should be the one that cuts space, correct?" Alex asked.

"Yes, that's the one I have," the 2nd Prince said, eyeing his brother curiously. He wondered why he would reveal such information to someone else.

"Then I am very much confused," Alex said. "There is a direct teleportation formation to the Azure Dragon's realm, is there not? So what's the need for the sword?"

A sword that cut through space would be handy for anyone wanting to go into or out of any secret realm. The advantage of such a sword was immense. Alex wondered if they saw it that way.

"It doesn't just cut through the spatial barrier around the Azure Dragon's realm, but every other secret realm as well," the 2nd Prince said. "I've given this a lot of thought, but to this day I have failed to see what exactly it is that father could want so desperately that he was ready to kill me if need be."

"I'm sure he wasn't going to kill—"

"He was, brother. I'm sure of it," the 2nd Prince said. "I don't know why, but Mother's death affected him in some way. He's not the same person he was anymore. He changed. I pray that he returns to how he was, but as it stands, I don't doubt he would kill me if it means he would become stronger."

The two brothers started talking with each other, and Alex slowly ignored them. He fell into his thought, imagining how the Dragon Emperor was ever planning to become stronger with a sword like that.

It could be that he just wanted the sword to take away, but the greater possibility was that he thought he needed to use it.

As someone with Dao of Space, he had a better understanding of Space and could create openings in the Secret realm without using any artifact to aid him. If he could do that, how could he use it to become a very strong Immortal?

Considering the Dragon Emperor's fear of death and irrelevancy in the higher realm, whatever he wanted would have to be very strong.

'Does he want to enter some sort of secret realm that houses a lot of treasure?' Alex wondered. 'One that was left behind from the time of the Immortals?'

Did something like the Demon realm back in the Western Continent exist here as well? Or was he not planning on using it on—

Alex froze and his eyes went wide as a very horrifying possibility surfaced in his mind.

Chapter 1666: Why and How

After only a few moments of thought, Alex came to the understanding that there was indeed a place in the Eastern Continent where one could find many treasures that would immediately make one's standing in the Immortal realm higher than it would be on arrival.

A place where the Dragon Emperor was likely to find Immortal artifacts, talismans, and treasures. A place that was so easily accessible, but couldn't be opened because the Dragon Emperor didn't have talent in Space and needed the sword to use.

The Azure Dragon's Soul Space.

Alex feared this was it. He could imagine the Dragon Emperor's greed and could see that with the Azure Dragon's corpse so close how desperately he would want the sword.

When someone became an Immortal, they opened a Soul Space in their body. Once opened, that space would remain there forever unless destroyed. That was what he had been told in the Central Continent by Senior Yang.

Even in death, that Soul Space would not be gone. The only way to get rid of it would be to destroy it completely. But that usually brought forth a possibility of the items inside being destroyed as well.

Sometimes they could just fall out, but most times they would just get destroyed along with the Soul Space.

'So he wants the sword to get the item inside,' Alex thought. 'But doesn't a Soul Space disappear if both the Soul and the body are destroyed? That means the Azure Dragon's corpse must still be inside his realm.'

Alex was certain this was the reason.

He couldn't let the Dragon Emperor have that sword. If he did, he would take what the Azure Dragon had, what Alex was going to trade with him, and then break through to Immortality to run away.

The more he heard the two brothers talking, the more Alex started to become absolutely certain that they were not aware of the fact that the Azure Dragon was dead.

He wondered how they would react if this news was out. He wondered how anyone would react if this news was out in the Empire.

Alex's thoughts paused for a moment as something the 2nd prince said caught his attention. "Wait, what did you say about the Southern Continent?" he asked the man.

"I was there for nearly 40 years. I only came back 20 years ago," the 2nd Prince reiterated his words.

"You were what?" Alex nearly shouted his words. "You were in the Southern Continent?"

"Yes," the 2nd Prince said.

"My sister was there too?" he asked.

"Yes," the 2nd prince said.

"While I was the King," Alex said. "And you didn't come to me? Everyone should have known about my talent in Alchemy by then."

"I did hear about you," the 2nd Prince said. "And I was thinking of coming to meet you, but I didn't want to take the chance. I told you earlier, didn't I? I would've come to you if not for fear of my father's men finding me."

