

Alchemy 1741

Chapter 1741: In The Throne Room

Scarlet stared down at the men and women who knelt before her. Everyone ranging from the Elders to Zhou Linfan to Alex's family, including Alex himself, knelt in front of her.

"Rise!" Scarlet ordered and everyone slowly got back up.

Alex could feel the strong aura that moved around Scarlet, the aura that made him believe that even if the sky fell tomorrow, she would keep them safe.

It was a very reassuring aura.

"Congratulations, Your Majesty," Alex spoke first.

The others followed quickly, giving their own congratulations to Scarlet with a look of reverence in their eyes.

Scarlet smiled slightly. "Thank you," she said as she looked at her hands. "I can finally fit in with you all, don't you think?"

"Uhh... you will still stand out, one way or another," Alex said. He looked at her face and was surprised at just how beautiful her human face was.

He remembered seeing it before once, but it was just an image from someone else's memory. The real thing was obviously extremely better.

Scarlet turned toward the other people down the hallway who had stopped to stare at them all. Most were in awe at what was happening without understanding it at all, but some had understood and were in more awe because of that.

"Let us all find some privacy," Scarlet said and started walking toward the throne room.

Everyone followed quickly and filled up the palace hall. Even there, many congratulated Scarlet for not just her breakthrough but also her new appearance.

Soon, Scarlet started to find all the words of congratulations annoying.

"Let us move to other topics," she said, sitting atop the throne where Alex usually sat in her absence. With her present there, he was seated on top of another throne, but a smaller one.

Scarlet turned toward Alex and said, "Now that I'm done with my cultivation, I can take upon my responsibility as the Queen. You will be free of most burdens. You should be able to use this free time wisely, can't you?"

"I will make the most out of it," Alex said.

"I must admit that I do not know much aside from what Whisker has told me and what I could figure out by your actions. Do fill me in on what I have missed while I was in closed cultivation."

Alex followed her request and gave her a short but detailed summary of what had happened until now, including how he survived and what had been done to those guards.

"We've declared war, so everyone is preparing for a battle," Alex finished.

Scarlet frowned a little and her eyes unfocused a little. "I might have been able to help a little but my oaths strengthened again after I broke through earlier," she said softly.

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Alex asked.

"Nothing," Scarlet quickly said. "Do whatever you can. Our primary focus is to bring back those alchemists who are held hostage by the Emperor. Our secondary objective is to take revenge for Yao Ning and our soldier's death and for the Dragon Emperor trying to kill our King."

"However, we also must be realistic here," Scarlet said as she turned toward Alex. "I'm going to be honest, the chances of us winning is... very low."

"I know," Alex said with a grimaced look. "That is the one thing that has been worrying me this entire time. The Dragon Emperor is strong, but he's not the only strong person there."

"Even his Legion has strong individual, that on their own would be on par with our strongest fighters. But on top of that, they have that special array that makes them gain so much strength at once."

The elders slowly nodded. That would indeed be a problem.

"We have an array too," Scarlet said. "You have one, don't you? How good would that be?"

Alex thought for a bit. "If... if our soldiers don't have to stray from the battle and can fight all together in a single location, we can improve everyone's power by 4 realms."

A wave of small shocks ran through the room, emerging from people who weren't aware of the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array.

"How many minimum for that?" Scarlet asked.

"10 thousand," Alex said. "We have 3 times that number right now."

Scarlet nodded slowly. "But they are much weaker still compared to the Eastern Continent," she said. "I might be able to help with that though, but we still need to—"

The door to the room opened and Bai Jingshen strutted in proudly, followed behind by his seven wives and Pearl.

"My apologies, I couldn't wait for someone to announce my arrival," he said as he walked to the front. The elders quickly stepped away from their seats, making room for the 8 new 'humans' to sit.

Scarlet frowned a little. "You really don't have much etiquette, do you?" she asked.

Bai Jingshen simply laughed. "I felt your breakthrough from the Western Continent and came to congratulate you. Don't mind my lack of etiquette for that."

The other 7 women beside Bai Jingshen respectfully bowed toward Scarlet and gave her their congratulations.

While Scarlet was still much weaker than them, she was still a Heavenly beast, a mighty Vermilion Bird, and was thus deserving of their respect.

"Sister Scarlet? Whoa! You're a human now? Congratulations on breaking through to the Immortal realm," Pearl said with a bright voice. "I'm so happy for you."

Scarlet sighed and couldn't be mad anymore. A small smile formed on her face. "Thank you, Pearl."

She looked back at Bai Jingshen with a slight frown back on her face. She didn't remember sensing any spiritual sense from him at all, so she wondered how he even knew where they were gathered. Had he just followed the aura?

"Why did you hurry to get here?" she asked. "Surely you didn't come here this quickly just to congratulate me."

"No, we were all ready to come anyway," Bai Jingshen said. "Your breakthrough just gave us the excuse to leave. We have a stake in your upcoming war, and so we wanted to help too."

"We? You are going to lend beasts for this war?" Scarlet asked. "I... don't remember many strong beasts remaining in your realm."

"I have a few," Bai Jingshen said. "I can lend you about 20 strong beasts for most of the leaders of the many legions. They will come in handy."

"That will be very helpful," Scarlet said. "Still, this is not quite enough, is it."

"If we could somehow drag him out of the Eastern Continent, I could easily deal with him. But so long as he stays in there, he is out of my reach," Bai Jingshen said with an annoyed look on his face.

"For now, we just need to find a way for them to deal with him on their own," Scarlet said.

"Don't tell me you're helping. I should be fine as long as I'm not instigating the war, isn't it?" Scarlet asked.

"Maybe," Bai Jingshen said. "Still, I would be careful if I were you. Give them the resources and knowledge, but don't give them any commands."

Scarlet slowly nodded. "Damn these oaths."

Chapter 1742: Squid

"We will give you the resources," Scarlet told Alex. "The rest, unfortunately, you will have to plan yourself."

A few minutes after that, the meeting was over.

Alex left the throne room, making his way back to his room, slightly frowning at the thought of getting no help in terms of the ideas of warfare

He would have to rely all on himself to plan the entire war and how he would go about it.

That was a troublesome situation. Surely a nearly 20 thousand-year-old Immortal would know a lot more than him, a mortal who wasn't even 100 years old.

Alex frowned, but worrying wasn't going to help him. He needed to make a concrete plan, but that likely wasn't going to help him either since the Dragon Emperor was most certainly better at coming up with war tactics.

'No,' Alex thought. 'No matter how much I plan, it will all come down to nothing if we can't kill the Dragon Emperor. What we need more than anything else right now is for me to have a strong enough cultivation base to fight him.'

Zhou Linfan was guaranteed to aid him in battle, as he was going to help them in the war entirely just so he could fight and kill the Dragon Emperor.

Hannah was the other person who could fight, and by the time of the war, she would most likely be stronger than the Dragon Emperor too. However, she had no battle skills and it was unlikely that the Dragon Emperor would even dare fight her and put others to distract her.

