

Alchemy 1761

Chapter 1761: Trade

Upon Alex's command, hundreds of people charged toward the Emperor and his subordinates, beginning the war.

"Fight!" the Emperor shouted at once as well. He had understood what had just happened. A war had been declared and the enemy had infiltrated into their midst.

The two sides clashed in the middle, and an explosion of discordant lights and sounds filled the skies of the Dragon Capital, sending the entire capital into a frenzy.

Many soldiers of the empire flew up to defend their empire, but a few remained behind, unsure if they should help at all.

They had heard the crimes that their Emperor had apparently done, and while they could ignore most of it for the sake of the empire, they could not ignore the one that claimed that the Azure Dragon was dead, and the Emperor had been responsible for it.

If that was indeed the truth, then... they would have to think about which side of the battle they had to fight on.

However, as it was, they most likely had to go help the Emperor just for the sake of the Empire.

Alex stood in the middle of the battlefield, somewhat surrounded by the other army. As the leader of the war, he had to lead these men into battle and thus joined the battle himself.

Bodies fell left and right around him, blood-curdling screams sounding every other moment. Death filled the air around him at each second as more fighters joined the war.

Alex thoughtlessly swung his sword to the side, killing a middle-aged soldier who was coming for him. The man had been in the late Saint Soul realm and had most likely expected to kill Alex with a sneak attack.

That was just not happening with how strong Alex was now.

Alex strode forward toward the Dragon Emperor.

5 strong enemies surrounded him as he approached closer, each one of whom seemed to stand in front of him with the barest hint of hesitation as to whether they would kill him or not.

They all knew there was one final trade of some sort remaining that Alex had to be alive during so that their Emperor could get something, but that did not matter to them mostly at the moment.

A war had been declared, so priorities were different now. They needed to deal with threats before caring about any sort of trade.

They intended to kill Alex.

One of the people came for Alex, swinging a hefty axe down on Alex.

Alex looked at the man with a single glance, giving no more response than that.

A hammer appeared out of nowhere as Qiu Jianhong slammed it against the man's axe, neither of the two gaining any advantage over the other.

"If you're going to go for our King, you have to go through us!" Qiu Jianhong said with a loud harrumph.

A blast of ice-cold water in the form of a raging snake landed on another man who was trying to attack Alex with an arrow.

The man was forced to redirect his attack at the last moment to protect himself.

Ren Guanting floated beyond Alex to open a path for him.

Gong Liuxian got into a sword fight with another of the people who had been targeting Alex, easily fending off the person.

Huang Chen arrived closely behind, stopping another person in their tracks with a barrage of many earthen Qi attacks.

Hou Xinya took a shield to block a bolt of lightning that came Alex's way, taking on the final of the 5 individuals that were surrounding Alex.

"Go ahead, Your Majesty," Liang Shufen arrived behind him, sending a stray attack in the distance at another soldier who had joined the fray. "We will handle the rest."

Alex nodded and slowly made his way toward the Emperor, who stood with a few old people who had yet to join the battle. As members of the Head Legion, they needed to manage the battle as well as stand in defense of the Emperor.

These old men had brought out their talismans at some point and were furiously sending messages to their Legions to come at once. They needed more people right away.

Alex stood in front of these people, ignoring them and looking directly at the Dragon Emperor.

The Emperor's face was black with fury and hatred. His eyes were bloodshot since long ago, and he had been barely holding himself back from slaughtering every single person in front of him.

The only reason he hadn't was because a hint of fear stopped him from doing so. If they had come for him, then there was a reason they were confident.

He had to figure that out before he joined in blindly.

"You have it, don't you?" he asked. "You took it already."

Alex gave a mocking smile. "Whatever could you be talking about."

"You know damn well, you brat!" the Emperor spoke in anger. "Hand it back right now."

Alex shrugged. He reached into his storage ring to take out a talisman, which disappeared from his hands the moment it appeared. In the next instant, it arrived in front of the Emperor, surprising the group of old men who were to protect him.

They acted immediately, but the Emperor had been faster than them. He took the talisman from the air and looked at what it was. It was a recording talisman and it recorded something.

He dug his senses into it and read what was recorded inside of it. He took a moment to read it all, his look of anger and hatred fading for a moment to show signs of shock and absolute disbelief.

He wanted to learn more about what was recorded there, but he was unable to. His oath compelled him to not learn what was inside the talisman before he was done with the trade.

"How is this possible?" the Emperor said softly. "A—"

The Oath forced him to stop speaking about whatever it was that he had read in the talisman.

Alex smiled.

The Emperor took a moment to recollect himself and spoke again.

"So this is what you offer for the last trade," the Emperor said. "You have been keeping this from me for all this time."

"You keep the best for the last, don't you?" Alex asked. "Let's you enjoy it all the more."

The Emperor looked down at the talisman and then at Alex. "I understand better now why you are so good at making pill clouds consistently. This... could even be considered cheating."

