

Alchemy 1681

Chapter 1681: Out of the Gate

The Voidgate opened up and spat out 3 humans and a mouse.

Long Huan grabbed Hannah, and gently lay her on the ground before she could hit it hard. Zhan Luoyang and Whisker, however, weren't used to the workings of a Voidgate that well and didn't realize they were going to be thrown out with such force.

Whisker looked back at the Voidgate in surprise. His brother would have loved to experience that most certainly. The ever-

changing swirls that bent time and space around to throw them out here.

It had been a massive shockwave that sent them into the Voidgate, so Whisker hadn't been ready for what was coming. He wondered what had happened outside that sent them through.

"No, no, no," Long Huan quickly walked up to the Voidgate and stood there with a worried look on his face. "It's closed. The other side is closed. They can't come through."

He quickly brought out the Ivory sword, and dug it into the Voidgate, opening it. However, he hesitated to enter. On the other side was his father and if went through, he would be stuck, that too with the sword.

"I'll go!" Whisker said and turned to jump. However, before he could go through, the Voidgate's entrance enlarged and another figure was thrown out.

Liang Shufen tumbled on the ground of the cave, coming to a halt only when Zhan Luoyang stopped her.

Long Huan didn't understand how she came through. He looked through the Voidgate, ready to catch the other two that were hopefully coming through. But nobody came at all.

Whisker ran up to Liang Shufen who was standing up. "Old lady, where is my brother?" he asked her desperately. "Is he coming?"

"Huh?" Liang Shufen looked back, confused. "They were right behind me. His Majesty had to open the gate for us to get through first. Sister Yao Ning should have been right behind me."

They turned around and waited, hoping that Alex and Yao Ning would make it through. Long Huan communicated with Hannah, telling her what was going on. She would be the most confused among them all without any information.

Hannah panicked when she learned what was happening and how Alex was left behind with the Dragon Emperor on the other side. She knew how strong the man was. She had fought him and he had nearly killed her.

She tried gesturing, speaking, doing anything to convey the urgency in her thoughts, but there was nothing she could do.

The group waited however well they could, but nobody came out at all. In the end, they couldn't help but get worried.

"I'm going in," Whisker said and jumped into the Voidgate.

Nobody even had the time to stop him from leaving.

"Will he be okay?" Zhan Luoyang asked.

"He's a Seeking mouse. If anyone can figure out what happened on the other side without being caught, it would be him," Liang Shufen said.

"But it will take him a while to come back," Long Huan said. "We'll have to stay here for what... 3 more hours? That is if he can come back."

"We'll stay," Liang Shufen said, nervousness filling her voice.

Whisker returned 5 minutes later, appearing out of the Voidgate. When he arrived, he landed safely on the ground. "Brother is not there anymore," he said in a calm voice. "I could feel him in the distance, somewhere, but I don't know where."

"They're not there?" Liang Shufen asked. "What about elder Yao?"

"She wasn't there," Whisker said with a hesitating look "But... I did sense remnants of her aura in the air. I... I don't want to believe it, but... she might be dead."

Liang Shufen gasped, tears filling her eyes.

"There was also a pool of blood, on two spots. One of them was definitely brother's and another one felt like it belonged to a regular human," Whisker said. "There was no corpse."

"No..." Liang Shufen let out a low tone of sadness. Tears fell down the side of her face, dripping onto the sand below.

"Is Alex alive?" Long Huan asked.

"He's alive," Whisker said. "I would know if he died."

"But he's not okay?" Zhan Luoyang asked.

"I... I don't know," Whisker said. "He was too far away for me to tell. I... I believe he might have been taken by the Emperor. I could only tell the general direction through out bond, and not the distance."

"How do you even know all of these things?" Long Huan asked. "You only went away for 5 minutes."

"5 minutes?" Whisker looked up, confusion filling his worried face. "I was gone for nearly 3 hours. I only spent 5 minutes on the other side."

"What?" Long Huan didn't believe it. "How can that be possible? We clearly saw you go into just 5 minutes ago."

Whisker frowned a little.

"I remember hearing brother say something about Space and Time acting weirdly in the Void. Maybe we felt like it was a long time inside, but in fact, no time passed outside at all."

"Is that possible?" Long Huan couldn't help but ask.

"That's not what we should be concerned with right now. What do we do henceforth?" Zhan Luoyang asked. "I doubt we're going to return there. The Emperor might even be setting up watchers to see if we will come back."

"Maybe... maybe if I give this sword to my Father, he will let go of Alex," Long Huan said.

"I doubt it," Liang Shufen said. "If you go, there will be no trading. Your father will just capture you and take the sword from you."

Long Huan realized that would indeed be the case. "Yeah, no. We can't go back," he said in frustration. "I especially can't go back. But then what do we do now?"

"We need to tell sister Scarlet what is happening," Whisker said. "Maybe she can help."

"Yes, let's go," Liang Shufen quickly stood up and got ready to leave.

Long Huan saw the two of them walking out of the cave and quickly followed them. "Wait, who is this Scarlet woman?" he asked.

"She's the ruler of the Southern Continent," Liang Shufen said as she pulled out a boat of her own. "Her Majesty, the Phoenix."

"Oh!"

Long Huan quickly put Hannah onto the boat and gave the direction once everyone was on there. Liang Shufen flew them away.

Whisker pulled out the Immortal puppet from his storage bag. He had put the puppet inside when they were in the void, but here in the ocean now, they would need it.

The dark water spread as far as they could see with small islands being visible in the distance. They were south of the mainland, so it would take a while to return back to the mainland.

Liang Shufen and Zhan Luoyang fought off-sea beasts that tried to attack them, killing them easily. The Immortal puppet wasn't even needed at all.

Long Huan pointed in the distance. "That's the City of Flowers. We're here," he said.

Liang Shufen nodded. Now that she was here, she knew exactly where she had to go. Without waiting for anyone to find out they were there, she made her way to a teleportation building and directly took them to the Sunborn Sanctuary.

When they walked out, they were in the capital city with the golden dome taking over most of the scenery in the city.

Chapter 1682: In the Palace Hall

1682 In the Palace Hall

Liang Shufen took no time to leave the teleportation platform and fly the group over to the Palace. There were more guards and servants in the palace than ever, and many didn't recognize Liang Shufen at all.

Still, there was enough old blood that they quickly started welcoming the woman and started notifying the others of their arrival.

Long Huan followed close behind with Hannah half in his embrace. Whisker rode on Hannah's shoulders and behind them, Zhan Luoyang followed.

This was the first time she had ever left the Eastern Continent, so the changes for her were astounding, to say the least. Most of all, she felt the complete lack in the density of the Qi in this place.

She had heard of the reason why the other continents weren't on par with the Eastern Continent, and she finally got to experience the answer herself.

With such low Qi, it would be hard for anyone to produce fighters as capable as the ones in the Eastern Continent. That only made her more curious about Alex and how he came to be where had been.

"Who amongst the 8 is awake?" Liang Shufen asked one of the servants that was passing by.

"Most elders are in close cultivation, Elder Liang," the servant answered, failing to hide the curiosity of the individuals that were behind the woman. "But Elder Kang and Elder Ren should be available. Ah, Lady Lin is also available."