Alex felt his mind go blank. His sister had been in the Southern Continent the entire time, and he hadn't known about it.

"To be honest, I also didn't trust your talent in Alchemy to be better than Father. I grew up knowing his talent was the highest of anyone living, so I found it hard to believe the rumors," the 2nd prince said. "Also, I was worried you would just hand me over to my father. I was certain his men had already met you."

Alex frowned. "They did tell me they were searching for something. Maybe it was good they didn't find you," he said. "If only you had come to meet me."

He sighed but said nothing more. What was done was done now. The 2nd prince didn't know about him and he was right to keep himself hidden.

"So, why did you come back?" Alex asked. "Actually, I don't think I've asked this, but how did you come back?"

"I... I came back to save my wife," he said. "I was planning to do whatever I could to save her. Even going so far as to return to my Father and trade the sword in exchange for healing her."

"But you didn't," Alex said. "Why?"

"I was still hesitant at first, so I met up with sister Luoyang and explained the situation. She told me she would help me and did. I was here for no more than 2 years, however, when the news came that you had defeated my Father in an alchemy match."

"After that, she convinced me not to return and instead wait for you instead," the 2nd prince said. "She's been working hard all this time, trying to heal Hannah as much as she could while keeping it a secret that we're here."

Alex turned to Zhan Luoyang and bowed deeply. "Thank you for everything you've done for my sister. Please give me a chance to repay this favor in the future."

"I did no favor, Your Majesty," the woman said. "I just helped my soon-to-be family."

Alex smiled in return. He planned on giving her everything he gave the Dragon Emperor, but later.

Alex turned toward the 2nd prince. "You've done an incredible job protecting my sister. I cannot imagine how stressful the past few decades must have been for you," he said and bowed deeply. "Thank you."

"I just did what I had to," the 2nd prince said.

"Yes, you did," Alex said. "Now then, you told us why you came back, but not how. As far as I know, the eastern side of the Southern Continent was teeming with soldiers of the Scale Legions. How did you get past them? Also, how did you get to the Southern Continent in the first place? The travel there is treacherous."

"We didn't fly there and back, if that's what you mean," the 2nd Prince said. "We took a shortcut."

"A... shortcut?" the Crown Prince asked. "What did you do? Teleport? You didn't access the Teleportation formation, did you?"

"No, we didn't teleport," the 2nd prince said. "Or wait, maybe you could call it teleportation, I don't know. We came through a very rare place that takes you from one location to another."

"So... teleportation," the Crown Prince said.

"No, not teleportation. This one takes time," the 2nd prince said. "Instead of traveling in this world, you go through another world of bright purple and white, and you appear on the other side."

Alex gasped in surprise at description. "You went through a Voidgate?" he asked the man, amazement clear in his voice.

The 2nd prince gave a surprised look. "I did. How did you know? I hadn't known what the place was called without Old Zhou telling me what it was."

"I know about Voidgates," Alex said. "But I've never seen one. If you've been through one and that took you to the Southern Continent, then... there are two Voidgate in this world that connects the two places."

The 2nd prince nodded slowly.

"Where is it?" Alex asked.

"In the Southern Continent, it's somewhere southwest beyond the mainland. I can give you an approximate map of the place if you give me some time."

"And in the Eastern Continent?" Alex asked.

"Here, the Voidgate is inside the secret realm to the south," the 2nd prince said. "Inside the Harmonious Balance Haven."

Chapter 1667: High Level Poison

"We should leave for now," Zhan Luoyang suggested after a bit more talking. "If people realize we're missing, they might come looking for us."

Alex nodded. "I'll go back too. I need to take the time to study this poison too," he said, feeling the poison that he had kept in his body. It was a good thing that it hadn't been destroyed just yet.

"Please tell my sister that I will come here tomorrow during the day," Alex said. "With a simple mention of me needing to make some pills, I shouldn't cause much attention toward this place."

"That will work," Zhan Luoyang said. "I will take you back then."

Alex nodded. He walked up to Hannah and gave her one last hug before walking away. The Crown Prince still seemed completely taken aback by everything he had heard that day.

They stealthily made it back to their rooms. Before leaving him there, however, Zhan Luoyang remained to say something.

"About the poison, Your Majesty," the woman spoke. "I haven't had the time to figure out what it is, but I have a guess, and I suggest that you be very careful."