"I have given you what you asked for," Alex said, feeling the knot in his chest slowly disappear.

It was as though he had been drowning for a long time, and someone had finally pulled him out of the water. He could finally remember what breathing was like.

"Now, what will you give me in return?" Alex said. "And remember, it has to be double the worth of it in return."

The Emperor was way too stunned to think of anything. How was any of this possible at all?

A technique that could perfectly create a pill to its highest potential Harmony. A technique that could do the same, but with two pills at once. And finally, a technique to improve ingredients to become the best they can be prior to being used.

All three of the techniques that Alex had given to the Emperor were something that had left the man speechless.

However, the thing that left him the most shocked was the fact that every single one of these techniques had come from the first man to have ever reached the peak of Alchemy.

The Alchemy God.

That simple knowledge made the techniques be worth many times more valuable than anything Alex could have ever made it be.

It became so valuable that the Immortal treasures that Alex had stolen from the Azure Dragon started looking as if nothing more than something a child would play with.

This was realms higher than any Immortal treasures he could imagine. Perhaps, it was comparable to a Divine treasure.

'I need this anyway I can,' he thought and looked at Alex.

"What do you want in return for this?" he asked.

"What can you offer that is double what this is worth?" Alex asked the man.

The men surrounding the Emperor were surprised at what was happening. People were dying left and right in the battle behind Alex, and yet they were there just talking.

The Emperor wondered what it was that he could offer for something like this. If he was being honest, there was really just one answer.

He looked back up and threw the talisman back at Alex.

Alex took it without any surprise. He had expected this to happen from the very beginning.

"So you give up," he said. "Our trade is over."

"No," the Emperor said. "Not just yet. I will pay you what that thing is worth, but you'll have to wait a while longer."

The Emperor pulled out his spear. "Until then, let me give you the battle you so desire," he said. "Men, prepare to fight."

Alex shook his head. "This was out of my expectations," he said. "But it is a good thing I came well prepared."

Two people appeared out of his Soul Space in a flash, standing next to him on either side.

Hannah stood to Alex's left, and to his right stood Zhou Linfan.

Zhou Linfan looked at the Emperor and his eyes blazed with fury.

"Finally," he spoke in a low, growling voice. "I have the chance to kill you."

Chapter 1762: Lin Xiaojing

The Emperor had gone through multiple shocks in just the last few minutes.

First, Alex had somehow taken away the entirety of the Azure Dragon's treasure and body, something even he was incapable of.

Then, he had declared war against him and his empire. That was something the prophecy had said would happen, but it hadn't completely happened, so there was some solace there.

After that, Alex had brought out a ship full of thousands of people, ready to fight in the war that had just been declared. Their soldiers were surrounding the ocean, waiting for any army from the Southern Continent trying to sneak in, but to his surprise, they were already there.

Then, there was the surprise that Alex had given him with the trade. The techniques he had been presented alone had been something of a great shock, but what was more shocking was the fact that they apparently came from an individual from the higher realms who called himself the Alchemy God.

Finally, the arrival of these two new individuals had him reeling in shock. He was still unable to figure out how these people were being kept hidden, but that didn't matter.

What mattered was the fact that he recognized both of the two new people

The first one was someone who used to be his cook but had become his enemy for some reason. The Emperor still had no idea why that had happened.

However, that was not what truly shocked him. What shocked him was the presence of the young woman whom he recognized and feared so much.

The first time he had seen Hannah, he had nearly been killed. He knew the only reason he hadn't died back then was because of the young woman's relative inexperience when it came to battles and killing another.

However, her eyes were different now from back then. The thin black sword in her hand seemed ready for blood as well.

The Emperor felt a chill in the back of his neck, coursing through his spine.

Zhou Linfan pulled out a clean purple sword and charged for the Emperor without a single instance of hesitation.

One of the Emperor's subordinates moved up front, ready to protect their emperor, only to be sent flying away in a single swing from Zhou Linfan.

That was when they realized that Zhou Linfan had a cultivation base in the 8th Saint Transformation realm, just a single realm lower than the Emperor himself.

There was no one here capable of fighting him in a single battle, other than the Emperor himself.

Long Tiankong brought out his Noble Dragon spear as well as his Golden Dragon shield and flew into battle.

Zhou Linfan's body and his purple sword glowed with a soft white edge all around as something seemingly glimmering formed around him.

He struck the Dragon Emperor with his sword, creating an attack that sensed blasts of crystals flying at the Emperor.

The Emperor put up his shield, creating a golden barrier in front of it, blocking all the attacks at once. He struck back with a lightning attack, which Zhou Linfan surprisingly blocked rather easily.

The Emperor gave a look full of hate. "Zhou Linfan! Why do you fight me?" he asked. "I am your emperor."

"You are no emperor of mine," Zhou Linfan said. "You stopped being one the moment you killed my father, my mother, and the rest of my family. You killed all of my kin, so for that, I shall destroy you here today."