"Tell them all to meet me in the Palace hall immediately, even the ones that are in cultivation," the woman said. "Also, make sure the information about my arrival does not leave the palace. I will punish anyone who is found to spread the news of my arrival."

The servant gulped in near horror at the demand and nodded quickly.

Liang Shufen continued walking and soon they were all entering the throne room with seats all around. At the front were two seats, a seat of the King, and a seat of the Ruler.

On the seat of the king was the golden crown with rubies encrusted on them.

Everyone sat down around the room, waiting for the people who had been called to arrive.

Footsteps sounded outside soon enough and a young woman quickly walked in.

"Elder Liang, I heard you were back," a young woman walked in. "Is Father back too?"

Ronron wore a white dress with beautiful embroidery on it. She had a green shawl around her, and her hair was tied in a ponytail with a few jewelry on it.

She looked no different from how she did nearly 20 years ago when Alex and the rest had left. What had changed was her cultivation base. She had cultivated as well as anyone could have, and was now in the Saint Condensation 4th realm.

She had broken through to the Saint realm sometime in the past 2 decades.

"Greetings, Princess Maron." Liang Shufen got to her feet and bowed. "I'm afraid his Majesty hasn't returned."

"Oh! Since you came back, I thought..." Ronron sighed. "Never mind then. Did you come back alone?"

Long Huan was immediately confused. "Princess?" he turned to look at Liang Shufen. "Is she Alex's sister?" he asked. That would make her Hannah's cousin too.

"She said Father though," Zhan Luoyang muttered softly. Her confusion echoed Long Huan's confusion as well.

Liang Shufen heard their confusion and sighed. "Let me introduce her. This is Maron Benton, Princess of the Southern Continent, His Majesty's daughter."

"What?" Zhan Luoyang was the first to speak out loud. "His Majesty has a daughter? Wasn't he looking for a wife still? Does that mean there is a Queen too?"

"Oh? Father was looking for a wife?" Ronron asked curiously and turned to Liang Shufen for answers.

"Princess, I'm afraid I cannot answer your questions right now. I need to urgently talk with the other elders," Liang Shufen said.

"Ah, I'm sorry if I was disturbing. Can I stay or should I leave?" she asked.

Liang Shufen didn't know what to make her do. She would find out sooner or later anyway. "You can stay," she said with a sigh.

More footsteps rang outside and Liang Shufen looked out. Only, the elders were still not here. Who had come instead was Graham and Helen.

"Is my son back?" Helen asked as soon as she walked into the room. She wore a pretty red robe and looked no older than her early 40s. Her cultivation base had also significantly improved, placing her in the middle of the Saint Foundation realms.

Graham, on the other hand, wore very simple clothes that made him look like a worker instead. He wore a blue robe with no sleeves or collar and showed a lot of chest too. His pants were short too, all of which showed his incredibly built muscles.

"Your Highness, His Majesty hasn't returned," Liang Shufen said, fearing the moment she would have to break the news. Before she could do that, however, Helen seemed to have started paying attention to the ones that were in the room.

"Who are they?" she asked.

"Ah, this is lady Zhan Luoyang of the Eastern Continent. She is engaged to the Crown Prince of the Azure Imperium," Liang Shufen introduced the woman.

"And this is—"

"Are you Alex's mother?" Long Huan asked.

Helen slowly nodded. "I am," she said. It was rare that she got to hear her son's name from someone else's mouth. It was usually 'the king' or 'His Majesty'.

Long Huan took a deep breath and spoke even as another figure walked in. "I am Long Huan, the 2nd prince of the Azure Imperium," he said, before pulling up Hannah from beside him. "And... I'm her Husband."

Helen gave a confused look. "Who is she?" she asked.

Long Huan slowly lifted Hannah's veil and then took off her mask. Her face was extremely wrinkled and her hair was white. But even so, Helen and Graham immediately recognized who she was.

However, before either could move, the newly arrived person had already moved before them.

Liz appeared next to her daughter in an instant, taking her into her embrace. "Hannah!" she screamed in both joy and sadness. "You're back. You're finally back, my child."

Liz's cries filled the room for a long moment. She was very much happy to have gotten her daughter back. She quickly wiped her tears and looked at Hannah before sadness welled up on her face.

"What is wrong with you, Hannah? Why won't you speak?" Liz asked, concerned.

"She cannot speak," Long Huan quickly said. "She... she is poisoned and can't do much of anything at all. She can only feel someone's touches and that's it."

"What?" Liz asked. "What do you mean she's poisoned? Who poisoned my daughter?"

Long Huan gulped. He had been skeptical for a while, but hearing the word 'daughter' come out of the woman's mouth confirmed his suspicions.

This was his Mother-in-law whom he had been fearing to meet for the past some time now.

He had expected many things about his Mother-in-law, many things that could be possible. But one thing he had never expected her to be was young.

Looking at her and then at Hannah, it was difficult to say which one of them was the child, and which one was the mother.

Chapter 1683: Plans

1683 Plans

Long Huan explained Hannah's situation to everyone who was there. By the end, everyone was either gasping or crying at what had happened.

A few of the other elders had arrived during the explanation and were waiting patiently for the rest of the information too.

"Then Alex said he could do something to heal her here and we ran away. But my father found us somehow, and the rest of us managed to get in through the Voidgate, but Alex and the other elder remained on the other side."

"What? What happened to him?" Helen asked, practically demanding an answer.

"We do not know," Liang Shufen said. "We believe the Dragon Emperor might have taken him prisoner."

"What about sister Yao?" Kang Xuefeng asked.

"I don't know," Liang Shufen said. "But... if little Whisker is correct, then sister Yao was killed in the battle. Only his Majesty is still alive."

"No!" Ren Guanting let out a low moan of sadness. She couldn't believe what she was hearing.

"Sister Yao is dead?" Tan Yang asked.

More and more of the elders from the council were making their way into the throne room.

Hou Xinya, Huang Chen, Gong Liuxian, Lei Zhong, and Qiu Jianhong were seated in the room with a look of horror on their faces.

Linlin stood by Helen, holding her up as the bad news came.

Liz sat to the side of her daughter, the two holding each other in their embrace. Long Huan had already told Hannah who was by her side, so she had a million thoughts going through her too.

"So, what do we do now?" Hou Xinya asked. "Do we demand that they give back our King? Will they accept the demand?"

"No, they will want something in return," Gong Liuxian said. "Do we have anything to trade with the Emperor?"

Liang Shufen turned toward Long Huan, who gulped a little. He looked at the faces of those who were angry and those who were saddened and decided to do what he had to.

"My father wants a sword I have," he quickly said. "There is a chance he will accept it in exchange for Alex."

"A sword?" Huang Chen turned toward Liang Shufen for some confirmation.

"We were attacked primarily because of this sword. That's how Lady Hannah came to be poisoned too. The Dragon Emperor very much wants this sword for some reason," Liang Shufen said. "I think His Majesty figured out why that was, but he never bothered to tell either of us."

"Tsk, if only we knew how important this sword was to the Emperor," another elder said.

