

Alchemy 1711

Chapter 1711: Return

The First stage of the Undying God's Physique allowed its user to heal any wounds on his body in a matter of seconds, so long as the user had Qi in his body.

The Second stage of the Undying God's Physique allowed its user to heal any major wounds, be it amputation, decapitation, or even crippling, so long as there was Qi in his body.

The Third Stage of the Undying God's Physique allowed its user to heal their entire body so long as the soul survived in some form.

There were in total Four stages to the Undying God's Physique.

Alex felt a sudden feeling of ascension as his Dantian fully healed and he returned to the state of a cultivator once again. The excess Qi in his body finally moved back to his Dantian, and he felt it being affected by the Yang Source and Yin bead inside of his Dantian.

They had laid dormant in him when all Qi had left him.

"What?" a surprised voice came from inside his mind. "What is happening? Kid? Are you okay? Can you hear me?"

Alex's head hurt slightly from having to bear the spiritual attacks of the beast core he ate, but he was happy enough that he could ignore it all.

"Godslayer!" he shouted excitedly in his mind. "How are you? Is everything okay in there?"

"I'm okay," Godslayer said softly. "Were you unconscious all this time? I couldn't see much of what was happening."

"Unconscious?" Alex chuckled a bit. "No, I was crippled. I had lost my cultivation base. Thankfully I have the Undying God's physique so I'm safe now."

"Oh, and what was that—"

"I'm sorry, I'll talk to you later. I need to deal with my problems first," Alex said and ignored Godslayer for the moment. He started focusing on his cultivation base to see if there were any problems.

He immediately brought out all sorts of pills and started eating them one after another to heal himself. Fortunately, there were no major issues that couldn't be fixed with a week or two of dedicated cultivation.

Zhou Linfan watched Alex from the side with eyes as wide as saucers. He couldn't believe what he had just witnessed at all.

Just one moment ago, the young man before him was sweating buckets for some reason, and then the next moment he suddenly had a cultivation base of Saint Soul's 4th realm.

It was incredibly weak at the moment as if he had used up all his Qi, but the cultivation base was obvious to anyone who knew what to look for.

'I thought him surviving after eating the core alone would've been an amazing sight,' he thought. 'But he somehow got his cultivation base back? How the hell is that even possible?'

The old man had seen Alex do the impossible before, but they were small impossibilities. This one was too large to be ignored at all.

He was sure there were people out there who would come to try and kill him just to get this one secret from him.

"How did you do it, young man?" Zhou Linfan asked Alex. "How are you no longer a cripple? Here I was excited to see you heal your dantian, but I never expected to see this."

"I was never going to get back to cultivation," Alex said. "I always planned on getting my cultivation back instead. What I did has to do with my physique too and won't work for everyone though."

"Is this physique learnable or were you born with it?" the old man asked with an incredible look on his face.

"It's what I was born with," Alex lied. He didn't want to give the old man hopes in the best-case scenario, or ideas in the worst.

"What an incredible body you were born with then," the old man said. "What else can you do?"

"I'm sorry, senior, but I'll need to cultivate for a while now. I've only just gained my cultivation base, but my Qi and spirit are still weak. Would you mind if we delay this talk to some other time?"

"Oh, ah... sure," the old man said. "I'll wait for you to be done then."

"Thank you," Alex said and teleported to a different location on the island where he settled and started cultivating once again.

As he had said, his cultivation base was indeed very weak, so he had to eat a cultivation pill and start cultivating. As for his spirit, he had just eaten a spirit pill, and that would aid his spirit on its own.

Alex used the Five Yang Divine Path to quickly cultivate using Yang Qi and used some of his attention to look at his nascent soul that was in his Dantian and then his Soul Space.

His Nascent Soul had been weak but not so weak that there was any danger. As for his Soul Space, it never faced any problem at all.

Even if Alex had died, the Soul Space would've remained there for someone else to take, or for the Void to consume it sometime in the future.

As he cultivated, the grade of his Qi increased once again. Then, he took the opportunity to go visit Godslayer inside of his Spiritual Sea.

Surprisingly, Godslayer did not know what had happened to Alex at all. The last thing Godslayer had seen was Alex getting attacked, and because he hadn't died, he had assumed Alex to be unconscious.

The darkness he faced in here alone was not similar to when Alex had his head blown off, so the sword spirit wasn't very worried this whole time.

However, after finding out what had indeed happened to Alex, he was surprised he hadn't known it at all.

"Undying God's physique? Is that incredible? I thought it only healed your wounds and such," the sword spirit said.

"It heals my dantian too. I wasn't confident it would return my cultivation base to what it was, but I'm glad it did," Alex said.

Godslayer scoffed. "If it can return your dantian to how it was before, then of course your cultivation base will return to the same as well. After all, your cultivation base is based on the strength of your dantian, and the other various situations in your body such as the status of your soul, the status of your Immortal spirit, and such."

"Immortal Spirit?" Alex asked curiously.

"You'll find out soon enough. Focus on healing for now," Godslayer said. "Oh, and thank that kid on my behalf. We both might've died if not for him."

Alex smiled and nodded. "I will," he said and went back out.

Once he was out, it was time to do as Godslayer said.

Alex called out to Pearl.

Pearl came back out with blood and wounds all over his body and fur. The white car looked more red than white now and was so wounded that he could barely stand up straight.

Alex immediately took out a healing pill and fed it to Pearl before taking him into an embrace.

"B-brother?" Pearl asked in a low voice that was full of surprise.

"You can take it easy Pearl. You did well. You saved me," Alex said as he held onto the White Tiger tighter.

"Thank you."

Chapter 1712: Reckless

After eating a few pills, Pearl was healed as well. Then together, he and Alex started cultivating.

They cultivated without stopping for the next 5 days as it took Alex that much time even with all of his pills to return back to how strong he used to be.

"I should have been close to breaking through to the 5th realm, but that has been pushed back a little," Alex said softly. "I need better cultivation though if I want to fight the Emperor."

"He's strong, isn't he?" Pearl asked. "How can you become strong enough to fight him in a short time?"

"By being reckless, Pearl," Alex sighed. "By being reckless."

He had been giving it some thought but he truly saw no other way to do what must be done. He needed to get stronger and the only way to do that was to do what Scarlet did to become strong once again.

In the same way, all the players got strong quickly, while forcing their cultivation base to not be as stable.

"I'm going to have to start breaking through before I could possibly be ready for it. My Qi quality with increase thanks to that, but the chances of me going through Qi Deviation will increase as well."

"It's dangerous," Pearl said.

"It is," Alex said. "But I must do it."

"Then I'll do so as well," Pearl said. "How do we do it?"

"How else?" Alex asked. "We eat beast cores."

Alex flew away and went to find the old man in deep cultivation inside of his cave. Coming close, Alex could now feel his strength once again.

Zhou Linfan looked no different to Alex than what he had been like when Alex was without a cultivation base. However, now that he had one, the old man felt like a hidden master with a cultivation base so strong that Alex felt threatened to even get close enough.

"Are you finally free enough to come to talk?" the old man asked as he slowly opened his eyes to stare at Alex.

Alex smiled back at the old man and nodded. "Indeed. You must have had a lot of questions, senior. Thank you for your patience."

"I do indeed have a lot of questions," the old man said. "How are you feeling? Anything wrong with your cultivation base?"

"No, everything is fine," Alex said. "I'm as good as I was before I was crippled."

"And your Nascent Soul? Was it hurt? Was it healed?" he asked.