The Emperor's eyes widened slightly at the words. The words 'kin' and 'destroy' triggered something in the back of his head.

"Who... who are you really?" the Emperor asked. He feared what he was going to hear next.

"I am Zhou Linfan, but there was a time when I had a different name. I was Lin Xiaojing, son of King Lin Haoming of the Lin kingdom," Zhou Linfan said loudly. "For the injustice you brought to my family and kingdom, I shall kill you here today."

The Emperor felt another sense of fear from those words. Not only had a king made the declaration that he would be killed today, but so had the son of a king.

'No!' the Emperor thought. This was not going to happen to him. He looked around, wildly searching for the final of the three.

'No, as long as there is no White Tiger, I'm safe,' he thought and fought back against Zhou Linfan.

Alex looked at the fight in the air, standing outside of the battle. Zhou Linfan had requested that they don't interfere until they needed to, so they were staying behind.

He turned around, looking at the battle behind him. The chaos in the sky made it impossible to tell who was winning right now.

There were far too few soldiers on the Emperor's side while Alex had brought nearly 10 thousand of them. While his army was weaker, the overall strength they had was way more than the Emperor's army.

However, that was slowly changing. More and more soldiers of the empire were flying from far away or through different teleportation formations, making their way into the battle.

They were adding to their numbers slowly, but surely. Soon enough, he would be outnumbered here.

'Come on guys! I need the help,' Alex thought desperately.

"Alex, how is the situation?" Hannah asked him. "Can we kill him?"

"I've done my half of the trade, so I don't believe I will be in any trouble if he does end up dying," Alex said. "So you're free to do so if you can."

Half a minute later, Zhou Linfan fell back with his breathing in disarray. "Alright, I admit. I can't beat him alone," he said.

"Very well," Hannah spoke. "I shall aid you."

The Emperor was rearing to fight more, but when he saw Hannah move, he instantly lost all anger, and instead fear gripped him.

"Move back!" he shouted immediately. "Form the array."

The few subordinates that had hung around the Emperor immediately got into formation. An illusory golden dragon appeared behind them, floating around the group of people that then empowered the Dragon Emperor.

The Dragon Emperor's aura rose tremendously, making him way more powerful than he already was.

Alex felt a hint of shock at the increase in strength. He was confused for a second, but thinking about it afterward, some things made more sense now.

Unlike the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array, which accounted for the number of people involved in the array, it seemed this array involved not the number, but the strength of the people involved in the array.

That was how despite only having half a dozen individuals around the Emperor, the Emperor's aura had still improved so much.

"He's stronger," Alex said softly. "Be careful."

"I will," Hannah said and moved forward to aid Zhou Linfan in his battle against the Emperor.

Alex looked at them go, and while he wanted to fight too, he couldn't. He had to let Hannah and Zhou Linfan tire the man out a little before joining in.

For now, his eyes were on another person far beyond the Emperor and the people in an array, who was staring at everything with a dull look in his eyes.

Alex moved toward the Crown Prince.

Chapter 1763: Leader of the Battle Array

Sounds of thunderous clashes filled the skies of the Dragon Capital as cultivators on both sides of the war fought to their best capacity.

Colorful explosions left behind a horrifying sight of death as bodies fell from the skies at every moment. Some were burnt, some frozen. Some were wrapped in vines, some cut in half. Some were filled with holes and some were simply intact but with no life in it.

A deathly aura filled the skies of the Dragon Capital as Alex's army used their upper hand to rend the life out of the empire's army.

It was a sad sight to anyone outside of the war, horrifying even. Neither of the armies was fighting for anything more than just what side they were on. Some believed in the cause of war, but most were fighting only because they had been ordered to do so.

A young woman charged forward with her spears, her eyes filled with the blood that seeped down her forehead. She stabbed her enemy, killing him as she stabbed him through the heart.

She pulled out her spear as the body slowly fell from the sky to the ground below. She huffed loudly and felt her head ringing from the pain.

She reached for her storage bag to pull out a healing pill when someone slashed her from behind, causing a terrible injury to her back.

Before she could turn around, however, the person who attacked her had been dealt with by a young fighter whose eyes were cold with fury.

8 golden tentacles hovered around Yao Bujiang, each attacking relentlessly at everything around him. He wasn't a very strong fighter, but over the past few dozen years, he had managed to reach a cultivation base of the Saint Soul realm, and he was using that cultivation base to now avenge the death of his ancestor, Yao Ning.

"Go to the ship, you're horribly wounded. Get some rest," he gave out the order to the bloodied woman and went on his way to fight.

The woman thought for a bit and nodded, flying back toward the giant ship that hovered in the sky.

Many attacks, intentional or simple mistakes, landed on the front and sides of the massive ship that her king, Alex, had brought to the Eastern Continent.

However, barriers around the ship stopped all attacks.

The woman was still surprised about how she had ended up here. For the past 3 hours, she had been in a world of darkness where she wasn't allowed to use her spiritual senses in the least.