"What sort of sword is it in the first place?" Liz asked from the side. "Show us."

Long Huan nodded and brought out the silver sword. He then gave a small explanation about the sword, which to his surprise, surprised no one.

"So it's just... that?" Ronron asked, her eyes full of tears.

"Just... just that?" Long Huan asked incredulously. "This can tear through space. It can open Voidgates. How can you call it just that?"

"What's so special about that?" Ronron asked. "I can do that too."

"You... what?" Long Huan refused to believe what he was hearing.

"Now is not the time to bicker, Ronron," Helen said softly. "We need to make a decision, and given how important the decision will have to be, we need to call on Her Majesty."

"You're right, Your Highness," Qiu Jianhong said. As the oldest person in the room now, he would need to make decisions. "Who will take the news to Her Majesty?"

"Let me do it," Linlin said. "I will go."

"I will go with you," Whisker said and jumped onto Linlin's shoulder.

Linlin petted Whisker gently while they left the room. As Alex's direct maid, she knew Whisker quite closely.

The elders started talking amongst themselves with Helen and Graham soon joining in. Liz, however, turned to look at Long Huan who had been fidgeting on his own.

"What did you say your name was? Long Huan?" Liz asked.

"Yes, uhh... Mother-in-law," Long Huan said meekly. Calling such a thing to someone who clearly looked younger than him felt quite weird to the young prince.

"And you are a prince of the Eastern Continent?" she asked.

"I am," Long Huan answered.

Liz seemed to give a lot of thought to those words. Long Huan wondered what she was thinking. Liz muttered something about wells and a crown, before turning to look at the young man.

"I won't accept you as my Son-in-law just yet. Once we're through this and I have my daughter back to normal, only when she tells me with her own mouth that she will agree to keep her marriage with you will I accept this," Liz said. She then turned to Ronron and called her.

"Ronron, come meet your aunt Hannah."

Helen arrived some time later and so did Graham. The others, however, had to wait for Her Majesty to come out and meet them.

Nearly half an hour passed before someone entered the room again. Linlin and Whisker returned, alone.

"Where's Her Majesty?" Qiu Jianhong asked, looking around.

"Her Majesty is not coming," Linlin said. "She told us that she can't come out right now. She's in the middle of her closed cultivation and the next time she came out, we would know about it."

"Huh?" the elders looked at her in surprise. They couldn't understand why Scarlet wouldn't come out when something so big had happened.

"Sister Scarlet is preparing to break through to the Immortal realm. She will come out once she becomes an Immortal," Whisker said. "She also mentioned that before she became an Immortal, she would be pretty useless in this situation anyway as the Dragon Emperor would be most definitely stronger than her. So she needs to do this."

"What about His Majesty then?" Liang Shufen asked.

"We'll have to deal with the situation for now," Whisker said. "But sister did tell us something useful. After hearing all the information we had, she deduced that the Dragon Emperor most likely wants to use the Sword to cut open the Soul Space of the dead Azure Dragon. If he succeeds there, he will be able to acquire all the treasures that the Azure Dragon had."

"Soul Space?" A few of them looked around with a confused look, but the remaining few seemed to know. So the ones that knew explained what a Soul Space was to the others.

"His Majesty opened one too," Liang Shufen said.

"Not that the information is helpful at all."

"Then we can trade the sword certainly," another elder said.

"But we can't just go on a trade like this. We are on the weaker side so the Dragon Emperor can just choose to not trade," another Elder said. "You know how he is. Remember how arrogant he was when he came to propose that we go to war against the Western Continent when we had the chance?"

The elders nodded.

"Then we get help," Whisker said. "It's not just brother Alex that is in danger right now. Brother Pearl is too. So, we should go to the Western Continent right now and ask the White Tiger there to aid us in getting him back."

Everyone agreed unanimously.

"Let's do it then."

Chapter 1684: Orders

1684 Orders

The Dragon Emperor flew out of the teleportation building in the Darkstone City with his son beside him.

The man felt agitated so very much. He had been so close to getting the sword again, and once again it slipped from his hands. And he didn't even get to completely kill the King that he had wanted to.

"Go and find out about the talisman," he ordered the Crown Prince.

Long Fangyu nodded meekly and quickly made his way to the talisman guild. He had told his father about the talismans Zhan Luoyang had received just the day before, and his father seemed to believe it was that talisman that had been used there.

He wondered if it was a mistake to tell his father what had happened the last few days exactly.

The Crown Prince still found himself conflicted on what was the right thing to do there. His duties and responsibilities clashed with one another, making him hesitant to be on either side.

Quickly, he returned back to his father after finding out what the Emperor wanted to know. "You were right father. She did buy a few teleportation talismans," he answered him.

"Do you know where he went then?" the Dragon Emperor asked patiently.

"No," the Crown Prince answered. "It was set to randomly send the person to the east, with little care for where they appeared. The randomness was by design it seemed. But more than likely, if someone used the talisman, they would appear far out in the ocean."

The Dragon Emperor slowly nodded, a thoughtful look appearing on his face. "So there is a more than likely chance that he fell into the ocean," he said. "I should be considering him dead in the state he is in, but I cannot take any chances. I must kill him no matter what."

The Crown Prince looked at his father. Even now, the man wasn't worried that he had attacked the king of a different continent, and only seemed to be worried that he didn't get to kill him properly.

"Tell the Scale legion to comb through the entire ocean and find him," the Dragon Emperor made the command. "He had a strong body cultivation, so the chances of him being alive is high. So, if he's alive, I want to see him back here."

"What if he's dead?" the Crown Prince asked.

"If he's dead, then I want to see his corpse," the man said. "If he's eaten, I want the sea beast that took him down. That boy has enough mysteries about him that even gaining the tiniest bit of it would be very helpful for us."

The Dragon Emperor nodded to himself before going back into the teleportation building to teleport back to the Dragon Capital. The Crown Prince followed behind him, giving him distance.

The Crown Prince followed all the way back to the Dragon Palace while giving out commands that the Dragon Emperor had made. He sent commands to the heads to command the Scale legion to search for the King of the Southern Continent in secret.

He let them know what his status was like and how they should go about finding him.

After following his father for a while, he stopped when the Dragon Emperor did too.

"Those 2 dozen alchemists and guards of his are still in the Alchemy school, are they not?" the Dragon Emperor asked with a thoughtful look on his face.

"I... I believe they still are there," the Crown Prince said.

"Good, make the elders there confine those people to the school. No one is allowed to leave or talk to each other. They are also to not contact the outer world while they're there."

"That's..." the Crown Prince felt a little hesitant, but he had to give up in the end. "I will pass along that message."

And he did.

He hated himself again for being a coward and not questioning his father, but the part of him that was a Crown Prince coldly thought through things and knew that this was the best way to deal with the situation.

They arrived inside the palace, at the hall that his father always liked to remain at in his free time.

The Dragon Emperor lay down on the couch to relax from everything that had happened that day and started to relax.

However, the Crown Prince couldn't find himself relaxing at all. In fact, he was more stressed than even when he asked Zhan Luoyang for her hand in marriage.

"Father, what are we going to do about Huan?" the Crown Prince asked. "Are we going to let him be like this?"