"It's doing good too," Alex answered.

The old man had a lot of questions to ask of Alex, but most of them tread around Alex's secrets, so he couldn't get much answer from Alex.

"You're an alchemist, so can you make me some pills?" the old man asked in the end. "I haven't used a pill in a very long time."

"I... can't make pills right now," Alex said. He couldn't let the soldiers that were flying around know where he was. "But I can give you the ones I have already."

Alex brought out a few pills and handed them over to the old man. "There are some pills to help you with your cultivation, some to heal your wounds, some are antidotes, and some for your spirit."

"Is that so?" the old man asked and took the pills.

"Also," Alex asked. "Do you have any Earth or Water spiritual roots?"

The old man frowned a little. "I do," he said. "I have an Earth spiritual root."

"You should eat one of these and cultivate right away," Alex said, handing over a single pill. "It will help improve your Spiritual root to a Superior one."

"What?" the old man asked in surprise. "There is a pill that can improve my spiritual root?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I would've given you one for Water root too had you had it."

"I don't," the old man said. "Only Metal, Fire, and Earth."

Alex thought of the Flame Mastery technique that could be used to help the man improve his Fire spiritual root too, but that required a large amount of Fire treasure which there was not right now.

The only good place Alex could remember for that was the Fire region around the 13th Volcano in the Northern Continent.

As for Metal, Alex didn't even have a way. He himself only raised it to the Supreme level by accident.

"By the way, how many beast cores do you have?" Alex asked the old man. "I was wondering if you could give some to me and my beast."

"Beast core?" the old man asked with a puzzled look. "But why? You already got your cultivation back."

"My body is capable of converting beast cores to Qi, so I was hoping to eat some and start breaking through," Alex said.

"To the 5th Saint Soul realm?" the old man asked. He didn't think Alex was ready yet. His aura gave off the impression that Alex had only been in that realm for half the time needed.

"To the 5th realm and above. I need to get stronger quickly," Alex said.

The old man frowned upon hearing that. "Does this have in any way something to do with the fact that you want revenge on the emperor?" he asked.

"That... is exactly the reason I'm doing this," Alex said.

The old man couldn't help but sigh in response. "Okay, I understand that you might be very angry with the Emperor right now and want to become as strong as you can, as quickly as you can, to get revenge against him, but that is not the right way."

"Look at me. I have a stronger reason than you to be angry with him. He killed all of my family without cause and made me an orphan. My entire life has been about killing him, but even I know that I'm not strong enough to do so. Not yet."

"Truth is, I might never be strong enough to defeat him, and the only way to get even remotely close to being as strong as him is to rush through my cultivation realm. However, I know that the moment I do that, I have already lost."

"Rushing through your cultivation realm just for revenge is not the right thing to do, young man. Because the moment you do, your loss is all but sealed."

Alex said nothing for a while taking in the old man's words. He could see the logic in that, the wisdom that came from being over 5 thousand years in pursuit of that very goal.

"You are correct," Alex said. "I know that rushing into things isn't a good idea at all, especially when it is your cultivation base."

The old man nodded in agreement.

"However, you are missing 2 pieces of vital information," Alex said.

The old man raised an eyebrow. "And what exactly is that piece of vital information?" he asked.

"First." Alex put up a finger. "You failed to take into account that it is me who will be rushing through my cultivation base, and my body is unique."

"Oho!" the old man was intrigued. "And the second one?"

Alex took a deep breath. "Second, if I don't meet with the Emperor again for a trade within the next 2 and a half years, I will die."

Chapter 1713: A New Plan

"You have to meet with the Emperor again?" the old man asked.

Alex nodded. "Within 2 and a half years," he said. "Actually, it might be closer to 2 years now since so much time has already passed."

"Why?" the old man asked.

Alex sighed. "When I was called for a 20-year-long Alchemy exchange to the Eastern Continent, I hadn't realized that I was being called so that the Dragon Emperor could ask for my techniques and skills."

"I didn't want to give him any, but I was practically forced into setting up a trade with him for it. For the next 20 years, I would give him everything he needs to make Pill Clouds consistently like I do. In return, he would give me something of equal value."

"I was supposed to make a total of 4 trades with him throughout the years. I've made 3 trades by now and need to make my final trade. Since I only have about 2 years of time left, I need to become strong enough to survive when I meet him next."

The old man frowned. "This is certainly bad," he thought. "Can't you take your Phoenix with you to the trade? She can protect you?"

"I can't," Alex said. "The Phoenix can't go to a place without a proper king. With the Azure Dragon dead, the Phoenix can't go with me to the Eastern Continent."

The old man nodded slowly and gave a sad look.

Alex had long since told the old man about the Azure Dragon's death, but the old man was still saddened every time he was reminded of it.

"Then you have to go to him alone?" he asked. "I doubt the Emperor ever plans on leaving his own continent."

"That is why I must become strong," Alex said.

The old man gave the words a long consideration before nodding. "Alright, if it will help you, I will give you the cores," he said. He reached into his storage bag and brought out exactly 9 beast cores.

Alex took the beast cores and looked at them. 3 of them were in the Saint Condensation realm, 5 in the Saint Foundation realm, and the last one in the Saint Core realm.

"I don't want to sound ungrateful, senior, but... is this it?" Alex asked.

The cores in his hands would barely be enough for Pearl to break through to the Core realm. It would not do much for him.

"I'm sorry, but this is all I can do for you," the old man said. "I mean, you can't blame me. My job here is to hide and keep track of what is going into the Eastern Continent. I need to lay low for that and can't just fight whatever beast I come across."

"Those cores are what I got when I was trying to set up the warning formation. Those beasts attacked me and I fought back. I rarely have had a reason to go looking for fights on my own."

"Besides, doing so would be stupid as it would tell everyone where I'm located. I've skipped more fights than I've been in one for the past few years."

Alex could understand. "I see," he said. "I'll make use of this how I can."

He stood up and left the place to go and cultivate with Pearl. Once he was with Pearl, he ate the Saint Core realm beast's beast core and let Pearl eat the other 8 cores however he liked.

The two of them started cultivating after eating it and it was very quickly clear that this was truly not going to work. The Saint Core realm beast was too weak for Alex. Even if he hadn't eaten the core and instead used it to make a Blood Beast, it would've still been too weak for him.

Alex could only sigh in the end. If he wanted better cores, he was going to have to find some outside.

"I will have to go out and fight some beasts."

Thankfully, he didn't think he would feel much guilt killing aquatic beasts to improve himself. These beasts truly gave no care for who lived and who died. Whoever was strong survived and the weak died.

The law of the jungle was actually more prevalent in the ocean than it was in the jungle.

"It's not just my cultivation too," Alex said softly. "I need to improve my Blood, my Soul, my Body, and my Sword. I don't see any way to improve Intent here, but if I can find one, I will."

Alex thought for a long while, planning out what he needed to do, and concluded.

"Fighting in the air will quickly tell all the soldiers where I am," he said. "So, I must instead fight the beasts underwater. It has to be deep underwater where no one would be able to tell if I'm a human or a beast. That should be the best way to go about things."

"Should I come?" Pearl asked curiously.

"No," Alex said. "You aren't strong enough to fight down there, and I don't know if I'm strong enough to protect you. So I will do it on my own."

After making that plan, Alex left Pearl alone and went to tell the old man what he wanted to do. The old man was still not entirely sold on the idea of eating beast cores to improve one's cultivation base, but he didn't completely reject the idea either.