Then, 3 hours later, she was on the Eastern Continent. Her king had done something pretty much impossible and that gave her hope that the result of this war would be something good.

She flew into the ship, disappearing past the barrier, very much protected in there.

The Empire's army was struggling in the war. They were few in number and had been taken by surprise, so they had lost a lot of people already.

However, that was not to say that the future looked grim for them. Continuous streams of help were coming from all over the continent as all of the Legions rushed to help.

Very soon, the paradigm of the war would be flipped on its head and it would be the Eastern Continent who would have the upper hand.

Several of the leaders of the legions or strong individuals had already established groups of newcomers to aid them with an array of formation.

Given the strength of the people fighting in front of them, if they established a battle array and attacked, the chances of their victory would rise by a lot.

So they did exactly that.

Several of the elders from the councils as well as the leaders of Alex's army noticed that as well. They had known about what would happen here and had been prepared for it the whole time.

So, as soon as more and more battle array popped up around the battlefield, the army started fighting in cohesion as well.

The war had caused the army to be in disarray, forcing the soldiers to fight in smaller groups. However, under the orders of the elders, every single soldier there started establishing the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array to begin fighting.

There was an issue with the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array in that it had two components to the array. Almost every battle array had that, and it did too.

The two components were all the individuals that would be involved in the array, and the leader who would handle it all.

Without the two components working in tandem with each other, the battle array could not be used at all.

The battle array that was taught to the soldiers was the half that belonged to the first component. They were never taught the part that belonged to the leader, for a leader needed to be chosen wisely.

The battle array could technically be used even without a leader, as all they had to do was remain in a certain area and share their aura with every other person in the array.

However, communication between those groups was nearly impossible when the number was as massive as it was now. That was why they needed a leader.

Normally, the one at the helm of it all would be Alex. But he could not involve himself in this battle at the moment.

The next one that would take the Leader's role was Whisker, but he wasn't there at the moment either.

So, a third person had to emerge to help establish the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array.

Graham flew in the air, his bare tanned arms glistening with sweat in the sun as he wore a single blue and green gauntlet on his right arm.

The gauntlet looked metallic, but it was not made up of metal at all. In fact, it was made from the scales of a lizard that was born with traces of the Azure Dragon's blood in its bloodline.

This was the Dragonheart Gauntlet that Alex had bought in the Golden Auction a long time ago, and finally, Graham was making a debut for it.

He stood in front of the ship, a leader of the army, and charged into battle.

Alongside him, thousands of soldiers rushed into battle as well while forming an array.

With ten thousand total soldiers under Graham's command, the power of each and every single individual fighting on behalf of Alex increased by nearly 4 realms.

Each and every soldier suddenly became a menace for their opponents to handle and the tide of the battle surged in favor of the Southern Continent again.

Graham wore not only the gauntlets but also a boot made specifically for him to help fly in the air with incredible speed.

Even with that speed, he could see everything clearly. His purple Demon Eyes gave him a kinetic vision that would put the vision of most saints to shame.

He flew across the battlefield and landed a direct punch on one of the leaders of a small battle array.

The crushing noise of the man's skull under Graham's fist was his introduction to the battlefield.

"Shall I make a few more greetings?"

Chapter 1764: To The Beasts

Pearl arrived at the Lion Colony, after flying as fast as he could for nearly half an hour.

Senior Yao, the black jaguar next to him, breathed loudly as he had been forced to give more than everything he could to help Pearl come all the way here as fast as they could.

After Alex's arrival in Brightfalls City, he had called him and Pearl out as they had another task.

They had to get the aid of the beasts in the Beast Paradise to fight on their side.

Given Pearl's newfound identity and his previous connection to this place, it was deemed that he was the best choice to come here and persuade these beasts to fight on his behalf, to avenge his father and mother.

Pearl wasn't sure if he would have instead gone with Alex to the secret realm where his father had died. He wasn't sure if he wanted to see that or not.

However, what he wanted did not matter at the moment. What mattered was what he and Alex needed. What they needed was help, and he was here to get them some.

"Young lord, is this the Lion Colony?" the Jaguar asked Pearl.

"Yes, this is my mother's home. The place where my grandmother was married to," Pearl said with a somber voice. "Let us go, Senior Yao. My uncle should be in there somewhere."

Pearl flew toward the village with familiar buildings. He had come here nearly 20 years ago and hadn't returned since then. It was good to see that nothing had changed.

A young beast flew out from the colony to check on the intruders.

"Who goes there?" the beast asked.

It was a young Night Lynx with glowing yellow eyes. It looked at Pearl and stopped for a second as it had never seen a beast like him before in his life.

Pearl didn't remember seeing this beast back when he had been here 20 years ago either.

"My name is Pearl. I'm here to meet the Colony Leader. Is senior Xiongwei around?" Pearl asked.

"He is around. What colony are you from?" the Lynx asked.

"None. We came from outside. Please hurry, we don't have much time," Pearl said.