He hoped the answer was yes, for some reason unknown to him.

"I will send some to find him," the Dragon Emperor said. "But our first priority must be the dying King. Once I get rid of that king... I can finally feel safe."

Long Fangyu frowned and thought about what Alex had spoken about while dying. "Father," he called out mid-

contemplation on whether or not to bring up this topic. His mind said he needed to keep it quiet, but his heart said he needed to know what was going on.

His heart won.

"Is the Azure Dragon truly dead?" he asked.

"Hmm?" the Dragon Emperor turned to look at the Crown Prince and scoffed. "How could you not figure out that after all this time? I thought you were better than your brother when it came to these sorts of things."

The Crown Prince felt hurt by his father's words, but this was not the right time to show it. He steeled his resolve and continued.

"And you killed him?" he asked his father. He remembered Alex's words and how his father had killed the Azure Dragon. His father had rejected those claims, but... maybe it was true.

"Of course, I didn't," the Dragon Emperor quickly answered. "Do you think I am stupid to try and kill an Immortal dragon?"

"N-no," the Crown Prince replied quickly. "I just thought... you said you didn't intend to kill him, so that means..."

"He died..." the Dragon Emperor got silent for a second, recalling the memories of that day. "He died after he tried to kill me. He attacked, and a few moments later the Heavens killed him because he dared to attack me."

"He... attacked you?" the Crown Prince asked. "How are you still alive?"

"I shouldn't be," the Dragon Emperor answered. "But I am... thanks to your mother."

"Mother?" The Crown Prince asked. "What do you mean?"

"Your mother jumped in to save me," the Dragon Emperor sighed as he said. "If not for her, I would be dead right now."

"I'm sorry, what? Mother died to... no, mother died to her tribulation lightning," he said hastily.

"We lied," the Dragon Emperor said, not bothering to explain anymore.

"But why?" the Crown prince asked. "Why would she die? Why would the Azure Dragon attack you? Mother went to break through, so why did it all happen? It makes no sense?"

"It all makes sense," the Dragon Emperor said. "Everything makes sense. You just can't make sense of it by yourself."

"Then help me understand," the Crown Prince shouted.

The Dragon Emperor gave him a weird look before nodding slowly. "Fine, if you want to know, you shall know," he said. "I will tell you everything."

Chapter 1685: The Past

1685 The Past

Nearly 9000 years ago, in the Northern Continent.

The Crown Prince of the Eastern Continent, Long Tiankong, arrived atop the Intercontinental Teleportation formation of the Northern Continent. Alongside him were the delegates of this visit as well as the many participants for the competition that was to be held in the upcoming days.

The Intercontinental Tournament was the biggest event of all time in the world, and the strongest cultivators from all the continents were joining this competition to prove themselves.

Long Tiankong looked toward the front and noticed a muscular man making his way toward him with a group of people following behind him.

"Haha, welcome to the Northern Continent, my Friends," the man gave a loud laugh as he spoke.

The Crown Prince moved forward to speak. "Thank you for welcoming us to your land, senior Kuangren," he said with a small bow.

"You are always welcomed, Your Highness," Xue Kuangren, leader of the Snow Immortal sect spoke.

The Crown Prince remained polite to this man, since for all intents and purposes, he was the Emperor of this continent.

"Please, let us clear the formation so more of our friends can arrive," Xue Kuangren spoke and the Crown Prince nodded. Once everyone was away from the formation, it glowed once again, and people of the Southern Continent arrived.

Long Tiankong was a little surprised by their arrival as everyone who did arrive was mostly... weak. They were so very weak. He would've thought they would be stronger.

Then, once they were cleared, the teleportation formation glowed once again and people of the Western Continent arrived. And to everyone's surprise, it was led by a man very handsome man in a white robe with golden hair falling to his shoulders.

Peculiarly, he wore two golden earrings on either side, with a bulbous end to it which held golden spikes.

"Greetings friends, I am Xue Kuangren of the Snow Immortal sect," the man introduced himself to them. "Welcome to the Northern Continent."

The blonde man simply waved his hands. "It's been a while since I've come here. Take care of them in my absence," the man said and disappeared from everyone's presence.

Long Tiankong couldn't help but be surprised by the man's instant departure. How was he so fast? The feeling he got from this man was almost the same one he got whenever he visited the secret realm where Qing Tianchui, the Azure Dragon lived.

'No way,' Long Tiankong thought. 'Was that... the white tiger?'

Others remained in shock as well. It was only after a while that they were led out of there to go away.

"The tournament will take place north of here, in one of the Snow Immortal sect's branches, close to the Domain of the Black Tortoise. Let us proceed."

Large ships were brought out for each of the groups and they left. The path to the North went over numerous snowy mountains, surprising everyone how cold it was here.

Almost all of the people from the Southern Continent and Western Continent had never seen snowy regions, so they were more excited about it than most.

Along the way, Long Tiankong's ship had to go through a strong snow blizzard, that filled everything around them in absolute white. The blizzard lasted for such a long time, that he saw one of the painters that had come along to the tournament bringing out his tools to start painting the blizzard.

Long Tiankong couldn't understand how drawing a page all white could even be considered a painting at all. He decided to ignore it.

Sometime later, they arrived in the city called Heaven's Frost City, named after the branch of the Snow Immortal sect, the Heaven's Frost sect.

The tournament was to start in 5 days, so everyone got some free time for themselves. Long Tiankong wanted to see what a city on this continent looked like, but he was called by Xue Kuangren to talk for a while in the sect's garden.

Their conversation went from how the Dragon Emperor was doing to plans of making more connections between the two continents. It was a rather interesting talk to Long Tiankong who was looking forward to becoming the Dragon Emperor himself once his father was ready to leave the throne to him.

During his time there, Long Tiankong managed to see a beautiful woman walk the garden, surprised by her ethereal beauty.

"Who's that?" he couldn't help but ask.

"That..." Xue Kuangren's face fell a little. "She... she's one of our elders. You shouldn't disturb her."

The woman seemed to have heard the talk and quickly made her way toward the two. She smiled toward the two and folded her hands. "You can introduce who I am to others, you know. I never asked any of you to keep my secret."

The woman turned toward Long Tiankong. "I am Xue Yu'er," the woman said. "You seem like a talented young man, maybe I'll see you again in the future."

Long Tiankong quickly stood and bowed a little. "Greetings, Elder. I am Long Tiankong, the Crown Prince of the Azure Imperium," he quickly introduced himself. He still didn't understand what the woman meant by seeing him again in the future. She made it sound quite an impossibility that could be made possible because it was him.

"Oh, the Crown Prince?" the woman said with a surprise. "Who is the Dragon Emperor now?"

"My father," Long Tiankong said, wondering why it wasn't obvious to the woman.

"No, I meant the name," she asked.

"Long Gongmin," Long Tiankong answered.

"And before that?" the woman asked.

"Long Yuexin was the Dragon Emperor 6 thousand years ago," Long Tiankong answered.

The woman frowned. "Many must have changed, huh?" she thought. "What about Long Rentuan?" she asked.

"That was the Dragon Emperor from 4 generations ago. He reached Immortality and left the realm nearly 25 thousand years ago," Long Tiankong answered.