Desperate times called for desperate measures. It was true, and the old man understood it.

"Here, take this talisman." He handed a long-range communication talisman to Alex. "Tell me when you need to come back. The island will be hidden from your senses, so you will need my help to get inside."

Alex slowly nodded. "Thank you," he said.

"You can leave now. Go dive deep underwater and get strong," he said. "But be careful, the sea floor is dangerous. Perhaps much more dangerous than land. The ocean is a world of its own, one the humans have not been able to conquer. The beasts reign supreme there and for a good reason. Always be ready to run if you see the tiniest bit of danger."

Alex nodded. "I will do that," he said. "Thank you for the talisman."

"Now go," he said. "I will continue keeping my eyes on the area around us. If it ever becomes clear to leave for the Southern Continent, I'll let you know and we can leave."

Alex smiled. "Thank you, senior. For all you've done for me," he said. "Please look after Pearl while I'm gone. I'll be back soon."

Saying so, Alex walked out of the island with all of his aura hidden and slowly got into the water.

Despite the hot day with the sun blazing in the sky, the water was icy cold. Alex went underwater and quickly resorted to using his Qi instead of air to sustain himself.

He took a few seconds to have himself get used to this. As he had done the same back in the Celestial Peak, it came naturally to Alex.

Once he was all ready, he dove deeper into the ocean, entering the dark world of aquatic beasts that hadn't been touched by humans in a long, long time.

Chapter 1714: Underwater Battles

Submerged in the coldness of the ocean water, Alex felt a sense of calmness that was hard to find outside of the water.

A sense of calmness and a sense of lurking danger.

The dark water made it feel as though there could be a strong beast right next to him and he would never know. But of course, that was just a feeling. There was nothing around him.

He delved deeper into the water, Midnight already in his hand, and started searching for something to fight. Unfortunately, it seemed that he would have to move further away into deeper territories to find what he was looking for.

The weight of tons and tons of water above Alex put pressure on him that inhibited his movements to a certain extent. His movements were ever so sluggish and his speed ever so slower.

He was sure that the water would also cause his attacks to become slightly weaker just as it already had affected his Spiritual sense. What should have allowed him to sense 10 kilometers around him, now only allowed him a little less than 9 kilometers.

It wasn't a terrible suppression, but it was certainly there, and it was likely that it would get worse the deeper he went into the ocean.

Alex was a few kilometers away from any island and more than a kilometer underwater when the first Saint Beast decided to attack him.

It was a giant fish with 8 razor-sharp fins on either side of its body, a giant grooved fin on its back, and a tail that was nearly three times as large in proportion as a regular fish. At Saint Core 5th realm, the fish wasn't much of a danger to Alex.

Alex did not know the name of this fish. Aquatic beasts were outside the scope of what he had learned in his life. So, he didn't even know if the beast was supposed to be aggressive or not, or if it had some weaknesses.

Alex watched the fish get close to him, and while he knew the fish could speak if it chose to, he was still ready to fight.

All 8 of the fish's fins glowed red all of a sudden and the water around him boiled hot red. Then, all 8 fins struck out at him, as if slashes from a blade.

Instead of defending, Alex willed the fire in those attacks to go out. His Intent went into work and using the True Fire Dao, he fought against the Intent of the fish to wrestle away its control over the fire to easily get rid of it.

The fish was surprised for just a single second before Alex sent out a single sword slash with Sword Qi that instantly cut it in half, not only killing the body but also the soul.

Without a moment's delay, Alex teleported right next to the fish and quickly stored it in his storage ring before moving on.

The Saint Core realm fish had just been a piece of stone blocking his path. Kicking it away, he could continue down his path to find better fish to kill. He was sure he would find so many.

Alex fought 3 more beasts. A fish, a sea mantis, and a snake. Throughout each of those fights, he used nothing but just Sword Qi. Not because he wanted to, but because that was his only choice.

On one hand, the beasts were too weak for him to use anything else. He could just fly next to them and cut them too, but using Sword Qi at least made for some sort of training.

On the other hand, he was still very much close to the surface considering how much deeper the ocean was. He couldn't arouse suspicion among the soldiers that happened to fly above him.

It was only once he was much deeper that Alex was forced to use more than just his Sword.

It happened when Alex came across a nasty-looking fish with bulbous eyes and an appendage that grew out of its head carrying what looked like a red ruby. It even glowed ever so slightly.

Alex felt some sort of spiritual attack whenever he stared at the ruby. Had his spiritual strength been weaker than the Saint Soul realm, he would have most definitely been affected by it.

'What a pretty jewel,' Alex still thought. 'I should get—' He quickly shook his head.

"Is this how you get your enemies?" he spoke directly to the beast. It had been staring back at Alex for a good few seconds, probably wondering if this was a favorable fight for it.

"You weren't caught? You must be strong, unlike what your cultivation base suggests. Are you hiding your aura?" the dangerous fish spoke back into Alex's mind. " You'll make for good food."

The fish's Saint Transformation 1st realm cultivation base flared in an instant and it attacked. A sprout of water jetted out from in front of it, making its way to Alex like a great current.

Alex could not fight this with just his sword, so he was forced to use his Qi as well. He instantly applied the All Swirling Elemental Shield to block the attack and then sent a Heavenly Static Slash to attack the fish.

The lightning bolt struck the fish instantly, leaving behind a path of bubbles from the water that was instantly boiled by the lightning bolt.

The place where the fish was struck glowed red hot and the fish let out a screech. Even as Saint Transformation's 1st realm, the fish was still a weakling to Alex. At least, it hadn't died in a single attack.

Alex moved closer and stabbed the fish with Midnight, before ripping out a chunk of its body as he pulled it out at an angle. The fish gave one last cry before dying.

However, it wasn't dead just yet.

The soul that was in the fish's body slowly appeared with a blue luster to it, seemingly confused about the situation. The souls weren't yet connected with the body enough to know what was happening immediately upon the body's death.

Alex swung his sword and cut the soul in half and watched as the blue light dimmed and the soul dissipated into nothing. He wasted no time in taking this fish's body back into his Storage ring either.

Once the fish was dead, Alex went to search for another one to fight, but to his surprise there were none. Weaker Saint beasts had realized that there was a new boss in the area, so they kept out of Alex's way.

As for the stronger ones, there were none. Any strong beasts set up their own territory, and from the looks of things, the beast Alex just killed had taken up a large portion of its territory.

If Alex wanted to find more beasts, he had to move elsewhere.

Alex felt a small buzz in his Soul Space and quickly looked in to find the talisman that Zhou Linfan had given him had received a message. Alex read into it with no time wasted.

"Heads up! Several soldiers are flying toward a single location in the sea. I think this might be you."

"Oh!" Alex thought and immediately hid his aura. Not only that, he also used his Yang Qi to cover up his body in a way that Alex felt everything around him almost burning.

There were even bubbles forming around his body from the heat his body was producing. Thankfully, the water wasn't literally boiling or that would have given away his location more clearly.

Just as Alex was thinking that, a wave of spiritual sense passed around him. It never actually passed through him as anything that did get too close to him would burn up and disappear.

To everyone who was using their spiritual sense at the moment, all they would see was a small blank spot in their sense, and that was if they noticed it in the first place at all.

Unless they knew he was down here, he doubted they would care enough to know that there was a missing piece in the area they had scanned.