Not to mention, Hannah hadn't killed anyone before, so that put extra pressure on her which wasn't good during battle.

Aside from the two, there weren't many others who could fight the Dragon Emperor and survive. In the end, Alex was the only last one who could fight, so if he wanted to defeat the Dragon Emperor, he needed to be ready.

Alex was back in his room and had started cultivating once again. He hadn't had the chance to properly cultivate for the past month as he had forced himself to make as many pills as he could for everyone that could need it.

Now that Scarlet was out and about, he decided to leave that task to his mother and finally get serious about his own cultivation.

He was going to break through as soon as he could and force himself to keep doing that even when his cultivation base hadn't properly stabilized.

So, for that, he had to eat another beast core.

This time, the core he ate was from a beast in the Saint Soul 7th realm, and it quickly became apparent what beast it was when a squid formed in Alex's spiritual sea.

Alex was about to attack it when he paused and remembered the last beast core he had eaten. That beast had talked and seemed somewhat aware of who it was. Was this beast the same?

"Can you talk?" Alex asked the squid.

The massive squid turned around slowly, its unusually high 22 tentacles floating around in the air, as though it was in the water.

The squid looked at Alex, and suddenly its color changed to red. "You killed me!" it shouted out of nowhere, surprising Alex, and attacked immediately.

It used its spiritual energy to form spheres of water around itself, from where spears of water were shot toward Alex.

Alex quickly created a shield in front of him, blocking all the attacks. But the squid attacked again.

"I'll kill you!" it shouted.

Alex fought back, defending, trying to understand what the situation was. Last time, the eel hadn't realized what had happened and Alex had to tell it that it had died.

This time around, however, the beast knew it had died and it wanted to kill Alex for it.

'Why so different?' Alex thought. The only difference he could see between the two beasts, other than their slight cultivation base difference was the fact that the eel had died suddenly during Alex's rampage.

As for the squid, it had attacked Alex before the whole ordeal and Alex had killed it just because he was searching for battles for blood and core.

'It remembers our fight?' Alex thought. Maybe that had given enough time for the core to take on the impression left behind by the nascent soul of the beast.

'So it is the timing that matters?' Alex thought.

He quickly got rid of the beast, killing it in just 2 more attacks once he thought he understood the situation. After that, he appeared back outside in his real body and started cultivating as the tremendous amount of energy from the beast's core flowed in through his meridians.

Alex cultivated as much as he could using the Qi from the beast core for nearly 2 days before it ran out. By that time, he felt as though he was halfway through the next bottleneck, and with a significantly strong beast core or two, he could enter the next realm.

That... should not have been a right feeling at all.

Alex frowned. He knew cultivating quickly had its downsides, but... why couldn't he find any? He cultivated for a while longer, searching for instabilities but found nothing again.

'This is so weird,' he thought. What was going on?

'I have to ask someone,' Alex thought.

He found one of the elders first and talked to him about his situation, but the elder had no idea what Alex was talking about.

An instability in one's cultivation base was supposed to be apparent for anyone who had properly hit a bottleneck and broke through beforehand. In Alex's case, he should have been fully aware.

If he didn't, then something was most certainly wrong with his cultivation base. Or maybe most certainly right.

Alex thought for a bit and decided to ask Scarlet next. As a beast, she would be more aware of how it was to cultivate using a beast core.

"We don't cultivate using beast core," Scarlet answered. "In fact, our body simply absorbs the beast's core and makes us strong on its own. It... just happens. Maybe the same is true for you too?"

Alex frowned a little at the information. "Do you have to break through manually when you eat a beast core or does it just happen too?"

"It just happens," Scarlet said.

"Then that is not the same as for me," Alex said with a sigh. "I should be feeling a feeling of instability, but I don't. I'm worried it's a false promise from my body and if I accept this, I will have problems in the future."

"Honestly, I don't know," Scarlet said. "You should ask Bai Jingshen. He knows more than I do thanks to his master."

"Oh... okay," Alex said. "I'll go to him."

Alex found out that Bai Jingshen had left on a trip with his wives to go see the rest of the continent while they were there.

They had left Pearl behind with Helen and the rest so he could spend his time with them which they had taken away for the past few months after his return.

However, at a single call from Pearl, the White Tiger arrived back in the palace within minutes.

"What do you need help with?" Bai Jingshen asked. "This better be worth it for me to leave my wives alone on the trip."

Chapter 1743: Stability

Alex explained his situation as clearly as he could to Bai Jingshen, and Pearl listened to it completely from start to end.

"Stability, huh?" Bai Jingshen said with a thoughtful look. "I know a thing or two about this. I'm sure I can explain what is going on with you."

"Oh, please do tell, brother Shen," Alex asked.

"Your cultivation base feels stable because of a simple reason," the White Tiger said, and Alex listened intently, hoping to make some revelations.

"The reason being... it is stable."

Alex frowned a little and questioned the analysis. "It is stable?" he asked. "It certainly feels like it, but surely it can't be so."

"It can be so," Bai Jingshen said. "Do you know what stability means in a cultivator's cultivation base?"

Alex frowned a little. Stability was an abstract thing that he could only explain with a feeling or whether it was or not. Could he explain what it was?

"I'm not sure exactly," Alex said. "I must admit I've taken it for granted all this time."

Bai Jingshen nodded. "All do. But it is only the ones that understand it that can go far with their cultivation base. Even Immortals usually don't care about this, but my master taught me this very early on, so I knew this from childhood."

Alex's eyes widened slightly. Was he going to learn more about the so-called Godkiller? He was interested in whatever bits of information he could find about this being.

"First of all, let us start with a simple question that I'm curious if you can answer," Bai Jingshen said. "Why can you cultivate faster than your peers."

"Uhh... because I am talented?" Alex asked. "Because I'm a human? Pure humans are better at cultivation."

"Yes, but why? What does it mean that you are talented? You surely know it's not referring to your ability to learn skills or dao. It's talking about your body's potential, but what does it mean that you have potential? What exactly is that potential?"

Alex was stumped. "I don't know," he said. "I never thought about things that deeply."

Bai Jingshen nodded. "Then let me ask you another question," he said. "You should have a better understanding of this one. What needs to happen before you are ready to enter the next cultivation realm."

Alex thought for a moment. "Let's see. The main thing is that our Qi must improve in quality and our Dantian should become more spacious."

"And?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"And?" Alex asked back. "There's more? I don't know. Do meridians have to improve perhaps? I don't suppose the Spiritual Roots improve at all."

"They do not, but Meridians do. And they are not the only ones," Bai Jingshen explained. "Your body has to improve too. Your skin, your bones, your organs, your muscles, everything has to improve slowly."

"How else do you think your spiritual sea expands as your cultivation improves? How else does your blood aura improve as your breakthrough?" Bai Jingshen asked.

Alex felt many things click into place in his mind and his eyes went wide in shock at the revelation. "I hadn't even thought about that. Is the improvement to one's body and spirit not a benefit of one's rise in cultivation base, but a requirement instead?"