"Oh, he did? Good for him," the woman said. "That one was a pretty face for sure. I wonder what realm he went to."

"Senior," Xue Kuangren said softly.

"Alright, alright. I'm leaving," she said. "Have fun, little prince. If you do end up in the Spring Water world, look for me. I will help you with what I can."

Then the woman left.

It was a long time before the Crown Prince realized that the woman he had been talking to just then was most likely an Immortal.

Long Tiankong went on the walk around the city as he had wanted to sometime later, going to different shops and establishments to see how they differed from the ones in the Eastern Continent.

He was truly surprised by how much worse the Northern Continent was overall when compared to the Eastern Continent. He knew very well that it had to do with the amount of Qi being much less, but the surprise was still there even after the explanation.

As he continued on his stroll through the city, he ended up in front of a small building that claimed to do something rather interesting.

It claimed to tell one's future.

Interested, Long Tiankong went into the building and quickly found himself sitting in front of a man who looked no older than him, but also somehow the oldest being he had ever seen.

Chapter 1686: The Future

1686 The Future

Long Tiankong looked at the young man who sat in front of him, wearing simple robes that wouldn't even belong to the lowest servant back in the Palace. The young man had jet-black hair and a rather tired posture.

He had every reason to just stand up and walk away, but something about the man made him want to sit and continue. Now that he was looking at the man, he looked middle-aged too.

No, he somehow looked ageless.

'How is he doing that?' the Crown Prince was very intrigued by the situation. 'Formation? Talisman?' He discreetly looked around the room but found nothing.

"Can you really tell my future?" the Crown Prince asked the future teller. If the Crown Prince was to be fair to himself, he thought he was wasting his time. But this was fun enough that he was fine with wasting it.

"I can tell what I can tell," the young man said. "It is your choice to believe if you want to or not."

Long Tiankong couldn't help but nod. "How do you do this then?" he asked. "Should I give you my hands? Or will you need to grab my head?"

The young man closed his eyes for a moment and opened them, his gaze seemingly looking into the distance rather than at the Crown Prince.

The Crown Prince felt so very naked under that gaze and started feeling awkward. But he didn't move from where he sat and waited for the man to start speaking.

"It is done," he said. "I have seen what I can."

"Oh," the Crown Prince got closer. "What did you see?"

The black-haired man leaned back and put his hands forth. "Pay me first and I'll tell you," he said.

The Crown Prince was a little taken aback. "Pay you first? I want to hear what you have to say before I pay you," he said.

"No, I need to get paid first," the man demanded.

"But what if you speak nonsense? Can I get what I paid back then?" the Crown Prince asked.

"You cannot," the man replied. "As I said, I will tell what I can tell. It is your decision to believe it or not. Now, pay me or leave."

The Crown Prince thought he was being robbed in a rather elaborate way and pulled out a few spirit stones. He dropped them on the man's hands and waited.

The future teller looked at the spirit stones with his deep black eyes. There were exactly 7 Saint Spirit Stones. "Is this all you will pay me?" he asked.

The Crown Prince frowned. He wanted more? Like hell, he was going to get more for this sham. "Yes, that is all," he said.

The man nodded and pocketed the spirit stones and then spoke. "When the sun is swallowed in the middle of the day, while you are on the island where the Dancing Lily blooms, you will find the one you will call your wife."

The young prince was dazed for a few seconds. "Sun is swallowed?" he couldn't help but utter the words back. "What does that mean?"

"I cannot tell you the meaning," the man replied.

"What about where the dancing lily blooms? Where is that island?" the prince asked.

"I do not know," the man answered.

"But you said that is where I'll find my wife. Then do you know who my wife will be?" the prince asked.

"I do," the man said.

"Who?" the Crown Prince asked.

"I cannot tell you," the man said. "Your payment doesn't cover it."

"Just tell me," the Crown Prince said, "here, I'll give you more if you need." He brought out hundreds of Saint Spirit stones.

The man looked at the spirit stones in front of him and shook his head. "You can only have your future told once from me. If you were fated to learn more, you would've paid more at the start. Take your money and leave. Our exchange is now complete."

"Complete?" the Crown Prince gritted his teeth in anger. "What do you mean complete? You told me nothing of importance."

"I told you all I had to," the man said. "Now, will you leave or should I call the guards."

The Crown Prince grumbled something under his breath and quickly got up to leave. He wanted to hear more, but he wasn't going to throw away his dignity to learn more.

Unhappy, he left the building.

Long Tiankong didn't want to go around the town anymore, so he went back to where he had been staying to calm down. He had been just about to forget about it when Xue Kuangren came to talk to him and asked him about his visit to the city.

"Oh right, there was this one shop I went to. One that said it would tell me the future," the Crown Prince said. "Is it real? I feel like I was ripped off or something."

"Future telling? Oh that shop, yes. It probably was a rip-off, but there is a chance of it being true too," the man said.

"Don't you ban such shops? How can you even know if it is true?" the crown Prince asked.

The man sighed. "That man gives all his earnings to the poor and helpless, so we don't really go for him," he said. "If he took a lot from you though, I can send someone to—"

"No, no. It wasn't about the money," the Crown Prince said quickly. "Don't worry about that. I was just concerned regarding whether what I heard was the truth or not."

"Maybe it was, maybe it was not." Xua Kuangren shrugged. "If you really want to know about your future, you should visit a location to the west. A place called the Nine Wells of Time. It can tell you your near future and your distant future."

"Are you being serious?" the Crown Prince asked. "Have you done it before?"

"I have," Xue Kuangren said. "It was what told me I was going to be a Sect Leader of the Snow Immortal sect in just 2 thousand years. And it also tells me that I will face the Immortal tribulation lightning in another thousand years."

"What? How long have you been alive?" the Crown Prince couldn't help but ask.

"If the prophecy is true, I will have broken through to the Immortal realm in less than 3500 years," the man said with a wide smile.

"And... does it tell you if you succeed or not?" the Crown Prince asked. Curiosity was getting the better of him.

"Of course I will," Xue Kuangren said. "I will survive and go on to become so strong that everyone will consider me a threat."

"What else?" Long Tiankong couldn't help but ask.

"Well, the prophecies are vague, so you cannot tell for certain. But there is one that talks about an alchemist of two worlds and two names, who will solve my greatest plight and send me off to a better place," Xue Kuangren said. "I think that means I have to look for good alchemists."

Xue Kuangren laughed and said his farewells for the day, leaving the Crown Prince alone.

Lost in his thoughts, Long Tiankong decided for the next day. He would go visit the Nine Wells of Time.

Chapter 1687: Divinations and Prophecies

1687 Divinations and Prophecies

Long Tiankong arrived at the hill where the 9 wells were kept. He had thought he had arrived early, but there were many people already visiting the wells even before sunrise.

By the time it was his turn, the sun was already up.

Long Tiankong skipped the first 3 wells as they had nothing to do with the future and started from the 4th one. He knew he was only going to get one chance to go through them each, so he made sure to be calm when drinking the water from that well.

Flashes went through his mind the moment he drank it. Vague images and feelings.