Alex waited in the water for a long time before the spiritual senses started pulling again. 'God! How many did the Emperor send after me? He should know nothing more than the fact that I'm a cripple too. Does he want to steal my storage ring or what?' he thought.

He waited until all the senses were gone and then waited some more before moving once again.

This location no longer had any more beasts for him to fight, so Alex would now have to move much further away. There was no time to waste.

He flew in chose a direction at random and went in that direction for a long time, hoping to find a worthy fight. Along the way, he found many beasts that wanted to fight him and eat him, none that were capable of even touching him.

Alex didn't ignore them of course as they were good sources of blood and cores. He killed what he could find. A fish, a snake, a crab, it didn't matter.

After flying for some time, he entered what he thought was another beast's territory. There had been a significant lack of fish swimming around for a short time now.

'Let's see who is here then,' Alex thought and let out his spiritual sense in all directions. When he did so, he noticed something that made his jaw drop.

'It can't be...' he thought and used his senses to look at it closer. It really was it.

'It really is a Fire Coral.'

Chapter 1715: Fire Coral

Alex hadn't expected to find a Fire Coral in this area of the sea at all. But then again, being a coral, this would be where it would grow.

Surprisingly, he didn't know much about Fire Coral. The only information he did have in his mind was that it was an incredible Fire Elemental treasure and that it grew on the ocean floor around locations with intense fire aura.

'There must be a magma vein around this area then,' Alex thought, and just as he presumed, he found it close by. The Coral drew in the fire aura from that magma vein and used it to grow itself.

The Fire Coral was tiny in comparison to the several regular corals in the coral reefs Alex had seen on the way, with a somewhat glowing red body. It stuck out from the ground, a single coral with many tentacles clumped together and moving around in the water.

'Incredible,' Alex thought. 'I can finally make the pill.'

He quickly dove even further down below, moving toward the coral. By now, he was several kilometers underwater and the pressure was starting to become more than just a small annoyance.

He was going to have to be a bit more careful.

As he dove down, a sense of unease filled Alex. 'Where is the beast around this area?' he thought. This was clearly a territory of something, and yet Alex couldn't find it anywhere.

'Is it hiding itself?' Alex wondered. If it was hiding itself, then Alex would have to find it before it managed to land a sneak attack on him. He was in no mood to be surprised.

'With such an incredible treasure right here, there has to be something here protecting it,' Alex thought. He knew he had caught onto the beast's plan. It wasn't going to catch him off guard.

However, even when he was just a small distance away from the Fire Coral, nothing appeared.

Alex frowned a little. 'Was I wrong?' he wondered. 'No, I can't doubt my instincts. Something has to be here.' Yet the eerie silence of the darkness underwater lingered with only the Fire Coral being a singular beacon of light down there.

Alex waited some more time and slowly closed in on the coral while constantly being ready for the attack. He sent his spiritual sense through the sand beneath him and the water around him to keep a lookout.

Then, he got closer to the Fire Coral, his hands right next to it, ready to grab it. 'So there's nothing?' Alex thought. There was no point in delaying it any longer in that case.

Alex grabbed onto the Fire Coral, and then the Coral exploded.

Alex felt the shockwave shake his organs while the explosion tore away the arm. The amount of water displaced by that explosion was high and the heat alone had caused enough steam to create a giant pocket around the coral without water.

Alex looked at his arm in shock or what was left of it. Everything from the elbow down had been gone, decimated, and the portions above them weren't in much better condition either.

His Undying Physique worked to heal him, but that did not send away the pain he felt from losing his arm just then.

'What the...!' Alex found it hard to believe what had just happened. Had the Coral just attacked him? 'A defense mechanism?' he wondered.

Just as he wondered the Coral glowed bright red and its tentacles suddenly grew out around it, leaving behind boiling water wherever it passed.

That was when Alex finally sensed something that the Coral had been doing its best to hide.

A cultivation base.

The Fire Coral had a cultivation base of Saint Transformation's 4th realm.

'Of course,' Alex thought as everything started making sense for him. 'No wonder there was so little information about it. It's not a plant. It's an animal.'

That was the reason for the lack of beasts around this area too. Alex had assumed the treasure to have a guardian protecting it. What he had not guessed was that the treasure was also the guardian itself.

'And it's a damn strong one,' Alex thought.

Now that he knew more about the Fire Coral, killing it and taking it away felt a little wrong. "Let's not fight," Alex said quickly. "Can we talk instead?"

Dozens of fiery tentacles fluttered around the coral, each tentacle glowing on the ground as it passed close by. "What is there to talk about?" the Coral asked sending a mental answer. "You were here to try and take me away."

"I was," Alex answered. "But that was before I knew you could talk back. I don't want to kill someone who only wants to do nothing but defend themselves."

The only thing the Coral had done was explode when he tried to touch it, so it didn't feel right for Alex to just attack the thing. Every other beast he had killed the last few days had been one that had been overconfident and wanted to hurt him first.

This was different.

The coral didn't immediately answer. "Then will you just leave?" he asked.

"Unfortunately, that will be difficult too," Alex said. "Now that I've found you, leaving here without—"

"I've heard enough!"

The Coral wasted no time and attacked. 3 tentacles lashed out strongly, blocking paths of escape for Alex.

Alex struck out with Midnight, sending an attack with Sword Aura that cut through the 3 tentacles that were coming for him. The fiery tentacles dissipated after being cut, with the remnant growing back to full a short moment later.

Alex attacked before the Coral could respond again, sending another attack at the Coral.

The Fire Coral put out all of its tentacles to block and lost a couple of them while doing so. They took some time to grow back, but they didn't wait and attacked with the remaining tentacles.

'It can't move,' Alex realized. The Coral was stuck to its original location and was incapable of changing its location. So, the best it could do was defend when instead it needed to run away.

Alex could exploit this.

He swam back away from the Coral's reach and prepared his nameless attack. The coral frantically tried to attack Alex, but its attack wasn't strong enough to cause him anything more than annoyance once they made their way through the water and struck his body.

After the first explosion, Alex had been constantly enforcing his body with his Qi, so his defense was quite high.

He ignored what little discomfort, or even pain he felt from the attacks, and then finally released his attack.

The only thing to reveal the existence of Alex's attack was the torn space it left while it passed through the water.

The Coral hadn't even realized what had happened when its giant tentacles were cut down, the fire in them dissipating.

Then, they struck its body to the side, cutting off a few tentacles from its physical body.

The Coral realized it was in danger and prepared what Immortal Qi it had to get ready to attack. However, before it could do anything with it, Alex arrived right next to it and grabbed onto the floating tentacles before teleporting away.

Before the Coral realized what had happened, Alex had already gone far away.

Chapter 1716: Time to Return

Alex swam away from the Fire Coral, leaving it behind to hopefully heal itself. He took a look at the 3 coral tentacles in his hand with a smile and put them into his Soul Space.

'These 3 tentacles should be enough for a single pill,' Alex thought. 'No point in harming a harmless Coral for more.'

He wanted to make a pill out of it as soon as possible, but creating a Pill Cloud in this place would be one of the easiest ways to let the soldiers know where he was hiding.

The only logical choice remaining here was to return to the Southern Continent now that he was healed and make the pill there. He also needed to see to his sister's poison.

'A week more and then I'll leave,' Alex thought. It would take some time to return, so it was better if he gathered resources for the journey back. Once he made up the plan, he continued on his search for more beasts.

He found a place for himself to sit down and cultivate for 2 days before continuing on his journey to fight the beasts and gain more blood and core.