Alex had always thought of improvement to one's body to be something rewarded for reaching a higher cultivation base.

"It is in a way both," Bai Jingshen explained. "Your body only improves when it is ready to be improved, just like your Qi. But you have to prepare it to improve, which is where the stability factor comes along."

"If you only improve your Qi, and not the rest of your body, you will have higher Qi when you breakthrough, but Your body won't get the benefit. And when your body doesn't get that benefit, you can tell exactly what is wrong with it. That is what instability is."

"You need at minimum a better dantian to improve your Qi and reach the next level. You can do so without it if you force it, but that means you will have to stay in the next realm for a longer period of time fixing that."

"Past that, you need better meridians. If meridians aren't robust, you will only go a few realms before they can't handle the force of your own Qi."

"For body, I believe you have more flexibility than your dantian and meridians, but they still need to be improved. In the end, it is your body that will have to handle being constantly filled with Qi, and if the Qi is too strong, it will destroy itself."

Alex nodded continuously as Bai Jingshen spoke, slowly understanding the intricacies of what he had been unknowingly doing, what everyone had been unknowingly doing this entire time.

"Qi deviation, in the end, is just your own body seizing control of your cultivation base and reverting it down to a level where it can handle it again."

Both Pearl and Alex were left standing in shock as cultivation as a whole itself became clearer.

Bai Jingshen could see the wheels in their head turned and smiled.

"Now, can you tell me what it means to be talented in cultivation?" Bai Jingshen asked, bringing back the first question.

Alex had some thought about it now. "Talented usually means one is capable of cultivating fast or hitting bottlenecks fast. Which means their body must be accepting Qi fast, raising in level quickly."

Alex looked up. "That's what it means, right? That would make sense that they don't have to work as hard to get the same result."

Alex could understand now why humans were talented. Their body, skin, muscles, and all were capable of being refined using Qi much more than a hybrid's body was.

Bai Jingshen nodded. "Now, going back to your original question as to why you don't feel an instability. I said it is because your body isn't unstable. That is because while you did break through not long ago and are forcing your way through to the next realm, your body is already strong enough to handle the incoming breakthrough. Your mind is already so far stronger too."

"Not to mention, your blood should be so much stronger than everything else. So, there is little for your body to get ready for before you yourself are ready to breakthrough."

Alex nodded the entire time. "So that is why I don't feel any instability," he said. "That... is very good to know."

"You're lucky in that you can you don't need to cultivate everything at once. You can cultivate your body if that is lacking, improve your spiritual energy if that is lacking, or deal with your blood. Others don't have that luxury."

"I understand," Alex said. "Thank you for explaining this all to me, Brother Shen."

Bai Jingshen stood up straight. "Since I'm done here, I'll be leaving. My wives are waiting for me,"

"Thank you," Alex said with a bow.

Bai Jingshen flew away, leaving Pearl and Alex alone.

"What now?" Pearl asked. "Are you going to go back into cultivation?"

Alex thought for a bit. "No," he said. "Since I have the luxury of choosing what I want to improve, I think it is about time I start dealing with all the blood I have gathered."

"I can't let it slowly lose energy inside my Soul Space. Time to make use of it."

Chapter 1744: Absorbing Blood

The nearly 3-kilometer wide sphere of floating blood-red water had remained in the darkness of the void inside of Alex's soul space that it almost looked as though it was something made of smooth red marble instead of being liquid.

There were no fluctuations to the object, no disturbance of any sort. In a world with no gravity, it had found its shape a long time ago.

The water was also tens of thousands of kilometers away from anything else in his body, so it had remained perfectly safe until now.

However, Alex did wonder if the life energy that his Soul Space seemed to form all the time had caused any problem. He hoped not.

Alex had tried figuring out if there were ways to bring out just the blood from the bloody water, but he couldn't find any. So, he was now forced to do it the normal way.

Alex brought out Memory and made it as large as he could, which ended up being as large as his entire room, then, he filled it with the bloody water and jumped inside it, sinking to the bottom of the cauldron full of water.

Then, he absorbed all the blood aura that was inside of the water.

During the first few minutes, Alex wasn't even sure if anything was happening. It was only afterward that he felt the faintest blood aura flowing into his body and only then did he know that he was doing the right thing.

He continued absorbing, albeit very slowly due to the diluted concentration of the blood in the water, and kept it going for nearly 2 hours. By that time, he realized that he had cultivated all that he could using the blood in the water. Whatever remained, while still full of Qi, was useless for Alex's blood.

'Is should give this to the two plants,' Alex thought and took back all the water.

He refilled it after a while again and restarted again, going for 2 more hours, absorbing as much blood as he could.

Alex's blood aura was already as strong as Saint Transformation's 5th realm, so the improvement he showed was so very slow that it felt as though he was wasting his time.

But Alex knew he wasn't wasting any time with this, so he kept going. He cultivated for days in a row and didn't even manage to go through just a quarter of the entire amount of blood he had.

'I'm being limited by the size of my room,' Alex thought. While Memory had expanded to fill the entire room, it could grow to be much larger still, so Alex had to use a more spacious place.

After talking to Scarlet, he went to the dome to be in closed cultivation for a few months in total so that he could get through the massive ball of water in his soul space.

Alex cultivated nonstop for 2 more months, going through as much water as he could in the time. He absorbed over 30 thousand liters of the bloody water in a single day, each day.

And yet somehow, the amount in his soul space never seemed to end at all. He had taken in just a bit too much water in the hope of getting all the blood he would have wasted.

While he absorbed 30 thousand liters a day, the total water in his Soul space had originally been 10 billion liters. Which meant that at best, in 1 month, he could only go through a thousandth of the total water.

'This is going to take a long time,' Alex thought. 'Maybe I don't have to absorb it all.'

That was the only solution he had in this situation as unfortunate as it was.

Alex gave up on the water for some time and started absorbing the pure blood instead that he had gathered from the few beasts and people he killed while he wasn't in a frenzy just yet.

The amount of blood in Memory was barely a tenth of the total volume it could handle with its current size, and yet, the potency was off the charts.

Alex could spend another 3 months with the blood water and not absorb half as much blood aura as this small amount of blood gave.

Alex half submerged himself in the blood, ignoring the smell around him, and focused entirely on the Blood Absorption technique.

Slowly, the technique began working, and like thirsty beasts finally given water, Alex's body drank the blood aura like the sweet nectar of life itself.

There was a lot of aura to process and a lot of improvements to be made, and his body did it with gratitude.

Alex felt the improvement in his blood slowly go past the Saint Transformation 5th realm and into the 6th realm, and even move slightly past that by the time there was nothing more to be absorbed.

Alex left the cauldron and took in all the blood to feed to the plants. Then, he sat on the ground of the forest in the dome and started cultivating right there.

He had spent plenty of time absorbing blood and had finally improved, so it was time to improve his cultivation base as well to match his blood cultivation in strength.

Alex ate another beast core to cultivate. This time around, it was a core he knew he hadn't killed while he had been sane. The reason for choosing one such as that was to experiment on exactly if he was correct or not.