He felt victorious. He saw himself standing proud. He could vaguely feel a feeling of superiority.

The emotions and images faded soon enough as he came out of the short trance.

Long Tiankong stood there, wondering what they meant. Did it have something to do with the upcoming tournament? Were they going to win?

He was told before coming that the first 3 wells that told the future only did so for immediate ones. They would be fulfilled in a short while. Whether that short while was based on anything or not, people weren't sure.

What was certain was that the first well most definitely told the most immediate future. Which meant his future had to be for the tournament.

'So, is this real?' Long Tiankong wondered.

He would have to find that later on. He moved on and drank the water from the next well.

Darkness, fear, love. A woman standing in front of him. Flowers swaying in a field. World ending.

Long Tiankong came out of that trance in shock. A feeling of dread filled him as if what he saw was the last thing he would ever see. It was hard to believe that he had most likely seen his own death.

'No,' he thought to himself. 'That cannot be. I don't want to die so soon.'

His eyes went toward the other wells. He needed to know. He needed to know if there was something after this.

He rushed to the next well and drank its water. Immediately, more visions and feelings filled him.

He was sad for a loss and happy for a gain. He saw the crown and a throne. He saw himself standing atop everyone. He saw a truth that would give him peace.

Long Tiankong came out of the trance this time with a rather solemn look on his face. So, there was more to him than what he saw before, if he was to trust these visions anyway.

'So I'm not going to die?' he thought. Either the two futures contradicted each other, or they were never meant to really be true. There was also the possibility of him understanding them wrong.

Long Tiankong sighed and stopped, looking at the last 3 wells. They were considered the most important ones. The ones that would tell the most important futures in the forms of prophecies. He could leave now and never feel the burden of potentially knowing what was coming.

He could live obliviously.

But no. He had come this far. He knew if he left now, he would regret not knowing what his life would have been.

So, steeling his resolve, he went over to the next 3 wells and jumped into them, one after another, where he heard 3 different prophecies.

When he came back out of the last one, his face was a grim one. He had not liked the last prophecy at all, for it told of his end.

'No, that cannot come true,' he thought. If luck was on his side, then these were just hallucinations of his mind, induced by whatever was in the water.

Thinking so, he left the wells.

Only, 3 weeks later. They were victorious in the tournament, beating every other continent in almost all of the various competitions. His spirits were as high as it ever was, and they all returned back to the Eastern Continent with their heads held high.

It was only when it all calmed down that the Crown Prince realized that the future from the first of the 6 wells had come true.

That troubled him for many days before he came to terms with the fact that what he had seen had most likely been the future, and as such, what was coming next was even more harrowing.

He lived days and days with the single fear of death. The only form of consolation was that if his death was to come, it would come once the other 4 divinations were proven true.

He believed the wells to show one's future in chronological order and as such he had nothing to worry about just yet. That did little to quench his fear of his death though.

He threw himself into other things to occupy his time, one of the main ones being Alchemy. He found himself to have talent in Alchemy, so he trained in it, learning for more than just distraction.

Long Tiankong learned to live with that fear, looking for ways how they could possibly come true.

Some hundred years passed with him feeling this way.

Long Tiankong got ready to depart for the Martial Transcendence Ground for what would most likely be his final time there. He was reaching close to the Saint Transformation realm, and he didn't want to bother with the secret realms anymore.

He had his duties as a Crown Prince to take care of.

Still, one last time, he decided to enjoy it and see how strong he was.

Queen Fen of the Fen Kingdom gave a small introduction to anyone who wasn't aware and let them enter.

Long Tiankong made the most of his days inside the secret realm, fighting those who met and gaining as many points as he could. He fought in the sky, on top of mountains, by the river, on top of trees, and in any other place he could come across.

Then, one day, he came across a field of flowers that gave him a weird sense of having been there before. Even though, he couldn't possibly have come here before.

As an Alchemist, he knew the name of the flower too.

Dancing Lily.

"Hey! You looking for a fight or what?" A voice called him from behind him.

Long Tiankong slowly turned around to find a young woman standing behind him, with a sword in her hand.

This was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen in his life. He stared at her, his eyes unblinking. Half of him was surprised by her beauty.

And the other half dreaded what this all meant.

He remembered the young man he had met in the Northern Continent and the future he told.

On the island where the Dancing Lily blooms, you will find the one you will call your wife.

"What's your name?" Long Tiankong asked the woman after a particularly long time.

"Hmm? I'm Jie Tianyue," the woman introduced herself. "Do you need my name to accept my challenge?"

Long Tiankong said nothing and instead thought about something. The prophecy the man had said had included more. It also said—

His thoughts fell apart when darkness took over the land and he looked up to see that something had indeed swallowed the sun.

Chapter 1688: More Divinations Come True

1688 More Divinations Come True

Long Tiankong stared at the sky as the sun was no more. All he saw up there was darkness, a void of nothingness. He saw death.

There was no sun in the sky. No moon, no stars. Nothing.

He stood watching, wondering if this was how it all ended. If his prophecies that he worried so much about meant nothing in the end as this was where it would all end.

He stood there for nearly an hour before it passed and the sun showed up once again.

Long Tiankong came out of his stupor and quickly looked around the sky, searching for what it might have been. He saw something moving away toward the north. Something... massive.

And to his surprise, the thing nearly blended in with the blue sky, with only a part of its outline showing through at the end. What he saw there shocked him even more, however.

Was... was that... was that a beast in the sky? No, he couldn't even say it was in the sky. It was somewhere beyond the sky, out in the space where no one could go to.

And it was a beast. While he couldn't make much of what he saw, he could make up a tail and two hind legs.

How was there a beast in the sky? How was it alive? How was it breathing?

Long Tiankong couldn't understand what he was looking at. His mind didn't work the way he wanted it to right then.

Finally, he gave up on trying to understand and looked around. He hadn't realized when, but at some point, the girl who had been there was clinging to him, shivering still.

He then realized he was shaking too.

The two comforted each other in silence and later decided to stick together just in case something like that happened once again. Long Tiankong got to know the girl more, and the more he learned about her, the more he realized he did find her attractive, both in appearance and personality.

He didn't care that she was a commoner who had lucked out by being accepted to a sect. He didn't care that she had nothing to her name except for herself.

All he cared about was who she was, and so about 15 years after their first meeting, he asked her to marry him.

250 years after that, Jie Tianyue married the Crown Prince of the Empire and entered the royal family.

Long Tiankong was very happy with what was happening in his life. However, in the back of his head, that one worry lingered, clawing at him slowly, digging deeper and deeper.

Another prophecy had come true. The future he feared was becoming real.

The feeling got worse when another one of the divinations came true.

Nearly 300 years after Long Tiankong's marriage, he ended up having to take over the throne his father left and become the Dragon Emperor himself.

The official reason given for the previous Emperor leaving the throne was that he had had enough of becoming an Emperor and wanted to live the remainder of his life in peace.

However, the real reason had been that the Emperor had fallen during his attempt at breaking through to Immortality.

Long Tiankong was sad about his father's passing but was also happy to see himself become the Emperor. There was never a doubt in his mind that he would become the Emperor, but until it actually happened, there was still a chance that his throne would be stolen by jealous cousins and others of his bloodline.