Alex lost himself in the mission, killing anything that was willing to kill him, leaving alive anything that was not. In the week or so he spent fighting in the ocean, he fought over a hundred different Saint beasts, killing almost all of them.

By the end of the week, he had more than enough beast cores to last him on the journey back to his continent.

He was done fighting and he was done cultivating, so it was time to leave the ocean.

He got ready to swim back to the island where the old man and Pearl were, but he didn't remember what direction that was in.

'The hell? Where is that island?' he thought. 'How am I not even sensing where Pearl is?'

The hiding formation set up by the old man was unusually strong it seemed. It even masked his bond to Pearl. He tried feeling the bond once again, but it was too faint to feel anything except the fact that Pearl was okay.

'I need to get closer,' Alex thought, but he didn't know which direction was closer. That was the entire problem in the first place.

He looked up to see if he could see the sun, but it turned out that it was nighttime. Despite this, the water deep down here made even the sun look paler than the stars.

'Should I go out and then look around? That should tell me what direction to go to,' he thought. Going out was a bit dangerous though, and even then he wasn't sure if he could find his way back.

Unfortunately, he hadn't flown up to the surface and had only remained in the ocean.

Alex was stumped for a few minutes, wondering how he was going to get back when he finally thought of something. He pulled out his talisman and contacted the old man, asking for a way back.

"Well, I don't know where you are," the old man said. "I can't come get you."

"Is there anyone caught in your warning formations yet?" Alex asked.

"There are still many. Most are not in the direction you went off to if that is what you're wondering," the old man replied.

Alex quickly nodded to himself. This might work.

"Keep a watch on your formation. I'm going to go up for a few seconds and try to get caught in it. Tell me if something new appears. That should tell me what direction I need to go to go back."

The reply came a while later than usual. "Sounds good, but be careful."

"I will. I will get caught in it in exactly 10 minutes," Alex replied. Then, he made his slow ascent to the surface.

Numerous fish and other beasts swam around the area, but none dared to come for Alex. A few regular fish were curious about him, but even so, they moved far away when he came along.

Alex kept his pace slow so that he didn't accidentally get caught by the formation too soon. 'He did mention that only humans or boats get caught in it, so I shouldn't be worried,' he thought and continued.

Alex had taken his time with the ascent, but still to see that it took him over 15 minutes to make it to the surface, when all the ocean had ever wanted to do was just that, was surprising to see.

He sent his spiritual sense around to find the formation and see where he needed to go, but as he did, he found a distinct lack of anything manmade in the ocean.

'Hmm? That can't be right,' Alex thought and increased the range of his perception, trying to catch any sort of disturbance to the aura in the ocean that might have been caused by a formation.

It took him 2 minutes to find something that he could believably say was the work of a formation and made his way to it.

Arriving up close, Alex took hold of a small sphere of something that was hidden from his senses. He took hold of it and finally saw that it was a small leather sack that was filled with spirit stones and a formation plate inside that constantly ran thanks to the spirit stones.

'So that's why no one has ever found it,' Alex thought. It was hard to even notice the thing in the first place even when you were looking for it. It was unlikely that anyone would ever find it in the ocean.

'It's about time,' he thought and slowly rose out of the water while letting out some of his aura for the formation to pick up. He then took out the talisman to wait for the old man to answer back.

"I saw two blips right next to each other. Was that you?" the old man asked.

"Two?" Alex frowned. Was there another one of these formations close by that he had activated accidentally?

"I don't see any other ones. It should just be one singular—"

Alex's words stuck to his throat when nearly 20 spiritual senses locked onto him from the distance. Alex slowly turned around and looked far away to see 3 ships approaching in his direction with people already flying out of it.

'Shit!' Alex thought and was ready to run away when something made him stop. He looked back, starting at the ships. He recognized those ships.

Those giant ships with brilliant azure paint with a golden dragon wrapped around a sword were the signature ships used by the Scale Legion. And the man who was making his way toward Alex was none other than Long Jianyu, the commander who had taken Alex and his people to the Eastern Continent.

Alex wanted to run, but some stubborn part of him wanted to question this man. This man had spent most of his latest time in the Southern Continent, so finding out the situation surrounding that continent would come easiest from him.

"King Alex," Long Jianyu said with a look that said this was all unexpected for him. "I did not expect to be the one to find you here."

Chapter 1717: Attack

"Long Jianyu," Alex spoke the man's name in a somber tone. "Why are you here?"

Alex knew in his heart of hearts that he should be running and that staying here was a bad idea. But the anger he felt inside of him overwhelmed him from making every other decision.

He didn't know why he was so angry. The source of his anger seemed to be a complete mystery to him. Was it because this was the man who had reported to the Emperor about him? Or was it because he had been hunting for his sister the entire time and Alex knew about it?

Alex didn't know and he didn't care to know. He simply stared at the man, waiting for answers.

"Unfortunately, we were tossed away by your people, King Alex. They told us that we were no longer allowed there," Long Jianyu said. "We were saddened to leave, but it seemed that we didn't have to be sad. We were fortunate rather. Them sending us away led us directly to you."

'They sent him away? So they must have found out about my situation,' Alex thought. That was good news. That meant at least someone had returned to the Southern Continent. If someone did, then there was a chance of everyone making it back.

'They mustn't know I had already escaped then,' Alex thought. 'They must still think I'm captured by the Emperor, or else Scarlet or Whisker would've come for me.'

That was no matter. Alex would return to them soon enough.

"I was disturbed when I heard the news," Long Jianyu said. "I would've thought you were smart enough to not try to harm the Emperor and the continent while you were still there. How could you have done anything like that?"

Alex frowned a bit. Was that what was being told about him? That he tried to harm the Emperor and the continent?

"No," Alex answered slowly. "You know that is not true." He looked at the man's face which did not change at all.

And then he understood. "But you don't care at all. You never believed what is being reported in the first place, do you?" he asked.

"The Emperor ordered everyone to find you and take you back to him, rather alive than dead, but I think he more so expects to see you dead than alive," the man said. "Although, my report said you were supposed to have lost your cultivation base. You must have tricked them with some sort of pills."

Alex watched as the soldiers surrounded him, ready to attack. They were all ready, with more flying out of the 3 ships to come to aid if need be. He stared at the nearly 150 soldiers and then back at Long Jianyu, who was their commander.

"Years ago when you came to the Southern Continent, you knew why you were there, didn't you?" Alex asked. "You knew it was for the Second Prince and his sword, didn't you?"

Long Jianyu simply shrugged. "I told you. I don't care what the situation is. I only care what the Emperor orders me to do. I would never dare hurt the prince, but given that it was the Emperor's orders, I would've given him a few bruises if he refused to return with us."

"As for you, I don't care if you are a king or not. Instead of bruises, I will kill you so I can take back your corpse to the Emperor. So, I suggest you don't try anything rash and come with us quietly."

Alex couldn't help but let out a dry laugh. "Kill me? You wish."

A wave of spiritual energy rolled out of his mind like waves, striking an area in front of him with a very strong mental attack. Multiple artifacts glowed as they stopped these attacks, but not all Saints thought it necessary to carry such artifacts.

Those were the first ones to lose their mind, albeit temporarily.

Midnight flew out into Alex's hand and even as people reacted to it, Alex cut down 3 of the weaker saints that were unconscious. Before anyone knew what happened, those 3 dead bodies were already stored in Alex's storage ring.

And he didn't stop there.