He wanted to see if the beast remembered him or not.

The seahorse beast that formed in Alex's mind did not recognize him at all. It was different from the first beast in that it seemed quite arrogant and much less confused, but it hadn't recognized Alex like the squid had.

"I'm dead, aren't I? How did that happen?" the Seahorse asked.

It seemed it was still aware of its own demise, just not the situation surrounding it.

"I killed you," Alex said simply.

The seahorse got angry and attacked Alex. The next instant, it was dead.

"Well that was different," he said to himself. "So it's not just impression, but their personality too. This one wasn't confused but angry. I will have to do a bit more experiments."

Alex appeared back outside and absorbed the energy of the core that now flowed through his body. It was a lot of energy from one core and he absorbed it all thoroughly, improving everything he needed to.

He cultivated the next two days with that energy and at the end of it, he felt ready to break through, although due to the side effect of the exceptional cultivation pill, he had to wait a week to cultivate again as his meridians were very stressed right then.

Alex spent the next week underwater once again, improving his blood aura just that much.

Then, when he was ready, he cultivated for the next 2 days using no external aids this time, and by the end broke through once again.

Alex had now reached Saint Soul 6th realm.

He still had around a year left before he needed to go back to the Eastern Continent, so he decided to keep going and see just how far he could go with his cultivation in that time.

Chapter 1745: Quick Progress

Alex decided to break through to the Saint Soul 7th realm as fast as he could. However, by the end of the Saint Soul 6th realm, Alex felt the instability return to his cultivation base.

It was still only a feeling, but it was a feeling he understood and recognized immediately.

"What is unstable?" Alex wondered. It wasn't right, but he decided to stop and do an experiment to see what was up.

It had only been a month since he had last broken through, so a lot could be a problem. In this case, it was time for him to go through each problem and check.

Alex first made a list of all the things that could give him the feeling of instability in his body.

Mainly, there were 5 things in general that one could improve before their cultivation base was stable.

They were Dantian, Meridian, Blood, Body, and Spirit.

When all of these aspects of one's being were ready, only then did a person feel their cultivation base be stable.

Alex knew for a fact that Dantian was the most important, followed by the Meridians. But of the last 3, he did not know the order of importance at all.

Maybe it was dependent on what needed more help. Maybe there was none more important than the other? Or maybe he just had more to learn about these three.

Alex knew for certain blood was important, not because of Blood aura, but because of Blood Essence.

"What is my instability from then?" Alex wondered. He decided to try out and improve everything one by one until the instability went away.

First came his body.

Alex got the Mountain Crushing artifact back from his father, who had been using it for the past many months with a very impressive result.

While his cultivation base had yet to hit even the Saint realm, his body cultivation had already crossed the threshold of the Saint Transformation realm and went beyond it.

Especially with the artifact that Alex had brought back, the improvement he had shown was so massive, that Graham had legitimately become one of the strongest individuals in the entire Southern Continent.

After bringing back the Mountain Crushing artifact, Alex spent a week doing nothing but improving his physical strength.

He had been in Saint Soul 5th realm back in the Eastern Continent and hadn't had the time to improve since then, so this time around he stayed in the artifact until he reached Saint Soul 6th realm with his physical strength.

Once he reached that level, he stopped and checked if the instability still remained in his body.

It did.

'That was not it then?' Alex wondered.

Alex very much doubted it was his blood, but he still spent a week absorbing the bloody water inside of him and improved ever so slightly.

That made no changes to the instability he felt at all either.

Then, it was time to check his soul and spirit.

Alex didn't even bother trying to check if his Spiritual strength was the problem. That was simply not the case and he knew that for a fact.

His spiritual energy was enough to shame a man in his mid Saint Transformation realm and it improved each time he absorbed a beast core, so it only got better.

Even if Alex wanted to, there was nothing he could do to improve it significantly in a small period at all. The hell mask that he used had stopped showing effect long ago, so he had given it to his family for usage.

His Soul on the other hand was something he didn't know how to improve or if it could even be improved.

Alex's nascent soul had grown in size the past year and would continue to grow until it would intangibly occupy the entire dantian.

Alex knew of no way to improve a Nascent Soul other than just cultivating, so he could only do that.

Alex ate a pill and cultivated normally in the end for 3 days before the instability he felt disappeared from his body.

He investigated a little and came to the conclusion that it had in fact been his meridians that had needed to improve.

Alex knew that his Dantian was constantly being refined even when he wasn't cultivating, so that had not been it. Because of the way his body converted regular Qi into Yin Qi, and then he had to draw in Yang Qi to deal with that Yin Qi, the cycle strengthened his Dantian more than he could explain.

Besides, if his Dantian, something that held the Yang source and Yin bead had indeed required to be ready for just the Saint Soul 7th realm, even if it had the Saint Transformation 7th realm equivalent strength of Qi, it would have been laughable.

His Nascent Soul had not been the answer either, because Soul, just like Qi, was something that improved after the breakthrough.

So in the end, Alex came to the conclusion that it had in fact been his meridians that had stopped him from progressing.

Once Alex figured that out, he got back on track with his cultivation schedule, using the beast core only once in a while to give himself a massive boost instead of each time.

Following the routine, within the next 2 months, he managed to reach the Saint Soul 7th realm as well.

Alex's improvement came at a quick rate as he continued at a steady pace and reached the Saint Soul 8th realm after 3 and a half months of cultivation.

Then after that, he ran into a bit of instability once again and had to take a slightly longer time to deal with it, which ended up taking him about 5 months.

Alex's speed in cultivation was fast, but that was not the only thing he had been focusing his time on.

Alex did 2 very crucial things in between his cultivation, or whenever he could find the time.

First, he improved his body cultivation as high as he could. For the past year, he had focused as much time as he could squeeze into his breaks to cultivate this way.

In fact, from time to time, he had even asked his aunt to employ a time-dilation field so he could stay in the Mountain Crushing Artifact for days without having to worry about wasting too much time.

He could only do it once every 2 weeks or so, as using that much time aura left Liz with a headache and a need to take some rest.

Secondly, Alex focused on making blood beasts. With so many cores with him, he had to make as many beasts as he could make.

Alex even requested Bai Jingshen to get him some if he could, and the White Tiger brought back a few dozen beast cores.

The beasts that came from the cores that Bai Jingshen brought back were surprisingly similar to the beasts that lived in the Demonic Forest of the Northern Continent.

Alex asked him if that was where he found these cores, but the Tiger wouldn't answer.

In the end, Alex could only focus back on himself and proceed to break through to the Saint Soul 9th realm, however long it may take him to do so.

Chapter 1746: A Different Experience

When Alex was ready to break through to the Saint Soul 9th realm, there were less than 5 months before he had to absolutely leave for the Eastern Continent.

He sat alone in his room, preparing for the final cultivation session he would sit down for that was not just to regain some Qi.

He took out a pill in his hands and looked at it for a while, before placing it back into his storage. He was so close to breakthrough that he didn't need it.