Alex nodded slowly. He knew the poison was dangerous. That need not be told. "You know what it is?" Alex asked the woman.

"A guess," Zhan Luoyang corrected him. "Given how difficult of a time we're having because of the poison, I guessed that it was not something normal. I had suspected it being a high-level poison, and now as each day passes by, I become more and more certain that the poison we're dealing with is a Level 10 poison."

Alex's eyes narrowed a bit. "Level 10?" he asked, his mind already searching for the information he knew he knew. A look of understanding flashed through his face.

"Yes," he said slowly. "That is possible."

He remembered the tale of the Level 9 Poison master making a poison so potent that it had killed him the moment he created it. The Azure Dragon himself had to come and deal with the poison and take it away.

Could he have given it to the Dragon Emperor then? And he used it on his sister?

The possibility was there.

Even if that was not the case, the possibility of it still being a Level 9 or a Level 10 poison remained, and that made it quite deadly. Alex had to be extra careful about it. He had to be careful how he approached the entire situation.

After Alex voiced his understanding of the matter, Zhan Luoyang left him and went back to her room.

Alex began preparing the pill for his sister to close her Dantian. That was the most important thing he had to do for now. Even more so than trying to come up with a way to heal her poison.

He knew healing would take some time, so it was necessary to first deal with the symptoms before going for the disease.

Alex had the ingredients on hand, many of which he had used before, so improving the recipe came rather easily. With the ease also came a free time where his mind wandered.

He had still not gotten over the surprise that his sister was here. Had he known that, he would've tried his damn hardest to be here as soon as he could. Hannah was still alive. His aunt would be so happy to learn that. Not just her, but his father and mother would be happy too.

She was poisoned, sure, but he was going to fix it. Wasn't he? Could he fix it if it was a Level 10 poison?

Understanding a poison was mostly easy if you knew what the ingredients were beforehand. If not, then it became slightly more difficult. Based on the effects of the poison, one could also determine what the poison did and how one could fight it back.

If the poison gave a headache, Alex would have to make a pill that stopped the headaches.

If the poison made one's arm numb, Alex would have to make a pill that made the arms's senses overwork to feel it.

Explaining it that way was making light of how difficult it was to make antidotes, but that was the gist of the matter.

To get rid of a poison, one needed to fight back the things that it did, and then destroy it from the system.

'I wonder if the Saint Nullifying pill will do anything,' Alex wondered. It nullified the effects of a pill on a body. Surely a poison couldn't be that different. He would have to see it tomorrow. For now, he needed to think about the poison.

It took merely 2 hours for Alex to come up with a recipe for the pill so that it could create Pill Clouds. After that, he was free to test the poison.

Alex readied himself after a bit and let go of the defense he had put around the poison. As soon as the poison disappeared, it started attacking his body.

Alex held back on his body's ability to destroy the poison and suffered because of it. He could feel the burning pain in his veins like fire walking through it. He could sense his meridians being wounded as the poison made its way along.

But... that was it. Nothing else happened to him at all.

'It has a corrosive nature to it,' Alex thought to himself. 'Corrosive, and freely moving inside the meridian.'

But aside from that, the poison did nothing to the body.

'It is a poison that attacks the spirit then,' Alex thought. This part he was a little more fearful about. The prospect of having to reveal his spirit to the poison did not bode well with him.

'Just a bit,' Alex thought and tore off a piece of the poison before sending it into his Dantian. The moment he allowed that, the poison immediately found its way to his Dantian on its own. Alex didn't even have to do anything.

'That's another thing,' Alex thought, memorizing that part of the poison as well.

Then, the poison reached his Dantian, where he left it to do its thing. He wanted to see what the poison would do.

Before the poison could do something, it completely fell apart and died all of a sudden. Alex didn't even have the time to stop that from happening.

"Dammit!" he thought slightly. He had controlled his body from dealing with the poison, and that had been hard. Now, it seemed he was going to have to stop the Yin Qi to do so as well.

The high-level Yin Qi hadn't destroyed the poison but rather made it impotent. Either way, Alex needed to deal with his Yin Qi before bringing the poison.

He protected the ball of poison in his body and started cultivating with his Yang Qi. After half an hour of cultivation, he sensed no more Yin Qi in his body and brought another small ball of poison into his Dantian.