He was crowned the Emperor with a lot of fanfare that sent the empire into celebration for days. Fireworks shot through the sky at night.

The Azure Dragon himself arrived to bless the coronation.

Cheers, glory, and excitement filled the upcoming day for Long Tiankong. He was busied soon enough with new duties and responsibilities, barely having any time to even worry about the divinations and prophecies.

As an emperor, he made some mistakes here and there, but he learned from them and did better. He performed his duties to the best of his abilities and soon learned just how strong he was.

His words were true and whatever he wanted happened.

However, one problem did occur that he couldn't fix by just being an Emperor. No matter how hard they tried, Jie Tianyue could not get pregnant at all.

At first, they simply thought it was something that could be dealt with some time and small medicines. However, as time went on, they started moving on to more desperate options and ended up needing better treatments.

That was when they finally learned that Jie Tianyue had complications in her body, stopping her from bearing a child. Complications that the empire's renowned physicians and alchemists couldn't heal.

The news soon escaped from the close circles it had to be kept to but was held in from being leaked to the public. However, that had done all the damage it could.

Long Tiankong's subjects started mentioning in his presence that he should get concubines for himself. When told that he didn't love anyone but his wife, they told him that getting a concubine was not about love but about keeping alive a bloodline.

Long Tiankong ignored them all until his own wife started saying the same things.

"Dear, the Empire needs a prince and I cannot give you one," she said. "I know you love me, but you have a duty to the empire too. You must do what needs to be—"

"No!" Long Tiankong said. "I won't. We will have children and we will have 3." He grumbled. No matter how much he hated himself for him, he knew that to be true.

For he had heard it in the first of the three prophecies.

Three shall be your children; Men of honor. The One that rules, the one that leaves, and the one that is left behind.

"We will have them," he said. "I will visit his Majesty and see if he can help us somehow."

The very next day, Long Tiankong used his medallion to visit the Azure Dragon's realm.

The Azure Dragon's realm was one of beauty and majesty. A ring of forest encircled a ring of flower fields that encircled a massive pond, at the center of which was a massive establishment where the Azure Dragon stayed.

The Dragon Palace, in a way, had been made as a replica of this place, but a much worse version of it.

There were many beasts in the secret realm like there always were. The Azure Dragon needed people tending to his place and he trusted the beasts to do it.

Long Tiankong ignored the beasts and walked up to the edge of the pond before bowing steeply in the direction of where the Azure Dragon would be.

"Your Majesty! This humble servant of yours requests an audience," the Dragon Emperor said to the Azure Dragon.

After a short delay, a voice came from close by.

"Stand up, young man," the voice said. "Tell me what troubles you."

The Dragon Emperor slowly looked up at the bright blue-haired man with a handsome face and impeccable proportions, like a man chiseled by the best stonemason.

Qing Tianchui had arrived before him.

Chapter 1689: Change Fate

1689 Change Fate

The Azure Dragon's blue hair was much more vibrant than the Dragon Emperor's and he also looked a lot younger than him. His soft blue robes seemed to be made of a much better quality as well.

"Your Majesty," the Dragon Emperor quickly spoke. "I-I need your help."

"Calm down," the Azure Dragon said. "What's wrong? Tell me slowly."

"It's my wife," the Dragon Emperor started and explained the situation in its entirety. "Please, tell me what I must do. Is there anything I can do?"

The Azure Dragon let a frown show on his face. "This... is not a matter I am familiar with. I, unfortunately, don't have any alchemy skills despite my roots. You should try asking the senior in the Realm of Trials for now. If that doesn't work, I have a few more ideas."

"The Realm of Trials?" The Dragon Emperor was a little confused. "Ah, you mean the Azure Dragon soul in there? I see, I will do that."

"Go," the Azure Dragon said. "You should be able to enter there with those swords of yours."

The Dragon Emperor nodded. He left the secret realm, leaving for the Xuang Kingdom in the north where King Xuang governed the region of gold. He used his Ivory sword to tear into the realm's spatial walls and entered to find the dragon soul inside of it.

After relaying all he could and asking for help, he was let down in the end when the dragon soul told him that he couldn't help him.

The Dragon Emperor returned to the Azure Dragon's realm and told him all of this.

"Hmm, let me try the other way then," the Azure Dragon said. "Tell your wife to prepare to leave. I will take her to the other monarchs and see if they can help."

"Other monarchs? You're taking her to the other continents?" the Dragon Emperor asked.

"Yes, that is the only way," the Azure Dragon said. "Why? Do you believe it to be a mistake?"

"No," the Dragon Emperor said quickly. "I was just surprised. Please do what you think is best in this situation."

"Get the teleportation formation ready as well. We will leave as soon as possible."

The Azure Dragon left the very next day with Jie Tianyue and didn't return for nearly 3 years. The Dragon Emperor was worried even though he knew he had no reason to.

3 years later, they were back with good news that the Empress had been healed. The Azure Dragon left after the Dragon Emperor thanked him.

"We went to the Western Continent in the end," Jie Tianyue explained. "The Phoenix couldn't help us, so we went over to the White Tiger's place. One of the White Tiger's wives helped me and made a pill for me. I've eaten the pill and it's started restoring me, but it will still take me centuries to get with a child."

"Centuries?" the Dragon Emperor said. "That's fine. As long as we can have children. But... did you really go to the White Tiger?"

"Yes, why?" Jie Tianyue asked, curious. She had noticed for a while that the Dragon Emperor didn't like it when someone mentioned the White Tiger. She had been wondering for a while why that was.

"No reason," the Dragon Emperor said.

"Tell me," Jie Tianyue said. "I know something is troubling you. Just tell me what it is."

"It's..." the Dragon Emperor, after contemplating for a long time, decided to tell his wife exactly what was troubling him.

Jie Tianyue couldn't help but be shocked at the accuracy of the divinations and worried about the prophecies.

"The first 3 have come true already," the Dragon Emperor said. "Now I'm waiting for 3 more."

"That... surely that can't be right," the Empress said. "There has to be a way to stop it."

"I don't know if there is," The Dragon Emperor answered. "It keeps coming true no matter what. It is true."

"No, you're just saying this because of one dead man," Jie Tianyue said. "You should stop trusting him."

"No, I'm not," the Dragon Emperor said before pausing. "Wait, dead man? Who?"

"Didn't you say you learned about this from that leader of the Snow Immortal sect?" Jie Tianyue asked.

"Yes," the Dragon Emperor said.

"Well, he's dead. Did he see his death coming?" the Empress asked.

The Dragon Emperor was shocked. "What? No, that can't be. He told me he would go on to live for a long time," he said.

"He's dead. And he didn't just die, he took his sect along with him. It happened years ago, the Northern Continent is a mess right now from what I managed to gather during my brief visit there," the Empress explained. She had visited the continent with the Azure Dragon to see if the Black Tortoise could heal her.

"Huh? But... but he told me about his..." The Dragon Emperor's mind spun thoughts faster than he could speak. What did it mean that Xue Kuangren was dead? What about his future? About becoming immortal?