What he needed was a Beast core that would help him push himself to the edge and further. There were still a few cores that he hadn't turned into a blood beast yet, and of those he chose one from a beast that was in the Saint Transformation 1st realm.

This was the first time he had eaten a core of a beast in the Saint Transformation realm and he wasn't sure what to expect.

Alex ate the beast's core and closed his eyes as his mind pulled him into his Spiritual Sea.

Alex's vision sharpened in the bright but cloudy atmosphere of his spiritual sea, with the silver mountain to his right, now smaller than ever before, and the deep ocean of spiritual energy beneath him.

In front of him, a being formed out of Spiritual energy, taking the shape of what looked like a turtle but with no shell. It had a long neck ending on a circular head, 4 flappers for its limbs, and a short tail, while the remaining body was simply that of a turtle without its shell.

It was a smooth-skinned beast with no scales and a gray body.

The beats floated in the air as if they were swimming in the water itself.

Alex didn't remember killing this beast, so it had to be one of the ones that he killed during the time he could not remember much of.

"I... am not me," the beast spoke slowly. "This is not a soul, is it?"

That was the first time a beast had managed to figure that out without even knowing they had died.

"This is not your Soul," Alex answered. Now that he thought about it, he didn't know if the souls of the beasts had even survived. Most likely they had not.

"No, it's not," the beast replied looking around the spiritual sea. "I remember a battle and you were there. Are you dead too? Or is this your Spiritual sea?"

Had the beast's intelligence grown somewhat past the phase of being obsessed with their emotion at the moment of death?

Saint Soul realm beasts did show that improvement too, but not on the level of the beast in front of Alex.

'What is this?' Alex thought. He got a weird feeling about it all. It was as if... as if he was talking to the real beast that was alive.

"This is my Spiritual sea," Alex answered. "And I was the one that killed you."

The beast turned its head around to Alex sharply, causing Alex to prepare for the fight. "You killed me?" the beast asked.

"I did," Alex answered.

The beast frowned for a moment. "I don't have the final memory of what happened. Did I attack you? I must have been stupid to attack someone so strong as you."

"I... wasn't in my right mind, so I'm not sure," Alex answered. "Chances are I just killed you because you were there."

The beast's eyes remained expressionless for a moment as it simply said, "Oh!"

"You don't seem angry?" Alex asked the beast.

Alex had eaten so many beast cores now that he knew what the beast would do if it were a Saint Soul realm beast. Those beasts mostly acted on emotions.

Most beasts that found they had died, and did not know Alex was the one that killed them would usually be sad. Some would even give up on life just like that.

Meanwhile, those who knew Alex had killed them usually got angry and tried to fight Alex.

However, this beast was breaking the conceptual mold that Alex had formed for the beasts. Were Saint Transformation beasts just that more smart past their death?

"Well, I am angry," the beast said. "But you killed me, and have now trapped me within your spiritual realm. I have no place to get angry again. You would simply kill me."

The beast looked at Alex with pleading eyes. "Please don't kill me," it said. "I have died, but let me live like this in your spiritual realm, at least for a while."

Alex was beyond surprised at this point. Never had a beast begged for him to not kill it inside his spiritual sea before.

Alex didn't even know what to do at this point. Killing a beast that not only had died without any fault but also begged not to be killed was hard for him.

"Fine, I'll let you stay," Alex said after careful consideration. He couldn't see what problems the beast could cause him, and he didn't have the heart to kill it just yet.

Instead, Alex decided to finish up his cultivation base and come back to deal with this problem.

However, when he tried to leave, he found himself unable to.

"Hmm?" Alex frowned. He tried to force himself to leave, but something kept him grounded in the Spiritual sea.

Alex thought for a bit and slowly turned around in horror. It was the beast. He couldn't leave because it was alive.

Its presence was what had brought him here, so if he wanted to leave, he would have to get rid of it.

Alex felt bad, but it was something he had to do. "I'm sorry," he told the beast. "It appears that I cannot leave you alive."

"But you just said..." the beast's eyes were filled with sadness.

"I'm sorry," Alex said. A tempestuous yellow fog escaped from all around him, making its way toward the beast.

The beast stood still, watching the fog slowly drift toward it.

"So beautiful," it said softly as the fog consumed its spiritual body and what little intelligence remained of it.

The fog retreated back into Alex just as quickly as it had escaped and disappeared into his body.

Alex felt a significant improvement in his spiritual sea. Not only had it become stronger all of a sudden, it had also become just that much more wider.

Finally, Alex could leave.

He threw all the emotions and thoughts out of his mind and went back outside where the beast core had begun spreading out its Qi throughout his body.

Alex took the Qi and started cultivating with it. Back and forth, the Qi went around his body, improving every little aspect of his body as it needed to.

At the end of it all, with nothing but a simple will from Alex, the Qi in his body suddenly improved, placing himself on a higher cultivation base.

He had finally arrived in the Saint Soul 9th realm.

Just one more breakthrough would place him in the Saint Transformation realm. However, Alex decided to stop there.

Next would come the Inner Demon, and with a war on the horizon, Alex could not take the chance at all.

Chapter 1747: Pearl

It had been a while since Pearl had broken through to the Saint Core 3rd realm. He had forced his way through his cultivation base, just like Alex had, but his result hadn't been as good.

So, he was a little worried about the upcoming battle. He wanted to help in the war, but he was so weak. Would he even be of any help?

His days had been filled with nothing but cultivation, training, and spending some time with his family. It had been a while since he had seen Alex too, as he was cooped up in his room, cultivating forever.

Pearl was done with another cultivation session and walked out of his room. He went on to check on Helen and the rest before he returned to his grandmothers.

He walked through the palace, feeling the serious atmosphere. None of the servants seemed to be on a particularly happy moon as war was imminent. Most of them were worried about what would happen to them and the continent if the war was lost.

Not only that, many of them had family members in the army that would be taken to war. That was another worry they felt.

Pearl understood their feelings. His own life and many of the lives of his loved ones were hanging on this war as well.

"Mother!" Pearl called when he arrived at Helen's door.

The door opened on its own and a tired Helen peeked out. "Oh, Pearl. Did you come to check on me?" Helen asked. "Come in."

Pearl walked in and saw three cauldrons constantly working. Helen worked on one of them, and on the other one was whisker, focusing as he was in the middle of making a pill.

The third one was for Zhan Luoyang, who had started making pills to aid the army.

At first, she had been quite hesitant about the idea of aiding the people of another continent, but over time she had changed and had been fully accepting of the fact that she needed to do this.

"Do you still have a lot to do?" Pearl asked Helen.

Helen stretched a little. "A lot, yes. A lot," she sighed. "It's never-ending, unfortunately. I keep doing it and more works keep piling up."

She turned around. "What have you been doing, cultivating?" she asked.

"Yes," Pearl said. "Is Father not back?"

"No," Helen said. "He's still keeping away while I need to focus here. I think he's with Ronron nowadays. He said he was going to help her learn how to fight."