This time around, the poison was more free than last time and thus acted immediately, latching onto his spirit that was inside the Dantian.

Alex finally felt the effects of the poison in full force.

It was maddening.

Chapter 1668: Story

From what Alex realized, the poison's main purpose was one of two things.

It either entered one's Dantian to destroy the Nascent Soul, or it simply sought out the Nascent Soul around the body to destroy it. However it did it, it went after the Nascent soul and destroyed it.

Alex could feel his Soul dying to the presence of the poison and instinctively forced his body to protect itself. The Yang in his body surged the moment they were allowed again and the poison was immediately burned up.

Alex was left breathless. He took in deep breaths, calming the feeling of momentary dread he had felt.

That was a very dangerous poison. To him it was fine, but to anyone else, their death would be instant.

"Level 10... It might just be," he thought.

Hannah had gotten herself in rather dangerous trouble.

Morning came just a few hours later, and Alex relayed what happened the last night to his two elders.

He had expected the two to get angry, but instead, they just sighed. "We can't stop you from doing something reckless, can we?" Yao Ning asked with a resigned look.

Liang Shufen simply gave a rueful smile. "Congratulations on finding your cousin, Your Majesty. Lady Liz will be happy to learn of this."

Alex nodded. She would.

He went to meet with the family head of the Zhan family for a bit in the gardens where the Crown Prince and Zhan Luoyang came to meet with him. They talked briefly and Alex managed to slip in the fact that he needed to make some pill.

Zhan Luoyang took the opportunity to ask him to visit her mansion. And so, around 10 in the morning, Alex was back with his sister.

He spoke with her for a moment before turning toward Zhan Luoyang. "Where should I make the pill? Right here?" he asked.

"Oh," the woman was taken aback. "You weren't making an excuse to come here?"

"I was, but I also need to make 3 pills," Alex said.

"I have an alchemy room with everything you could need. Please come with me," the lady said.

"Actually, if it's alright, I will do it right here. I need Sister to be close by anyway," Alex said.

"But this room has no formations to aid you," the woman said. "It will take time to make some for this room."

"Thank you, but that's alright," Alex said. "I don't really use formations anyway."

Memory floated out of his Soul Space and hovered on top of the floor as Alex began to take out the ingredients he had prepared already.

A fire appeared on its own below the cauldron, heating up Memory as Alex got ready to start making the pill.

Zhan Luoyang looked surprised and sat down to the side, not wanting to leave Alex at all. She wanted to see him make a pill.

The 2nd prince sat to the side as well.

"Would you prefer if I call you something other than brother-in-law? It's a bit of a mouthful," Alex said as the cauldron reached the proper temperature.

"Sorry?" Long Huan was so focused on the cauldron that he nearly missed the question. "Oh, uhh... you can just call me Huan if you want, Your Majesty."

"Brother Huan it is then," Alex said. "Please call me Alex. I'm junior to you in both age and relation."

"Alright," the young man said. "I'll call you Alex while we're alone then. I will still have to call you Your Majesty if we're in the presence of others."

Alex nodded slowly and put the first ingredient in.

"So, please tell me how you and my sister met," Alex asked. "I want to hear all about it. Honestly, had I been told that she was married, or even remembered about it somehow, I wouldn't have had to go around on dates."

"You went on dates to find your sister?" Long Huan asked.

"It sounds stupid, but it was the best I could think of at the time," Alex said. "Please don't mind that. Continue."

"I... I met her by chance," Long Huan said. "I remember I had gone to a shop to buy something, a pill I think? That was when I met her first. She thought I was cutting in line without realizing who I was and spoke some harsh words to me. It was so bad that I could have never forgotten about it."

He smiled to himself.

"Sure I was hiding my identity, but anyone with an eye would know not to mess with me," Long Huan said with a chuckle. "I had so many guards with me there after all. Anyway, she won and left the shop before me."

"I had assumed that would be the last time I met her, but then I met her again a few days later in another shop. She recognized me first actually this time around, and said something about how I had learned and wasn't cutting through lines. If I remember correctly, she said something about 'them' fixing me. I never realized who she was referring to."

'Probably the game developers,' Alex thought. That made sense.

"Your sister truly baffled me. I had met many women by now on formal dates or occasions, most belonging to high-level clans and families. But none were as different as your sister. She truly left an impression on you whenever she met you."