Had he lied to him? That couldn't be. He had no reason to lie. In fact, he was even correct on when he would break through to the Immortal realm.

However, he had died. Albeit for the worse, he had changed his fate. He had changed his destiny.

He had overcome his own prophecy.

"Then I can do it..." the Dragon Emperor said softly. A sense of relief filled him as if something very heavy had been lifted off of him. "... I don't have to be confined to my fate then. I can overcome this."

Jie Tianyue could feel the relief in her husband. "What was it that had been troubling you this much, dear?" she asked him. "What did the prophecies say?"

"The last one told me how I would die," the Dragon Emperor said. "I've been trying not to think about it all this time, but I'm still worried. But... if it is true that I can do something about it then maybe I can change my future."

"What prophecies are these exactly?" she asked him. "The exact words I mean."

"There were 3 of them," the Dragon Emperor said. "The first two went something like this."

"Three shall be your children; Men of honor. The One that rules, the one that leaves, and the one that is left behind."

The Empress gave a surprised look. "So that's why you said we would have 3," she said. "But what does it mean that you would leave behind one? What about the one that leaves?"

"I don't know," the Dragon Emperor said. "We will have to wait for it to come true if we want to know."

The Empress nodded. "The others?" she asked.

"The next one goes: By your hands shall they fall and 7 colorful lights shall take their place," he said. "I have no idea what this means at all."

"7 colorful lights?" the Empress was confused too. "Yeah, that doesn't make sense for me too. What about the last one? The one you say tells of your death."

The Dragon Emperor sighed and spoke the final prophecy.

"Above your realm shall they proclaim your end. A King, A son of a King, and a Tiger pure White."

Chapter 1690: Prince and Kings

1690 Prince and Kings

Nearly 6000 years ago.

The Empire celebrated the birth of Prince Fangyu. The celebrations lasted for weeks, with many people from outside the Continent coming to give their congratulations to the Emperor.

The Dragon Emperor revealed the prince on his first birthday a year later, and he gave him one of the most important treasures that someone from the Imperial Royal family could hold.

The Ebony Sword.

Nobody really knew what it meant to have that sword. To them, it was just a symbol of the Empire, a heirloom to keep. Still, they celebrated the occasion.

The Emperor was happy with his first son, and the Empress was even happier. With the birth of the prince, they were both relieved from the stresses that had plagued them for ages.

Now, the Dragon Emperor wouldn't be suggested to find himself a concubine every time he met someone important.

As the new prince grew, it gave the Emperor and Empress the time they needed to sort out the other problems that they had been ignoring for a while.

Having learned that one could change their fates if they wanted to, the Dragon Emperor and Empress had begun making plans to protect themselves from whatever was to come.

There were no other concerns for the two than the final prophecy; the one that claimed the Dragon Emperor would die at the hand of a King, a son of a King, and what they figured was the White Tiger.

Whether the prophecy referred to a single being or a group of 3, neither of the pair could tell. What they could tell, they became aware of.

The Dragon Emperor didn't know exactly what to do with the information. If a King or his child was to be trouble for him, then how was he to tell which one it was? He couldn't just get rid of every King... could he?

The preparations were made early by the two as they planted seeds in all of the existing 6 Kingdoms of the Continent. For the Azure Kingdom, he simply manipulated the political situation there to put someone else on the throne.

For the other 5, however, subtle maneuvers weren't going to be of much help. He couldn't get the 5 kingdoms to face a downfall either as someone else would take their place and he would have to worry about them once again.

No, he had to do something forceful, and he did.

Making claims that there was a rebellion being planned and showing proof of it through the seeds he planted, the Dragon Emperor destroyed the royal families of all 5 Kingdoms at once.

The 5 Kings and Queens made their appeals, saying that they weren't planning any such thing; but with the proof in hand, no one could take their side at all. The Kings and Queens were executed, and anyone who could be considered an heir to the throne was killed along with them.

The thorough extermination of so many people was the most extreme thing the Dragon Emperor could have ever imagined doing, and the success of it made him bolder.

The Azure Dragon heard of the event and was very angry with the Dragon Emperor for doing what he did, but after hearing the story that the Dragon Emperor had formulated, he let the situation be.

Still, the Dragon Emperor was now forced to calm an Empire that he had sent into turmoil. He knew the perfect way to do it.

The Kingdoms were changed, and their names were different from before. Instead of being named for their Kings, they were now named after colors.

"5 colors," the Dragon Emperor said softly. "The prophecy mentioned something about 7 colorful lights. We are changing the future." He was very much happier as a person despite knowing what atrocity he had committed.

Now, he was willing to do even more to keep it going.

Nothing eventful happened in the time it took for the Empire to settle from the changes and go back to being how it used to be. Everything was calm now, but one thing did continue to bother the Dragon Emperor.

He had made changes to the Kings and Queens so they wouldn't be a threat. They weren't allowed to marry or have kids, and they weren't allowed to cultivate past the Saint Soul realm. If they wanted to do either, they had to abdicate from the throne and lose their status.

The Dragon Emperor believed it to be the perfect way to deal with the prophecy, but the problem came when he remembered the other Kings that existed.

The Southern Continent would never be without a King with the Phoenix there, and the Northern Continent was governed through sects and had no King either.

So, the only King that did remain was in the Western Continent. The Western Continent was a mixture of many kingdoms, separated by a large expanse of forest.

If his prophecy could ever come true, it would be from those kingdoms. He had to deal with them somehow.

And then, there was the damn White Tiger. What could he even do about an Immortal beast? He knew that the White Tiger couldn't harm anyone in this world, but did he dare take that risk?

Years went by with the Dragon Emperor worrying about it but being able to do nothing. The only thing he could do was hope that he had made enough changes so that the prophecies would have changed by now.

What else was he to do? Kill the White Tiger?

To his surprise, he didn't have to.

Reports reached him soon, but sooner than that the Azure Dragon had already left the continent. When he came back, there were only two pieces of information the Dragon Emperor was handed.

First, the Azure Dragon was wounded and would have to rest to get better for a long time now.

Second, the White Tiger had died in a clash with the other Heavenly beasts in the Central continent.

The Dragon Emperor was stunned. The White Tiger had died? Just like that?

He refused to believe it, but then he had seen how wounded the Azure Dragon was. He would need a lot of time to heal from those wounds.

"The White Tiger is dead," he thought. "He's dead."

Which meant, he now had one of the obstacles in his prophecy gone from it. As for the other Kings, he decided to become bold.

The Dragon Emperor visited the Southern Continent where he met the council of 10 who had formed in the absence of the Phoenix. Whether the Phoenix was dead or not didn't matter to the Dragon Emperor. As long as he could get these people to agree, that would be enough.

He exploited their sudden lack of ruler and strength to make them accept the proposal he made.

Then, the Dragon Emperor visited the Northern Continent, where he met the leaders of the 5 great sects and made the same proposal. These ones accepted it more easily than the council did.

With both continents accepting his proposal, the Dragon Emperor went back to the Eastern Empire and prepared his legions to move along with them.

They were going to attack the Western Continent that was ruled by the late White Tiger, the one who he claimed was responsible for trying and failing to take over the entire world with his evil schemes.

They were going to war.