Pearl slowly nodded.

Graham had become a strong fighter in the past many years, training each and every day. Since his cultivation base wasn't any good, he was learning to fight physically and had apparently gotten a lot better at it.

Pearl had only seen him in training and not a real battle, so he wasn't sure.

After staying with Helen for a few minutes, Pearl left. Helen needed to get back to work, so Pearl had no reason to remain there at all.

Whisker had kept working hard the entire time he was there, his attention not breaking even once.

Pearl went to go meet with the others. He met up with Liz and saw how she was training hard as well. She had fully planned on helping in the upcoming war, so she was ready for whatever came.

Hannah had reached the peak of the Saint Transformation realm some time ago, so all that was left for her now was to train to fight.

She was still quite amateurish at it, but she kept on training. Long Huan was the same as he never had any interest in fighting, and thus he was training constantly these days.

Zhou Linfan had been the one who trained both of them.

Graham and Ronron were nowhere to be found in the palace. They were most likely training with the army outside the city, and Pearl had no intention of going there right now.

He went to meet Old Alex and Emily and then made his way to his grandmothers.

"Pearl!"

He heard someone calling him in the corridor outside the palace and followed it to see Scarlet walking toward him.

"Sister Scarlet," he called back with a soft smile. "How are you?"

Scarlet walked in her human form, followed by a few of the elders who were always around her.

"Don't mind me, how are you doing? It's been a while since I've seen you. Is your cultivation going well?" she asked.

"I've been making steady progress, Sister," Pearl said. He looked at Scarlet again and couldn't help but feel a little jealous seeing her.

'If I could cultivate just as fast too,' he thought. But of course, Scarlet had only been able to cultivate so quickly because she had once been at this cultivation base and knew the ins and outs of her cultivation journey here.

She knew when she could push herself and when she had to slow down for the sake of her progress. Pearl didn't have that knowledge. He would only end up ruining his cultivation base if he tried that.

"Where are you going?" Scarlet asked. "To meet Alex?"

"Brother? No, I'm going to—"

Pearl paused for a moment. He hadn't noticed it at first, but now that he was focusing on it, Alex was in the direction he was headed.

'But that is the guest area? Did brother go to meet grandpa?' Pearl wondered.

"He's only just broken through. I wonder what he wants with Bai Jingshen now," Scarlet asked. "Anyway, I have matters to take care of. I'll see you around, Pearl."

"See you later, Sister," Pearl said and quickly made his way toward the garden where Bai Jingshen and his wives would be out enjoying the sun.

As Pearl approached, he heard tidbits of what was being talked about.

"—is our one chance though," Ren Xiao spoke.

"I'm somehow both interested and scared of this," Bai Jingshen said. "Are you sure it's possible?"

"I'm very certain," Alex said. "I have done it many times and it has happened every single tim—"

Alex turned around to look at Pearl and his smile widened. "Pearl!" he called out.

"Brother, you're done with your breakthroughs?" Pearl asked as he made his way toward Alex.

"Yes," Alex said and poured out some aura. "Saint Soul 9th realm, see?"

"Congratulations," Pearl said.

"Thanks," Alex said. "Unfortunately, I will have to stop here since I will have to face the Inner Demon in the next one. I most certainly do not wish to face any right now."

"I see," Pearl said.

"Actually," Bai Jingshen suddenly spoke. "I think Pearl is the one that should decide. He has more right to that than we do."

"I wouldn't have done it without his permission in the first place, but you're right. He should be the one that decides it in the end," Alex said.

Pearl looked at both his brother and his great-grandfather, entirely confused.

"Decide? What should I decide?" Pearl asked.

"Your brother here has brought us quite the proposition. Hear him out," Bai Jingshen said.

Alex turned back to Pearl and stared into his eyes.

"Pearl..." he spoke softly. "Do you want to meet your mother?"

Chapter 1748: The Choice

"See... my mother?" Pearl asked. "What do you mean?"

Alex explained the situation around what happened when he ate a beast core. He had been surprised to find nothing of the sort happened when a beast ate a core, and it was only him.

Even Bai Jingshen had been surprised to learn that the core could return the spirit of the beast that had long since died if Alex ate it.

"What do you say?" Bai Jingshen asked Pearl. "If he does eat it, you can meet your mother. However, at the same time, the only thing that remains of your mother will be gone as well as he will absorb the core."

"I cannot leave my Spiritual sea without the beast inside dying," Alex said. "So if we do this, it can only be done once."

"Will... will she recognize me?" Pearl asked.

"Of course," Alex said confidently. "Pearl, it's your mother. Have some faith in her."

Pearl nodded and thought for a bit.

"Child, you don't have to be pressured to do it," the Lynx answered. "You can say no if you feel you're not ready."

"Pearl, we can wait if you need time," Ren Xiao spoke as well.

"No," Pearl said quickly. "I already thought of my mother as long dead. If I get the chance to meet her once again, I'll do it. But... wouldn't it be better to do it once we're back from the war? We can tell her that we got revenge for her."

"Pearl, do you really think your mother will care if you did something like that or not?" Bai Jingshen asked. "If you want to meet with her, meet with her now. There is no reason to wait."

Pearl gave the words some more thought and nodded. "I'll meet with her right away."

"Let us go to some other place then, someplace where we can be sure we won't be bothered."

Alex took the group of 9 beasts into the dome and started preparing for their arrival into their spiritual sea.

He hid Godslayer as well as he could behind the massive mountain and told the group to not move around at all and to stay in one place.

As 8 of the 9 beasts that were going to enter his mind were Immortals, he couldn't take the least bit of chance on them using their Spiritual energy inside his mind.

Alex sat down to get ready and brought out the Beast Core that belonged to Pearl's mother. He smiled as he remembered the first time he had brought out this core.

Pearl had followed the scent out and had started nibbling on the core that was a little too big for him back then.

Pearl seemed to smell it there too and gave a surprised look. While he didn't remember, it seemed his subconscious did.

He got closer to the beast's core and looked at it with wide eyes.

"This is my mother's core?" he asked. He remembered seeing it a long time ago, but it had been so long since he had last seen it.

To be fair, it had been a long time since Alex had seen it as well.

It had remained in Alex's storage bag for the longest time until Alex had fought the madman back in the Northern Continent.

At that time, his storage bag had been ripped away from him and the contents had been scattered around.

Some had dropped where they had fought, some had been destroyed by the violent Qi that surrounded the Central Continent, and finally, the remaining ones had disappeared into his Soul Space.

The core had ended up in his soul space as well.

It was only when Alex had gained access to the Soul Space that he found this beast's core floating in the vastness inside of him.

He had kept it safe since then, and today he was going to be putting it to use.

Alex had initially thought of making a blood beast out of the core but thought it would be horrible for Pearl to see a version of his mother who had intelligence and no memory of who he was or why he was important to her.

Instead, even if it was just once, he decided to let him meet the real her, so the memory of his mother would forever live with him.

"Are you all ready?" Alex asked.