"From outside? How did you... Outsiders are not allowed entry," the Lynx said quickly. However, given that the outsider was a beast, he wasn't sure if the rules still applied or not.

"Stay here, I'll get the leader."

The Lynx flew off and less than a minute later, Zhu Xiongwei, the leader of the Lion Colony, Pearl's uncle, came flying out. He was surprised to see Pearl arrive on his own, without Alex with him.

"Pearl? Is that you?" the Lion asked. "My god have you grown in just 20 years? It's nice to see you again, my child."

"Uncle, it is nice to see you too," Pearl said.

The Lion walked up to Pearl and petted him along the back of his neck in a gentle manner. He then looked at the jaguar next to him and gave a small bow in greeting.

"May I ask who this is?" the Lion asked Pearl.

"This is senior Yao. He is a trusted subordinate of my great grandfather, Bai Jingshen," Pearl said quickly. "Uncle, I'm sorry, but I do not have much time to waste on formalities."

"You're in a hurry? What's wrong?" the Lion's eyes narrowed in seriousness.

"Uncle... I found out who killed my father and my mother," Pearl said. "It was the Dragon Emperor."

The Lion stood still in shock, his head moving ever so slightly as he tried to make sense of the situation. "The... the Dragon Emperor? Why... why would he kill sister Meiyong?"

"Because of me," Pearl said softly. "The Dragon Emperor tried to kill me because he was afraid of me for some reason, so my father and mother gave up their life in order to protect me."

The Lion's face slowly grew pale at first then grew dark as a look of hatred filled him. "Are you sure?" he asked.

"I spoke to a remaining will of my mother," Pearl said. "She explained everything to me."

The Lion looked up. "Sister Meiyong did? Can I talk to her?" the Lion looked hopeful.

Pearl shook his head. "I barely got to talk to her at all," he said. "She is no more, but in that conversation we had, she explained to us what had happened. It was the Dragon Emperor who tried to kill me and ended up bringing death to my parents."

"So, in revenge for that and many other atrocities he has committed, my brother had waged war against the Emperor himself. He has arrived in the Eastern Continent with an army and they will start fighting any moment."

"That human is? I see. What do you need from me? Why have you come to talk to me?" the Lion asked.

"I was hoping you could help gather the 7 leaders so I could persuade them into sending aid to my brother. He has come with an army, but there are too few people in the army to fight against everyone in the Eastern Continent. So he needs help."

"As such, I came to Beast Paradise to hopefully gather an army of beasts to help my brother."

The Lion frowned slightly. "That... that might be a little difficult. While what you say does indeed make me want to help, the other leaders have no reason to fight the Dragon Emperor. They will call this your personal vendetta and try to remain out of conflict."

"As I promised you before, I tried many times to gather them to talk to them about the situation from many years ago when they decided to close the Beast Paradise."

"I tried to figure out what the cause was, but they've been tight-lipped this whole time. I'm not sure how much help they will be."

Pearl shook his head. "You just gather them, Uncle. I will persuade them. I am sure they will want to talk to me. And they will have reason to help me too," he said.

"Really?" the Lion asked. "Are you sure you can persuade them?"

"I can," Pearl said. "For I have brought them information that it was the Dragon Emperor who killed the Azure Dragon in the first place."

The Lion's face was a shade of pure shock. "What?" he asked. "The Dragon Emperor killed the Azure Dragon?"

The Lion had known long ago about the death of the Azure Dragon, or at least his being missing. However, this was the first time he had heard about the killer.

"I will gather them right away," Lion said and quickly sent a message all around for the other 6 beasts to gather at his place immediately.

Within minutes, Pearl could feel the aura of many beasts rushing toward them at a speed only possible for the beasts that were in the late Saint Transformation realm.

The Ox, the Eagle, the Lizard, the Elephant, the Swan, and the Deer arrived at the Lion colony and were greeted by the Lion.

"Leader Zhu, what is the important thing that needs to be discussed?" the Lizard asked.

"Please come into the council chambers," the Lion spoke. "We have something urgent and of utmost import to talk about."

Chapter 1765: A Talk

A thin wisp of golden light that streaked out from Hannah's sword struck the Emperor, sending him nearly 20 meters backward in the sky.

Zhou Linfan jumped in like a raging maniac and slammed his sword onto the Emperor as well.

The Emperor lifted his shield to block the attack and then retaliated with a spear attack that created 20 different illusory lightning spears.

Hannah appeared in front of Zhou Linfan, defending him as the attack was too strong for him.

The Emperor glared at the both of them. He hated just how much of a fool he was being made in this battle.

Thanks to the Dragon Array behind him, his power had now grown to become equal to that of the girl before him. He had to add a few more people to the array, but that was worth it.

However, even though he had somehow managed to become equal, he still saw no chance of defeating her.

The naive, inexperienced girl from back then was no more. The girl that stood in front of him now was at least experienced enough to not get taken aback at every instance of battle.