Long Jianyu instantly retaliated, sending out a very strong sword slash toward Alex.

Alex swung his sword too, stopping the attack and then teleporting behind another person who was on the verge of falling from the sky.

He placed his left hand on the woman's body and sent out a white-hot bar of fire that burned her body, instantly killing her and the soul inside of her. The skin of the woman flaked away into charred bits while her burnt body fell to the ocean.

Alex frowned slightly at the sight of it all. That was a waste of a perfectly good corpse.

'What a shame,' he thought and instantly went on the defensive as a multitude of attacks barraged all over him.

The strongest soldier in the group was Long Jianyu with Saint Transformation's 4th realm cultivation base. There were a few others with a much lower Saint Transformation realm cultivation base, with a majority of them in the Saint Soul realm, and a few others in the Saint Core realm.

The onslaught of attacks was certainly annoying, but none were threatening enough for Alex to be worried about.

All he had to be worried about was Long Jianyu's attacks. At his cultivation base, he had to have enough Immortal Qi for a single attack, and Alex had to be ready for it.

"Soldiers! Protect your comrades," Long Jianyu shouted. The soldiers that were trying to fight Alex now went toward their unconscious friends to look after them. They started getting them back to consciousness one by one.

Long Jianyu flew toward Alex at the same time and struck at him with a wind slash that contained a very strong Sword Intent. Alex attacked back, sending out a fiery slice of his own, containing Sword Qi in it.

The two attacks clashed, and Long Jianyu's face went wide in shock. Alex's attacks were just as strong as his own.

'So the rumors were true?' He couldn't believe it.

Long Jianyu struck out some more, but Alex kept fighting back against him, even going so far as to make him fight on the defensive by the end of it.

He had heard about Alex being able to fight above his cultivation base, but this was way more than just above. It was far, far above.

Alex dodged a disc-shaped attack that flew toward him and protected himself against pellets of rocks that another soldier threw at him. He then swung an attack with Sword Aura in it and attacked a man.

The man's body was cut in half, but his soul flew out, dazed but unharmed. Alex teleported next to that man and took his body while attacking the dazed soul. The attack cut through the soul and then landed on another soldier, wounding him but not killing him.

"Soldiers!" Long Jianyu roared. "Get in formation."

The soldiers were surprised, but none dared question or be late to the task. Immediately, they all fell to an array, working together to empower the single Long Jianyu in front of them.

Alex had seen this before. As it had happened last time, the 140 soldiers gathered behind Long Jianyu in a certain formation where they used a secret technique to form an array.

The array worked in a way that only the single target of the array would be empowered by it. Last time, there had been 40 soldiers and Long Jianyu's cultivation base had pretty much improved by 2 realms.

Now there were 140. How much was his power going to be improved?

Blood armor formed around Alex and he brought out the Blood God's manual, instantly bringing out over a hundred blood beasts, enough to contend the army in front of him.

The beasts got into a pattern as well, creating the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array. With the hundred of them there, Alex's prowess would increase by 3 cultivation realms.

Would that be enough to fight the man in front of him? It had to be. Alex was going to fight him, one way or another.

Alex saw the giant illusory dragon that formed behind the soldiers as the array activated. He saw the dragon embroidered onto these people's uniforms. He saw the insignia on the ships behind them.

He saw the face of the man without whom they would have never gone to the Eastern Continent. Without whom he would have met his sister a long time ago. Without whom... Yao Ning would not have to die.

Anger filled Alex and he charged in.

However, the man in front of him had grown far stronger than Alex could have ever hoped for him to become.

* * * * *

Godslayer watched the fight in worry, with the single clash telling him who was stronger here. The Array that the enemies used was very much stronger than Alex's array when the battle was not a war.

"What is going on?" he asked himself. "This kid should be running away, but he's instead fighting. Is he really that angry?"

Godslayer wanted to tell Alex to leave or else he would die. However, seeing the fight in front of his eyes, a different thought blossomed in his head.

"Hmm, maybe I was given this opportunity," he said to himself. "Maybe..."

The pieces were in place, so what more was there left to do?

"I hope this doesn't backfire in the end."

There was no more time to think. It was time to act.

Chapter 1718: Strong Enemy

The Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array had no one singular target. Instead, it improved the prowess of every single individual that was using it in unison.

Compared to that, the array that Long Jianyu and his soldiers used was one that put all of the burden of the battle on a single person, while also making that single person tremendously powerful.

While Alex definitely had the superior technique of all, given that he alone was the target of the people in front of him, the superior technique didn't help him all that much.

Alex swung Midnight, throwing out a fiery slash at Long Jianyu, filled with Dao of Cutting and True Fire Dao.

Long Jianyu attacked as well, his slashes creating massive roots in the sky that clashed against Alex's attacks. There was some sort of dao to the roots and that made it strong enough to overcome Alex's attack.

The two threw out multiple attacks, through which Alex realized that coming out on top would be an impossible task without outside help.

Alex blocked a single attack from Long Jianyu that managed to slip through the barrage and was sent flying backward. He feared that the man in front of him now had a battle prowess of Saint Transformation 7th realm, if not more.

While the 100 blood beasts only gave Alex a bump of 2 realms, the man in front of him had grown by 3 or more realms. This was not something Alex could handle.

'Dammit!' Alex thought. 'How is he so strong?'

He was getting angry at the thought that the man in front of him was most likely going to beat him if he didn't run away. Seeing him had reminded Alex of Yao Ning, whose death he hadn't properly mourned yet. He wanted revenge for her against any of the Eastern Continent soldiers he could find for now, so the thought of not being able to get it was aggravating.

'I will kill them all!' Alex could feel the vexation inside of him growing, and the rage made him want to see every one of the soldiers dead.

"Attack them!" he gave a simple command to his blood beasts who were doing nothing but standing around.

As soon as they were ordered, the Blood Beasts flew toward the group of soldiers behind Long Jianyu, who Alex assumed could not fight back.

At the same time, he himself rushed toward Long Jianyu, taking advantage of the fact that he was somewhat distracted by the many beasts that went for the soldiers.

Long Jianyu wasn't caught off guard and instead attacked back in an instant, blocking the attack that came for him. At the same time, he grew roots that struck Alex in his shoulder, piercing through the Blood armor. It couldn't break through his skin, but it dislocated Alex's shoulder.

Alex switched hands with Midnight and used his left hand to send out an attack while his dislocated shoulder was fixed. At the same time, he watched the beasts arrive upon the soldiers.

If his assumption was right and the soldiers couldn't fight back, then it was going to be a massacre. He wasn't sure if that was truly the case, but Alex looked forward to it.

The soldiers looked scared and none of them moved, but when the first blood beast arrived, they slammed into a large barrier that surrounded the soldiers.

"What?!" Alex shouted in confusion and anger. Then more beasts slammed on that barrier and it became apparent to Alex that there was a barrier protecting the soldiers behind Long Jianyu.

Long Jianyu finally reacted to the beasts and pointed his blade to the side toward a large chunk of the Blood Beasts. Nearly a hundred different sharp roots grew from where he was, and they shot through the sky toward the many beasts.

The beasts Alex had brought out were strong. But against the current Long Jianyu, they were not even a small issue.

The large roots pierced through nearly a dozen different beasts, killing each and every one of the ones it struck in an instant. The Blood Beast's death left behind a bloody mist in the air outside of the glowing barrier.

Alex panicked.

"Retreat!" he shouted at the beasts while quickly attacking Jianyu to catch his attention.