The Immortal Beasts nodded, followed by Pearl just a little later. Pearl had been the most nervous about what was going to happen next, so he appeared quite hesitant.

"Then, please enter," Alex said and opened his spiritual sea for everyone.

All 9 of the beasts sat down and closed their eyes. One by one, their Spiritual sense touched onto Alex's spiritual sea and they entered inside.

Pearl came in last.

Alex felt the heaviness in his mind as if extra weight had been put on his head for no reason. Even when each one of these Immortals was trying their best to not put a burden on Alex, their presence itself was quite the burden for him.

Still, it was no different from just something being a little too heavy. There was no pain attached to the discomfort.

Once they were all inside, Alex looked at the core of the White Cat and gave a respectful bow toward it before eating it.

He swallowed the core, and instantly, his presence was ripped away from his body and dragged into his Spiritual sea where all 9 of the beasts were gathered in their beast form.

Bai Jingshen stood at the front, admiring Alex's Spiritual sea. Behind him, his 7 wives were doing the same as well.

Bai Jingshen's eyes were already fixed on the silver mountain that hung safely in the sky, a thing he knew as to exactly what it was.

"Your body is very special," he said, noticing Alex's arrival. "I can't imagine how you absorbed the Space Stone. I can't imagine how you even began to sense the aura."

"It's not even half the size it used to be," Alex said regarding the mountain while desperately wishing that Bai Jingshen didn't prod about it much more. He didn't want Godslayer's presence to be known.

Pearl stood alone on the left, looking at the front where he knew his mother would appear.

Slowly, a white mist coalesced in the distance, drawing everyone's attention toward it.

"Is it really happening?" the female tiger asked.

"It really is," the snow leopard said. "If I knew such a thing was possible, I wouldn't have eaten my mother's core after she passed away."

The form of the mist grew more and more solid and in the end, it took the form of a giant White Cat, that looked not much different from Ren Xiao or Pearl.

The women gasped in surprise.

"She looks so much like Meirong," Ren Xiao said as she started tearing up.

The White Cat looked around, surprised, and then her eyes fell on the gathered group.

She looked at them all and looked rather confused. Her eyes then fell on the only human in the group, but she didn't recognize him at all.

Finally, she looked at the young White Cat and felt some familiarity. When she looked closer, she couldn't believe her eyes at all.

"S-Shouchuang? Is that you?"

Chapter 1749: Shi Meiyong

"Shouchuang?"

The words caused a feeling to arise deep inside Pearl. The voice alone gave him vague memories, but the words... that word gave him a memory of a past that had long since gone from his mind.

He remembered when he first heard the words. It was during the time when he had been struggling inside the blood pool where he underwent the ritual to evolve into a White Tiger.

He did not know what the word meant at all, but this word had been spoken back then.

Shouchuang.

'You must survive, Shouchuang!'

The hint of memory returned again and with it a thunderous roaring sound. Pearl shook his head but he could still remember it.

'Survive and Live!'

He had forgotten those words once he was done with the ritual, but now he remembered it again. Who had been that person? It did not sound like a woman's voice at all.

"You... are Shouchuang, right?"

The White Cat looked perplexed and even started tearing up.

"Mother," Pearl said slowly. "You... recognize me?"

"You're really my Shouchuang!"

Shi Meiyong had the biggest smile on her face even as tears flowed down her cheek. She moved and arrived in front of Pearl in an instant and took him in a hug.

She laid her head on Pearl's body and held him tightly.

Pearl didn't know what to do at all, but the familiar feeling he got from being taken into a hug made him want to cry. He reached around with one of his arms too and hugged her.

Tears started flowing through his eyes as well.

Shi Meiyong choked a little on her own tears as she finally let Pearl go and looked at him all throughout. "Look at you, you're so grown up, Shouchuang. I can't believe you really are my son."

"How did you recognize?" Pearl asked.

Shi Meiyong gave a small smile. "Of course I would recognize you, you're my son," she said as she stroked his head with her paws. "Also, you are the last memory I have of right now, so seeing you I recognized you immediately. I would never not realize who you are, Shouchuang."

"Shouchuang..." Pearl spoke slowly. "Is that... my name?"

Shi Meiyong gave a weird look. "Of course," she said. "Is that... not what you are called now?"

"I was young when you... when you died," Pearl said. "I did not know what I was supposed to be called at all. So I was named Pearl."

"Pearl?" Shi Meiyong asked. "That's not a bad name I suppose."

She continued stroking Pearl's head as the two looked at each other. "How many years has it been since I died?" she asked. "I... did die, did I not? This does not feel like my soul at all."

"70 years, more or less," Alex answered from the side.

"70 years..." Shi Meiyong said and finally looked away from Pearl. Her eyes fell on Bai Jingshen and she finally let go of Pearl.

"Who might you be?" she asked.

"Do you not recognize me?" Bai Jingshen asked.

"Not really," Shi Meiyong said with a slightly rueful smile. "I only know that my grandfather is a White Tiger, but he has long since died, so I do not know who you are."

"I did not die, child," Bai Jingshen said. He stepped toward Shi Meiyong, along with the other 7 beasts, and stopped when he was right in front of her.

"It is me," he said. "I am Bai Jingshen, your grandfather."

Shi Meiyong's eyes went wide in shock. "You are?" she asked, unable to believe it. "But you were supposed to be... I was told you were..."

"Whoever told you this was mistaken. That is not their fault, everyone believed I had died," Bai Jingshen said as he kissed her forehead. "I never thought the cub I saw back then would be so grown up."

Shi Meiyong gave a look of surprise. "We've met before?" she asked.

"Of course," Bai Jingshen said. "Did your mother not tell you? That is when you got your bloodline."

"Oh!" Shi Meiyong said. "I... wasn't aware. She did tell me there was a secret to my bloodline, but never told me what it was."

"I see," Bai Jingshen said. "She must have done it for a reason then. That matters not at the moment. Here, meet your Grandmother."

Ren Xiao was already in shambles with tears streaming down her face nonstop. Before Shi Meiyong could even turn around, the large cat was already hugging her deeply.

Alex watched from the side as the reunion brought a tear to his eyes as well. Once Ren Xiao talked with Shi Meiyong, the others approached and started talking to her as well.

Shi Meiyong was beyond happy to meet the entire family. Not only was her son still alive, he had grown up, and now she got to meet her grandfather whom she had heard so much about, as well as her grandmothers.

It was a while before she questioned how any of this was even possible.

The group explained what was happening, and how they had brought her back to life. By the time they explained it all, Shi Meiyong understood that this was something temporary.

In fact, this wasn't even her at all. What she was now was just a fragment of a memory the core remembered of her being. Still, even with all that, she was happy.

She was so very happy to see her child grow up to become what she had always hoped he would be.

Shi Meiyong turned to look at Alex finally. "You're not the young man I met, are you? You look nothing like him," she said.

"Ah, that was me," Alex said quickly. "I looked different back then."

Due to the game 'character creation' system, he had indeed looked a lot different than what his original body was back then, and that was all the white cat had known.