"Is this how you act in front of your Father-in-law?" the Emperor asked.

Hannah scoffed. "Don't kid yourself, Long Tiankong. You are not my father-in-law. Never were, never will. Even after I officially marry your son, you will only remain someone who I can only call by name, never a relation between us."

The Emperor scoffed as well. "You were better when your mouth was shut," he said and threw out a white-hot bolt of lightning strike.

Hannah's sword glowed golden and she cut through the lightning strike, breaking it apart into motes of energy that dissipated in the air.

Zhou Linfan attacked from the side, taking the Dragon Emperor by surprise. Only, the Dragon Emperor was expecting the attack. He was on the lookout for any attacks from every side.

He ever had his senses on Alex who had approached his son. As long as he wasn't caught off guard, the Emperor would certainly come out of this battle ahead.

'I just have to continue for a while longer' the Emperor told himself. 'My soldiers will all arrive soon.'

When his 100 thousand soldiers were all here, they would easily defeat the army of 10 thousand soldiers from the Southern Continent.

As such, his victory in this war was tied to time as well. It was a battle of attrition for him at this point. Last long enough, and he would win.

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Alex stared at the Crown Prince who flew a few distance away from him, a dark look covering his previously handsome face.

"You look like you lost some weight," Alex said. "I wasn't aware that was possible for a cultivator without getting severely wounded. Were you wounded?"

Long Fangyu didn't answer. "Why have you come, King Alex?" he asked.

"To talk to you," Alex answered.

"No, to the Eastern Continent. Why did you return? Why not just spend your time in peace in the Southern Continent?" the Crown Prince asked.

There was barely any emotion in his voice when he asked those questions. If any, there was a hint of curiosity and maybe a pinch of sadness that somehow did not make sense to Alex.

"I have a trade to complete with your father," Alex answered. "You should know about that already."

"That's a lie," Long Fangyu said. "You didn't have to personally come to the Eastern Continent for that. You could've sent someone else. With both the sword and the talisman that you gave father. Why did you come with an army instead and decide to wage war on our Empire?"

"Ah! That's what you're asking," Alex said and looked away for a moment. He looked at the war, and then the Emperor's battle.

He had let Zhou Linfan attack him first because that was what he wanted. He was looking for revenge, and this was one of the conditions for his help.

Hannah had started fighting as well, and her job was to do the best she could. The more she wore down the Emperor, the better it was.

As long as she could force the Emperor to use up all of his Immortal Qi, Alex could join the fight and aid her.

Alex turned back toward the prince and spoke. "Do you believe the words I spoke regarding your father's crime?" he asked. "That he was responsible for every single one of what I said. I can swear an oath if you want to."

The Crown Prince grimaced slightly and shook his head. "No need," he said.

Alex gave a look of surprise. "So you're aware that I'm correct?" he asked. "That's a surprise. I thought I would have to speak an oath and all to make you believe me."

"Why didn't you speak an oath to make the soldiers believe your words?" the Crown Prince asked. "You should know that it would help you tremendously."

"I know," Alex said. "But I decided not to. What good is a handful of soldiers that turn against their own friends just because they can now believe my words? They would only be in a dilemma as to whether to fight or stay out of it."

"I want them to fight, and I want them all to fight your father. I don't know how many will decide to fight on our side, but I want to make a massive turn, instead of just a couple hundred soldiers that could hear me earlier."

The Crown Prince's eyes narrowed. "Are you... are you waiting for more soldiers to gather before speaking your oath?" he asked.

The Crown Prince couldn't believe that it was quite the smart idea.

"Something like that," Alex said. He decided not to mention that he wasn't going to speak the oath at all.

It was not that there was no point in him speaking an oath to confirm the Dragon Emperor's crimes. It was just that there was someone better who could do it.

"If you know all of these things, then may I assume that you are on your father's side through and through?" he asked as he held Midnight in a stance. "I had hoped you would go against your father. If not for me or any of the other crimes. At least for your brother."

The Crown Prince's eyes sharpened at those words. "My brother... where is he? Is he back in the Southern Continent?" he asked.

Alex shook his head. "I can't leave a prince out of the war raging in his empire, can I?" he said.

The Crown Prince looked around the battlefield, searching for his brother. But he saw him nowhere.

"Where is he? Where is my brother? Is he on the ship? Please tell me he is alright," the Crown Prince asked.

"He is alright," Alex said. "And no, he is not on the ship or on the battlefield. I'm afraid he is doing something rather important at this very moment. Please wait a couple of minutes. I'm sure you will hear from him very soon."

"In the meanwhile, will you tell me clearly whose side you are on? I'm afraid you are confusing me a lot."

Chapter 1766: Ying Weishu

The Crown Prince charged Alex with an attack, screaming in rage as he did so.

Alex made a simple stroke with his sword and destroyed the spear attack that was coming his way. He then attacked back, hitting the Crown Prince in the chest, leaving a long bloody gash with the sword.