"Once again I thought that would have been the last time, but then I met her again about a week later. It was a coincidence certainly, but I noticed her back then because it was her. I even went to talk to her, get to know her a little."

"I still remember the shock I felt when I reached her back then," Long Huan said.

Alex put another ingredient into the cauldron and stirred it around, half his attention on the story Long Huan was telling.

"She had only been a Common realm cultivator not even 2 weeks ago, and somehow she had managed to enter the True realm."

"The shock was quite hard to handle, so I had some men tail her. When they reported to me that she was breaking through day after day, sometimes even twice a day, I had to meet with her and see what was happening."

"I hadn't realized that there were more such as her at the time, but by the time I learned that she was different, we had already been together. In fact, I was surprised when she asked that I marry her just 2 weeks after we properly met each other."

"I didn't want to refuse, so I accepted. She was beautiful enough, and her speed with cultivation was beyond frightening. But most of all, I liked spending time with her. She wasn't so stiff like so many other girls I met who only saw a prince in me. I liked that about her."

Long Huan smiled a little remembering it all. "I remember her constantly taunting me to continue cultivating or she would leave me behind in the dust. I was so thankful when she finally saw that she needed to slow down."

"Still, despite her slowing down, I knew at that moment that she would always be ahead of me, and I would have no chance of ever reaching her at all."

Chapter 1669: Truth

"How did you come to run away, brother Huan?" Alex asked the 2nd prince. "I'm surprised you were able to get away from your father when you were right there in the palace. He let you go without taking back the sword?"

"I... I didn't have the sword with me at that point," the 2nd prince answered Alex. He stared as Alex put more ingredients into the cauldron, but his gaze was distant. He was remembering the past.

"My mother's death was kept from me for months. I wasn't even aware she was meaning to break through," the 2nd prince said. "So when I was told about what had happened, I left for the palace immediately. I would only come to later realize that I had left my storage bag with Hannah, the one that held the sword."

Alex could see the story coming together. The 2nd prince went back to the palace to mourn for his mother's death and after a while was told to bring the sword. He decided not to and ran away, taking Hannah along with him.

He let the 2nd prince tell the story himself and focused on the pill for the moment. It was soon going to be time to either form it or put the mushroom in, depending on the level of energy inside.

"And I just knew I couldn't help him," the 2nd prince said.

Alex looked back at the prince once he was sure he hadn't made any mistake with the pill. "Are you hiding something?" he asked the 2nd prince.

"What do you mean?" the 2nd prince asked, his expression showing an alarmed look.

Alex was sure that he was hiding something and didn't want to say it. Alex wondered what it could be. After thinking for a moment, he decided to do something that was either incredibly genius or incredibly stupid.

To get their trust completely, he decided to tell them what he knew.

He spread his spiritual sense to see if anyone was listening in the room. Once he was certain they were the only ones, he spoke.

"I'm about to tell you something that I fear only the Dragon Emperor and a few others know about. I'm not sure if even the Crown Prince knows of this," Alex said.

Both Zhan Luoyang and Long Huan looked curious. "What is it?" the 2nd prince asked.

"The Azure Dragon is dead," Alex said, letting the weight of the words settle on the two.

Slowly, Zhan Luoyang's eyes went wide in surprise and fear. She was shocked and wanted to question him. However, Alex looked at the 2nd prince and saw his face open wide in surprise.

"You knew about this, didn't you?" Alex asked the 2nd prince.

Long Huan immediately closed his mouth and gulped. "How... how did you know?" he asked.

"It's true?" Zhan Luoyang couldn't believe it.

"It is," Alex said. "I knew before I even came to the Eastern Continent. I cannot tell you how exactly though. That's my secret for now. The question is how do you know?"

Storm gathered in the room, causing the two others from Alex to crawl back a bit. They did not want to get hit by those strikes.

"So, are you going to answer me?" Alex asked and a lightning strike fell on the cauldron. The 2nd prince flinched in surprise, having not been aware that this was going to happen.

Zhan Luoyang on the other hand had been ready for this.

The lightning strike's glow vanished and the 2nd prince saw Alex staring at him, waiting for an answer.

"I... I didn't know exactly that was the case," the 2nd prince said. "I knew for certain much later. What had tipped me off was that on the last day I met with Father, the time when he asked me for the sword, he started talking about the Azure Dragon in the past tense."