Long Jianyu sent out another set of roots toward the beast as they were retreating and managed to kill half a dozen more. Then he turned back around and stopped Alex's attacks.

"Damn you!" Alex shouted as he swung out more and more attacks, all of which Long Jianyu easily defended against.

Long Jianyu put on a mocking smile as he fought Alex. "You want to kill me?" he asked. "With just this?"

He knew better than anyone just how incredible it was that someone as young as Alex hadn't already died of his attacks. However, mocking an opponent to get them angry enough to start making mistakes was a tried and true formula, and he wasn't going to stop using that just because his opponent was a little talented.

In fact, this seemed like the best time to mock Alex and get him to make mistakes. Long Jianyu wasn't sure why, but Alex was already more angry than he had ever seen him.

'I remember the King of the Southern Continent being a coolheaded man,' he thought. 'What happened that caused him to be this enraged?'

Long Jianyu didn't have all the information of what had transpired in the Eastern Continent that led to Alex being out here. All he knew were pieces of information, which included the fact that Alex was a cripple, and was most likely dead after going against the Dragon Emperor.

Long Jianyu didn't even have the orders to bring back Alex. It was ordered he learned from the other soldiers he met in the ocean after being kicked out from the Southern Continent. He was only following what seemed to be a general order given to everyone.

And now, he was getting close to fulfilling that order.

Long Jianyu looked at the blood beasts that had moved back. Their sudden appearance had surprised him, but he had adapted to the change. He had noticed the fact that it was through an array of these beasts that Alex was strong, but he couldn't go attack these for fear of leaving himself open for Alex.

As he was a single man fighting here, he had to keep his focus on Alex. At least, long enough for the others to make their way here. He had let the other soldiers know where he was, and they were already on their way.

'Still...' Long Jianyu thought as he watched Alex breathe heavily with bloodshot eyes. 'Does he really hate me that much?'

Alex could tell that he was angry and he didn't care about it. His infuriated heart only made him want to kill the person in front of him all that more. He wanted to kill them all.

"Mock me more," Alex said with gritted teeth. "That won't be the last emotion you will show today, but it will be one of the last ones you'll ever show."

Alex felt his muscles tighten as he prepared to attack. Since regular fighting wasn't working against the man, he was going to have to be a lot more reckless.

Chapter 1719: Desperate

Alex fought against Long Jianyu, sending out attack after attack, uncaring of how inefficient his attacks were or how badly he was doing in the fight.

He had a single goal in mind —to kill all the soldiers who were here to kill him or capture him— and he was going to fulfill that goal one way or another. Even if he had to ruin his entire body for it.

Alex and Long Jianyu continued fighting, with Alex always on the losing side, but never actually using. Long Jianyu was must stronger than Alex, but Alex had with him a variety of powers that made it hard for Long Jianyu to easily defeat Alex.

Alex's teleportation was a problem, but it was only a defensive problem and never an offensive problem. He hadn't managed to use his Teleportation skill to teleport into the barrier behind Long Jianyu, and thus the soldiers behind him were safe. Instead, he only used it to dodge Long Jianyu's attacks when it was too hard to handle.

That did mean that Long Jianyu would continue being stronger than Alex, but he would never actually beat him without catching him off guard somehow.

Another problematic thing about Alex's fighting was that he had just so many different Dao that Long Jianyu could never predict just what was coming next.

Long Jianyu only had 2 Dao learned in all of his life. One was the Dao of plants, which had little use in fighting, and the next was the Dao of Roots, which was a little better in fights.

However, those 2 Daos could never be compared to Alex's dozen. Sometimes there would be a Fire attack, and sometimes a Metal. Sometimes he would get attacked with a Yang palm and then another time be attacked with Space itself.

There were also other attacks that Alex used that were annoying for Long Jianyu to handle. He was jealous of Alex's Sword Aura, and absolutely horrified by the continuous mental attacks that seemed to come with every other slash of his sword.

Alongside that, from time to time, there was also a crimson glow to his attack, which improved his power for some reason. Long Jainyu had failed to figure out what it was.

All in all, fighting against Alex was going poorly for him, even though he was winning.

The fight went on for nearly 20 minutes, with each party continuously sending out attacks. Long Jianyu was starting to get somewhat tired from the relentless battle where each attack was the best he could do.

He wanted to rest, but this wasn't the time. Alex was doing much worse than him.

Alex's state was absolutely haggard. His mind was a ball of confusion and madness. He had been using his Dao so much that his head felt like it would split open any second, but he still kept using it. He couldn't think straight at this point and the only thing he could think was that he needed to kill everyone in front of him.

He could hear his own heartbeat in his ears. The smell of blood filled his nose and that was all he could smell. An acrid taste filled his mouth, one that Alex hadn't even noticed.

Alex's eyes were not just bloodshot anymore either. Small dark veins were growing in the whites of his eyes. His vision was dark around the corners with only a small section in front of him in clear view.

Alex didn't know what was happening, but he was simply too maddened to worry about it. His only worry right now was how to kill the man in front of him.

He continued his attacks, his might growing more painful each second. Thoughts were distant for Alex now, with only the instinct to kill driving him forward.

As the fighting continued, Alex started taking on more damage than he could handle. His body was wounded all over from the attacks, but they healed instantly, and he could go back to the fight.

He continued fighting, taking on more and more wounds as more time went on.

The first thing Alex stopped using was Dao. He wasn't even aware that he had stopped using Dao. He simply did. That made his attacks very much weaker, while not lessening the pain and madness that filled his mind.

Long Jianyu was starting to get tired too and was quite low on Qi, but his victory was just around the corner, so he continued.

Alex fought for some time and then stopped using his blood in the battle as well. Once his Blood armor was destroyed, it no longer showed up again despite him being able to use it.

As the fighting continued, Alex next stopped using his Sword Aura and Sword Qi, using Sword Intent basically out of instinct.

Around this time, the other soldiers arrived and surrounded Alex.

Immediately, they started attacking Alex from all directions. Alex did his best to stop the attacks, but he was being bombarded all around and in his current state, there wasn't much he could do.

Surprisingly, it wasn't pain that came out on top of all of this. It was anger.

Alex was furious at the situation and lashed out wherever he could, but Long Jianyu was already next to him and stopping any attacks that could be dangerous for the others.

Alex felt himself losing connections to things somewhere in the back of his mind. It took him a while to realize that his blood beasts were also fighting the newly arrived individuals and were doing quite horribly as well.

They were dying one by one while putting up somewhat of a fight, but not one good enough.

"AAAAARRRH!" he screamed and swung Midnight, trying to cut anyone he could. It didn't matter who he attacked anymore. He just wanted to kill. He wouldn't care if the one he attacked right now was his own beast.

Alex attacked on instinct, his confused mind no longer capable of sustaining thoughts long enough to form a coherent battle plan. There was no skill or technique to his attacks. It was simply random attacks filled with energy that he was already running low on.

Long Jianyu relaxed a lot as the fight continued. He knew that it was only a matter of time before Alex lost. He was on his last leg already and was doing what any desperate animal does when cornered.

Long Jianyu was strong enough now that Alex's suicidal attacks did not matter to him anymore. He simply blocked the attacks, while slashing back.

He had seen Alex's body regenerate from even cut limbs in a matter of seconds, so he wanted to see how long he could continue to do that.

Long Jianyu continued attacking and defending, while the others fought the beasts made of blood. 'Finish that already,' he thought with a hidden sigh. Just how weak was the Scale legion that they couldn't fight against these weak beasts either?