The Crown Prince was blasted away, and he fell from the sky, losing the battle in a single exchange of attacks.

'What the hell?' Alex thought. 'Did he not want to fight? Why did he charge me then?'

The thought confused Alex, but he quickly got rid of the thought, turning around to deal with the Emperor when suddenly an attack streaked up through the side, landing on him.

Alex protected himself at the last second using Midnight and slowly put down the sword to see who had attacked him.

An older woman stood some distance away from him with nearly 400 different soldiers behind her in a cluster, and a floating illusory dragon moving around them.

Alex recognized her. It was the same woman who had brought him the 'gift' 2 years ago on the eastern shores of the Southern Continent.

"Ying Weishu, was it? Commander of the 3rd battalion of the Talon Legion?" Alex asked the woman.

"I did not think you would remember me," the woman said. "Your ego seems too big to hold someone small like me."

"You are indeed small for me," Alex said turning around. "You were a messenger back then, so I left you alive. Have you come to die this time?"

The woman's mocking smile faded slightly, and she put on her real emotions as she looked at Alex in hatred. "Don't think too highly of yourself just because you managed to sneak into the empire with an army. Separated from your people, you are only just looking to die."

"Let's see how being with your people helps you here."

He started the fight with a sword slash that sent out a fiery attack that flew toward the woman.

The woman thought nothing of the attack at first, simply throwing out an attack to stop it. However, when the attacks clashed together, they created a large enough explosion that the shockwave from them sent shivers down the woman's spine.

'How is his attack so strong?' she thought. She used her senses to look at Alex and try to figure out just what it was he was doing to become so strong, but there was nothing out of the ordinary.

From the reports she remembered hearing, the people who survived the massacre in the ocean mentioned something dark and terrifying around him when he fought with mindless rage, but this was not that.

Globs of icy cold water formed around the woman, each one turning slowly spinning as they shot forward toward Alex.

Alex looked at the attack and put his hands forward as well. Water Qi flowed out of his body as well, consolidating in multiple spots around him. However, instead of water, they formed icicles.

Alex used the Infinite Heavenly Ice Spear art, only it was altered slightly enough that it didn't just use Water to form the ice. It used Yin as well.

He had spent some time after his visit to the Celestial Peak to adapt the new technique to add Yin to it as he had just learned Yin dao back then. In the past 2 years, he resumed the improvement process and finally formed a full technique that used the Infinite Heavenly Ice Spear art as a base but formed the Ice using water and Yin.

As such, the icicles that formed around him were far colder than normal, and thanks to his Dao, they were slightly stronger than normal as well.

Each icicle shot out at an extreme speed, smashing into the globs of water that were moving in his direction. He broke through the attack easily, destroying all of the incoming projectiles.

However, he didn't stop there.

There was a reason the Infinite Heavenly Ice Spear art had the word 'Infinite' in it. So long as Alex had Qi, he could keep the technique running, using the icicles without any stop or pause.

He did not need to restart the technique after a while or anything. Once started, it continued relentlessly, and Alex directed all of that toward the woman.

The woman formed a barrier realizing that something was wrong and started protecting herself. She defended herself to the best of her capacity.

Some of the icicles flew past her, smashing into an invisible barrier in front of the group of 400 soldiers that flew behind her and formed an array that empowered her.

The icicles sent ripples throughout the barrier, nearly destroying it, but they didn't. The barrier had protected them all splendidly.

As Alex attacked, he looked at that very barrier, trying to understand how it was being used. The attack power he had right now was comparable to someone in the peak of the Saint Transformation realm for anyone who didn't use an Immortal Qi.

As such, there weren't many barriers that could withstand Alex's attack at all. Even regular barriers would be destroyed by a single icicle, and yet this one stood strong.

Alex saw two possibilities as to why the barrier was as strong as it was.

The first possibility was that there was an excellent Formation master in the Eastern Continent who made such perfect formations that its efficiency could be good enough to be a barrier to this power.

However, Alex doubted this was the case for two reasons. One, there were too many such formations currently forming all around the battlefield.

Each leader forming such an array was using the formation, and there was no way there were so many incredible formations created.

If there were, Alex would have known the names of the ones.

Second, Alex could not see the formation plate or flags that could be used to produce this formation. Even if there was some hidden, it was pretty much impossible for it to lose out of Qi to use when clearly not connected to a Spirit vein.

As such, Alex believed the second possibility to be the more likely one.

The barrier that formed around the people in the battle array was not due to a formation, but rather a technique.

And if Alex had to guess, it was a group technique. Meaning, it was the result of an array as well.

Whether the array was the same one empowering the single person or not, Alex did not figure it out just yet.

'If only Brother Huan knew more about the army,' Alex thought. This would have all been so much easier.

In the end, the man was never interested in learning about the army of his empire and was interested in other things.

A surge of water formed in front of Alex suddenly, bringing him out of his thoughts. Alex felt the terrifying power behind the tidal wave that made its way toward him in the air.