"I was confused at first and thought it was because he was drunk. He had let himself get drunk due to his sadness and in that moment he revealed a bit more than he intended."

"Talking about how mother's death had been unavoidable and how many deaths had already paved his path to Immortality. He is going mad, and I don't know why," the 2nd prince sounded sad.

Another lightning strike struck the cauldron.

Zhan Luoyang gulped in fear. "I thought you told me everything before," she said to the 2nd prince.

"I couldn't tell you this. For your own sake," he said. 'I couldn't even tell brother this."

Alex slowly nodded. "So you told your father you were going to get your sword and ran away," he said.

"No, not exactly," the 2nd prince said. "I really did go back to get the sword. It was after I talked with Hannah about what had happened that she told to me wait and contemplate on what I should do."

"Father sent legionnaires after me just because I was taking some time. That was when I truly knew I had to stop him from getting the sword. He was getting mad, I swear."

Alex nodded slowly. He started considering if he should reveal more information and use that to pry out other information he could be hiding. A question came to his mind at the time.

"What reason could the Dragon Emperor have to take his army to the Azure Dragon's realm?" Alex asked the two.

"What do you mean?" the 2nd prince asked. "It was for mother's defense, while she broke through."

"Defense from what?" Alex asked.

"I mean... anything?" the 2nd prince said. "I don't know what goes on during breaking through to Immortality, so they were taking precautions."

"And that just so happens to be the same day the Azure Dragon died?" Alex asked.

"What?" Zhan Luoyang asked.

"What are you implying, Alex?" the 2nd prince asked with a frown. "Are you saying that my Father was responsible for the Azure Dragon's death?"

Another lightning bolt fell on the cauldron.

Alex seemed to sit straighter all of a sudden as his serious gaze fell on the 2nd prince. "That is exactly what I'm implying," he said.

"This is nonsense," the 2nd prince cried out. "My father wouldn't..." He trailed off. As hard as it was, he could see the possibilities.

"That can't be true," Zhan Luoyang said. "Even if it was, His Majesty the Azure Dragon is so much stronger than any Saint cultivator. He would easily win against anyone."

"The Azure Dragon couldn't fight back due to the constraints of this world. If he tried to, lightning would fall from the sky, destroying him," Alex said, turning his head toward Long Huan. "Lightning that one could easily mistake for someone else breaking through to the Immortal realm."

The shock seemed to fill the 2nd prince's eyes. "That's... that can't be."

Another lightning bolt fell into the cauldron. That made it 4.

"That is indeed the case," Alex said. "At least I believe it to be. You're free to ignore my beliefs."

That would be hard for them certainly.

Alex prepared for another lightning bolt to drop and blocked it. That was 5.

The storm grew thicker and the lightning bolt stronger. There were 4 more to go until the pill was finally made.

Chapter 1670: Dantian Closing Pill

Alex concentrated on the pill now with the lightning bolt getting stronger. Zhan Luoyang was paying great attention to the matter and did her best to understand how one dealt with a pill cloud.

She could sense the strength of the lightning bolt increasing. The next one that fell was strong enough to kill anyone who was not a Saint Soul realm cultivator. That scared her a lot.

How much stronger was it going to get? Not to mention... Alex's cultivation base wasn't even in the Saint Soul 5th realm yet. Was he going to be fine?

Another lightning bolt fell and the woman could tell that it was too strong for Alex to handle it. But... she also knew Alex was stronger than he appeared to be. And he had to know what he was doing, so she didn't say anything.

Interfering with the pill might backfire on her anyway, even if she intended to help.

The lightning bolt slammed on the cauldron, and Alex appeared to be perfectly fine. He wasn't even worried and simply stared at the clouds for the next one.

With only two more lightning bolts remaining, Zhan Luoyang wondered how much more he could do it. She had heard rumors of the Dragon Emperor being able to call forth 9 lightning bolts. Alex had already handled 7 of them. Could he do the last 2 as well?

The 8th lightning bolt carried with it a strength that could kill anyone not in the Saint Transformation realm, and Alex handled it quite simply as well.

'That was 8 lightning bolts,' she thought. Another one and Alex would have...

She froze at the sight of Alex suddenly bleeding. "Your Majesty?" she called out, afraid. Then, the blood disappeared, vanishing into the cauldron. She couldn't understand what he was doing.