Alex attacked again, his sword swinging directly for Long Jianyu.

Long Jianyu attacked back in defense and the two attacks clashed. Long Jianyu's eyes immediately narrowed in a hint of confusion.

Something was different about the attack just now. He looked at Alex and saw a phenomenon around his body that he had never seen before.

"What... is going on with him?"

Chapter 1720: Blinded Fury

Rage was all Alex felt.

Rage, and a burning desire to kill all those that stood in his way.

Alex swung Midnight and struck Long Jianyu's sword, not even realizing that was what he was doing. The massive clash let out shockwaves that passed beyond the many soldiers that surrounded him.

Long Jianyu's eyes widened in fear. He wasn't mistaken at all. Something was indeed happening here. Alex was getting stronger somehow.

Long Jianyu pushed Alex back and threw out an attack to send him away. The long battle was getting to him. He should have not fought so hard early on.

Alex was hit right in the right thing and had a large wound there. It healed quickly as it always did, but this time around there was a black ooze that was left behind where the wound had healed.

It remained for just a few seconds though, and quickly entered back into Alex's body.

Alex shook his head from the pain. He breathed in and out, letting out dark mist whenever he did. His eyes were getting more and more black veins except for the purple pupils that he got from the Demon Eyes.

It was not just his eyes where the veins were showing up, however. They were now starting to show all around his body.

'What is going on?' Long Jianyu thought as he watched Alex let out haggard breath, like a rabid man. 'Is he using some sort of forbidden technique?'

Alex flew back toward Long Jianyu and started attacking more aggressively. His swings had no rhyme or reason to them, and most of them were even lacking sword Intent at this point.

Long Jianyu fought back, and with each strike, he realized that Alex was growing stronger and stronger, exponentially. This was bad.

"You all, help me!" Long Jianyu shouted before pushing Alex back away from him.

The others left the fight with the blood beasts and came to aid the commander. Many of them let out attacks toward Alex, all of which struck him directly. It created a massive explosion in the sky with winds buffeting against them.

Alex's aura nearly vanished after the attack, almost feeling as though he was near death.

When the smoke cleared and Alex was seen again, he was falling through the air with a missing head, left hand, and part of his right torso. His Qi gave out and he fell through the air, falling into the ocean far down below.

Long Jianyu looked around in surprise. He looked to the others who had come to his aid and nodded toward them.

"Thank you," he said quickly as he started breathing heavily himself. The battle had been a hard one and it had taken a lot out of him. He barely had any Qi left at this point. "If you hadn't come in time, I would—"

The water exploded out in a white spray and from underneath it, Alex flew toward Long Jianyu.

Long Jianyu felt the hair on his neck stand on its end as he watched the battle-crazed Alex fly up, leaving behind what seemed like a trail of black aura.

Like a trail of darkness.

"Damn you! Why won't you die?!"

Long Jianyu had nothing left to use that would work against the man in front of him. Nothing but Immortal Qi.

He used his Immortal Qi and he used his Dao of Roots to create a massive root that flew toward Alex at an incredible speed. He aimed for Alex's heart. If he could destroy the heart, he would win.

And with how strong the attack was, there was no chance for Alex to win at all.

His only worry was that Alex would teleport, but he hadn't done so for a while now, so he felt a little more confident.

The roots left behind explosions in the air just by their sheer speed and arrived right at Alex, targeting his heart.

And then, they struck Alex's heart.

The large roots went through Alex's chest, coming out of the other side with a blood mist of the matter that made up the parts of Alex that were where it had it. That included not just Alex's heart, but also most of his ribs, his lungs, and even parts of his stomach and liver.

There was also a suspicious amount of black in the red that was left behind.

The attack was successful, and Long Jianyu left with a breath of relief.

But Alex didn't fall. He didn't die.

His now fully black eyes were staring directly at Long Jianyu and he was still proceeding. The roots tore open the entire left side of Alex's body and passed through while Alex continued up without stopping.

There was now a massive chunk missing from his torso, but his body held and the hole grew smaller in a matter of seconds. Even when his heart was destroyed, Alex came back to the fight again.

"This can't be!" Long Jianyu's burst of surprise was all that he could let out.

Alex burst out with speed as soon as he was away from the root and he arrived right in front of the man. Even as he arrived, he was already mid-swing, and he easily cut through the man in half diagonally.

The two halves of Long Jianyu started to slide off of each other, but Alex was still not done. He swung Midnight again and cut him at a different angle. Then again and again.

Alex only stopped when he was struck by multiple people from the back and was blown away.

Long Jianyu's many pieces fell to the ocean with no one even managing to save him in the end.

And then their eyes fell on Alex who was low on aura but seemed ready to kill them all. He breathed black in and out, and his body was covered in black veins at this point.

Even Midnight seemed to lose its starry luster in his hands now.

Alex grunted like a beast and went back to attack.

Not a single one remaining was even close to being strong enough to fight him. Not alone, not together.

Alex cut through the men like a farmer going through his matured crops. Like a butcher preparing for the morning's sale, he cut through the men that were around him with not a single care for whether they were fighting back or not.

It didn't matter to Alex that he was being attacked. He had stopped using Qi in his defense a long time ago, so all the attacks that landed on him were generally strong enough to hurt him.

However, thanks to the Undying God's Physique, the wounds healed just as quickly as they appeared, leaving behind only the pain of the wound. The pain was the last thing that would bother Alex at this point.

He killed soldiers --men and women-- one after another. It didn't matter to him that they were fighting back. It didn't matter that they were running away. It didn't matter that some of them begged to not be killed.

He killed them all the same, their bodies falling into the ocean to be swallowed by the cold water.

Alex's eyes fell on the group of soldiers who were trying to use their arrays on the other soldiers who were fighting him. However, each one of them was falling to him, so they were pretty much useless.

The group of soldiers panicked and thought of what they could do. But with even their commander falling to Alex, they knew they had no chance. So, the best course of action was to remain in the formation they were in and hope that they would survive here.

The barrier rippled from Alex's single hit. Then he struck it again and it rippled harder. Then, with the third strike, it broke apart.

Instantly, all 140 soldiers that were there started attacking Alex with all sorts of techniques and attacks.

Alex took on every single one of the attacks and flew to the soldiers before killing them one by one.

Many soldiers fled, some unharmed, some very much wounded. Quite a few soldiers had to run away with only their souls.

The majority, however, died to Alex. And he hadn't even used any fancy techniques.

All Alex did was slash them at close combat.

Alex attacked blindly in every direction, cutting those who he knew were close. He attacked based on instinct, hitting everything that moved. The feedback that he got through his sword when he cut someone was the only thing that kept him going.

He continued swinging, hitting whatever he came across. He killed it and moved on to the next one.

Around that point, he started hearing something that broke the peace in his mind that came with the madness.

It was a voice. Whose voice, he did not know. All he knew was that it was a voice. Someone was talking to him.

Alex did not pay any attention. He continued fighting, and when he had no opponents, he moved to find them.

Alex was unsure how long had passed since he had started fighting, but seeing as he had more enemies to fight, he did not stop.

The voice called for him again and again, and that irritated him. Who was calling for him when he had people to kill? If he found that person, he would kill him too.

The voice got loud, loud enough that he could make out the words now.

"Kid, stop!" the voice called.

Alex wasn't sure whose voice it was. He paused for a moment to figure that out.

That was all the help Godslayer needed for what he had to do next.