"You remember that day?" Alex asked her.

"Vaguely," she said. "I remember being hurt and meeting a young man who tried to protect me despite being wounded himself. I don't remember much aside from that, but I must have asked you to take care of my son. Thank you for not abandoning him when he was a child."

"Of course," Alex said. "I promised you I would, so I did. It is only right."

"Still, you do not know how happy I am right now to learn that my child is not only alive, but doing well. He's even managed to become a White Tiger," she said proudly.

Pearl gave a wide grin.

"I hear you can do this with any beast whose core you get?" Shi Meiyong asked Alex.

"Um, yes," Alex said. "As long as the beast is above Saint Transformation realm, it should be possible."

"That is not a problem," the White Cat said as she put on a saddened face. "Shouchuang's father must have died by now. If you can somehow get your hands on his core, please help Pearl meet him. I'm sorry to make another request so soon, but this one I must beg of you."

"No, no, I will do it," Alex said. "Just tell us who he is, and we'll do our best."

"Who he is?" Shi Meiyong gave a weird look. "Do you not know?"

Everyone shook their heads.

"Shouchuang's father is Qing Tianchui," she said. "Ruler of the Eastern Continent, the Azure Dragon."

Chapter 1750: The Past

The shocking news left behind the silence that perpetuated as time went on. Each and every person there looked at Shi Meiyong with various emotions plastered all over their faces.

Bai Jingshen's eyes were wide, his wives tried to hide their shock, and Alex simply struggled to understand the possibilities surrounding the situation.

As for Pearl, he had the most number of emotions passing through his mind. Shock, surprise, confusion, happiness, sadness. Every possible emotion he could feel at the moment was all passing through his mind one after another and they left behind a blank face instead.

Shi Meiyong looked back at everyone. "Were you guys... not aware?" she asked.

"We had no way of knowing," Bai Jingshen said as he nodded and gave a look of understanding.

"But you should have guessed, right?" Shi Meiyong asked. "Shouchuang was born with the bloodline of both the White Tiger and the Azure Dragon. He has both Supreme Metal Root and Supreme Wood Root."

"He... does not have a Supreme Wood Root," Bai Jingshen said. "And he most certainly does not have the Azure Dragon's Bloodline."

"But... but he's..." a look of thought spread across Shi Meiyong as she contemplated something. "He must have destroyed it."

"He?" Bai Jingshen asked. "Qing Tianchui?"

"He teleported us away," Shi Meiyong said. "He must have done something to Shouchuang's bloodline then."

Pearl had been listening to the conversation, but his mind was all focused on the single bit of information he had received through all of this.

His father was the Azure Dragon. The same Azure Dragon that had died long ago.

He had always known or at least believed his father to be dead. He had no hopes of ever seeing his father in this lifetime at all.

However, hearing who his father was, and understanding the things that had most likely happened to him, the things that had most likely happened to his family, was not something he could come to terms with so quickly.

His mind reeled with all the knowledge he received back in the Eastern Continent.

His mother had died at the same time his father had died, and close enough to that period, his grandfather and grandmother had died in the Beast Paradise as well.

The Dragon Emperor was involved in his father's death, even though he claimed to not be the one to do it. It was all that man's fault.

Now, more than ever, he wanted to kill the man. He wanted to sink his teeth into his throat and rip his spine out from the front. He wanted to swipe at the man's chest and pull out his ribs. He wanted to kill the man in any way possible.

However, Pearl was weak. He was so weak that he couldn't even avenge his own parents. What was all of this talent and potential good for if he could do nothing with it at all?

His fury increased and the emotions all combined together to reach a crescendo.

And something happened.

"Pearl!" Bai Jingshen's voice snapped Pearl out of his thoughts.

He turned around to look at Bai Jingshen who was staring at him with wide eyes.

"You..." Bai Jinshen had noticed something.

"Yes, Grandpa?" Pearl asked.

Bai Jingshen stared at Pearl for what seemed like a long time before he stopped staring. "Don't do that again," he said. "Never do that again."

Pearl was confused. 'What did I do?' he wondered.

None of the others were aware of what Pearl had done either. They were all surprised by Bai Jingshen's sudden shout.

"What... happened?" Shi Meiyong asked, looking worried.

"Nothing," Bai Jingshen turned around. "Go on. Tell us how you two met."

After the battle 5000 years ago in the Central Continent, the Azure Dragon had been wounded heavily enough that if he waited for the Heavenly Judgment, he was sure to die. So, he decided to hide in his secret realm for centuries and centuries, healing himself.

He had pills to help him heal, but cultivating with a weakened body still took time and it was after generations that he was finally back to being as strong as he was.

Once he was fully healed, he had decided to deal with the Heavenly Judgment that stopped him from leaving the secret realm.

The Azure Dragon fought the Heavenly Judgment and came back injured but free of the lightning. Then, he spent another few centuries trying to heal himself from that.

All in all, 2 millennia had passed by the time he had healed himself, and was finally everything was back to normal.

That was when he had realized that in his 2 millennia of negligence, his beautiful secret realm had been completely destroyed and the beautiful floral gardens and pond were all beyond his control.

Even the palace that had been built in the center of the pond had long since been destroyed.

So, with little need for consideration, the Azure Dragon asked the beasts of the Beast Paradise to send him helpers to help maintain his realm and palace.

That was when Shi Meiyong had first met the Azure Dragon.

On the very first day, Qing Tianchui had noticed the thick White Tiger's bloodline flowing inside of the White Cat and had taken an interest in her.

He had questioned her about her lineage and quickly found out that she was the granddaughter of Bai Jingshen.

Qing Tianchui had never been close to Bai Jingshen, but after his sacrifice in the Central Continent, he had come to think a great deal of him.

The beast was a martyr for the world and as such the Azure Dragon decided to treat his granddaughter with proper respect.

There were times when Qing Tianchui wanted to take Shi Meiyong to her grandfather's home, but there never really was a proper time.

They kept delaying it, and before they knew it, thousands of years had passed. And in that time, the two of them had only grown closer.

While Qing Tianchui had initially been interested in just Shi Meiyong's lineage, over time he had come to be interested in her as an individual.

The love between a tiger and a dragon was considered worthless, for it would not give fruit to anything. They were simply so incompatible.

However, out of some freak chance, they had managed to do the impossible. And out of the bloodline of the two greatest beasts to ever live in all of the realms, came a child born with both.

"When Shouchuang was born, the world glowed with the color of metal and wood, and we knew he wasn't just special to us. He was a special child for the entire world."

Shi Meiyong's eyes glowed with happiness when she spoke those words almost as though she could perfectly envision the day her son was born.

"If someone told me this without the proof being right in front of me, I would've never believed them," Bai Jingshen said. "But it is real."

"He is," Shi Meiyong said with a warm smile.

Pearl could still not believe that his father was the Azure Dragon, ruler of the Eastern Continent.

"And then?" Ren Xiao asked. "What happened after that? How exactly did you come to... die?"