At the same time, she sensed multiple aura appearing out from him. Most she couldn't understand, but she could tell he was using Dao.

'So many!' she thought as her eyes widened. She could not believe how many Daos he had employed at once.

She could sense some sort of Fire Dao, the specificity of which was lost to her. There was also... was that Dao of Gold? She had a hard time telling apart the other dao.

Aside from Water and Fire, her senses— She gasped. Water Dao was being employed too. She couldn't tell how he was using so many. How had he learned so many different Dao even?

Alex could tell his Qi alone was not strong enough for the lightning bolt that was going to come. His Qi was overall of equivalent strength to that of a Saint Transformation 4th realm.

When it came to offense, there were more skills he could use to improve his powers, but as it stood, he couldn't make use of his body cultivation or his Sword aura. All he could make use of was Blood aura and his Dao.

He didn't use his Dao needlessly either, instead adding the different aura together into a technique he already owned.

The All Swirling Elemental Shield.

All 7 elements came together to form the shield. All but the Wood Qi came from his use of Dao, which left him with a terrible headache, but he withstood it for the moment. Using 6 Daos was perhaps not the right idea.

Thanks to it, however, he was sure the final pill would be made.

The lightning bolt fell from the sky, striking the blood aura that covered the pill, destroying it instantly. His Blood Aura was strong, but it just wasn't at the level that the lightning bolt that fell was.

Had he just used that, the pill would have been destroyed.

The lightning bolt's momentum was still blocked slightly, giving some levity to the next shield he had laid beneath it. His actual technique.

The lightning bolt struck the swirling shield, and Alex felt the force of it. He had to most definitely be in the high Saint Transformation 5th realm or early Saint Transformation 6th realm to stop the lightning bolt.

Fortunately, his preparations were just about enough.

The lightning bolt dissipated and his shield vanished. The cloud vanished from the room, leaving silence behind with the only other sound being the people breathing.

Alex took out the pill and looked at it with a smile on his face. 9 different patterns like forking lightning remained on the pill now that it was done.

He had finally managed to make a 9-veined Pill as well.

"Incredible," Long Huan said from the side. "I've never seen anything like this before."

"Neither have I," Zhan Luoyang said. "I... I never realized you were this strong, Your Majesty. You are... stronger than even me."

She couldn't believe the words coming out of her mouth. She was in the Saint Transformation realm, the strongest in the room beside Hannah, and she considered herself weaker than Alex.

"Let's have sister eat this pill immediately," Alex said. "Lady Luoyang, can you leave and let the others know that nothing bad happened here? They might not be aware and might be scared."

"You're correct," the woman said standing up. "I'll return in a bit." She left.

Alex took the pill over to Hannah and stopped for a moment to consider what was going to happen next. "You will need to explain to her what is going on with her and what I'm about to do next."

"Okay," Long Huan said and went over next to Hannah, taking her hand in his and getting ready to write.

"The poison in her is one that strongly attacks one's soul," Alex said. "It doesn't just affect it, it destroys the soul merely by coming into contact with it."

"It can be contained somewhat, but she won't be able to do it. Currently, the poison is inside her Dantian, the same place where her soul is. Her Qi is protecting her soul, and I need to close her Dantian so no more Qi comes out of her anymore."

"Doing so... will make her state worse," Alex said.

"Worse?" the 2nd prince asked.

"She'll practically become a mortal with no access to Qi. As such, she will become weaker and will need to be taken care of more than regularly. We will also need to start feeding her more regularly."

"I think the worst part will be that she will not be able to communicate with us using Qi any longer. It might be better to get her a pen and paper, or teach her sign language."

"Umm... okay," the 2nd prince said, quickly writing down the words into Hannah's hands. Hannah showed no signs of having understood what was said to her for a moment, but then words flew out of her.

Will I get healed after that?

Alex nodded. "I won't stop until you do, sister,"

Hannah put her hands forth for the pill and Alex put it on her hands. Without hesitation, she ate the pill and swallowed it with some difficulty.

She waited for a moment and suddenly felt life escape from her. She sagged where she sat, feeling as if all Qi in her body had left at once.

Her Dantian closed up and she could imagine darkness growing all around her. This was the worst state she had ever been in.