He attacked the water with his icicles, and while they disrupted the wave somewhat, an Immortal attack was simply too much for Alex to deal with.

Instead, he simply teleported out of the attack's path, arriving right behind the woman, ready with an attack.

Chapter 1767: Reinforcements

Midnight glowed bright white as Sword Aura filled it fully, and somehow glowed with black light as well as Yin Qi flowed out of his body and filled Midnight at the same time.

The woman realized that Alex was behind her, but wasn't fast enough to protect herself at all.

Alex slashed.

God Rending Death Blade.

A crescent slash of pure black light landed point blank on the woman's back as Midnight tore through her clothes and her skin, lacerating her back muscles until it came out of the other side.

The slash dug deep inside her, tearing through the rest of her body, sending her flying away along with the attack.

The woman screamed in pain as Alex's Sword Qi attacked her back relentlessly. And the darkness and death aura, formed from the God Rending Death Blade technique made it impossible for the woman to heal so very quickly.

Alex paused and looked at the woman after the attack, surprised that she wasn't cleaved in half entirely. He was sure that would have happened when he attacked her from this close.

'Damn! Her Immortal Qi must have increased her natural defenses even without any techniques,' he thought. That was certainly a problem he would have to deal around with.

For now, since the woman was so wounded, he could just kill her before she took her healing pill.

Alex was about to go after the woman when he sensed someone flying toward him. He turned around quickly, Midnight ready to attack the person.

At the last moment, however, instead of attacking, he created a barrier to stop the man from hitting him.

Zhou Linfan crashed into the barrier, only then managing to stop himself. He let out a soft grunt before looking back to see Alex.

"Thank you," he said. "That bastard is a little too strong for me now."

Alex looked away from the man, toward the fight between the Dragon Emperor and his sister.

Hannah seemed to be in deep concentration as she fought the Dragon Emperor and the Dragon Emperor was managing to fight her on equal footing as well.

They exchanged attacks with neither side coming out on top.

Zhou Linfan slammed his crystalline sword onto the barrier that surrounded the group of 400 soldiers who were empowering the woman.

Alex looked away and toward the woman who was slowly getting back up. It was time to deal with her first. He took a deep breath, concentrating everything he had on him in this one single attack.

The woman ate a pill quickly and took a cold breath as the pain of her healing back sent electric jolts through her body.

Immortal Qi, which was in small amounts now, coursed through her body, making her feel more alive and well than she truly was.

She felt the aura change somewhat around a figure nearby and looked up to see that it was Alex. She saw him concentrating and realized he was using a technique.

Anger flooded her and she made some simple gestures with her two hands before placing both palms in front of her, as if holding onto something invisible.

Immortal Qi flooded her palm, coalescing in between them to form a very powerful concentration of water and converged and strengthened on its own until it glowed bright blue.

Suddenly, she lost all sense of the aura that was skyrocketing in front of her. She feared that Alex had moved away from her again and looked up, only to see him still flying ahead of her.

He had lost all of his aura somehow and was in a position as if he had just attacked her.

But there was no attack. There was no—

The concentrated ball of water in her hand suddenly burst apart as the woman saw something not just cut through it, but also cut through her fingers, into her palm.

Then, before she realized it, whatever it was that attacked her, cut through her as well.

The ball burst into a massive ocean fountain of water, and when it disappeared, all that was left behind was the corpse of the woman cut perfectly in half, her eyes still wide open as she didn't even understand how she was dead.

Alex took a deep breath to stabilize himself and his somewhat aching head. He had gotten a lot better at using his nameless technique without taking too much time or too much headache.

He turned around and looked toward Zhou Linfan, who had stopped attacking to watch him with eyes of shock.

Zhou Linfan couldn't believe how quickly Alex had dispatched someone who was currently stronger than he was.

The soldiers inside the barrier were currently horrified to see their leader dead. However, not as horrified as they should have been.

Alex wondered if they trusted in themselves enough to survive. That was when he noticed it.

Alex teleported right in front of Zhou Linfan, creating an All Swirling Elemental Shield in front of him.

Lashes of fire struck the barrier and destroyed it easily. Thankfully, that gave Alex enough time to grab Zhou Linfan and teleport away.

They arrived closer to the main battlefield from where the two of them could see a newly arrived group of fighters. No, there was way more than just one.

Alex placed Midnight on his back as if sheathing into a sheath that hung on his back. He stopped a spear stab going right for his spine and spun around quickly, cleaving the man that attacked him in half.

The regular soldier had thought he had caught Alex off guard, only to die on a simple counterattack.

Another soldier attacked him just the same, but that had only been a distraction for someone else to shoot him with an arrow from far away.

Zhou Linfan placed his arm to the side, the crystalline formation of Qi surrounding his body stopping the arrow.

Alex looked around, noticing the situation for the first time.

"There are too many members of the army here," he said softly. "We're being outnumbered."

Zhou Linfan looked around. "Our soldiers are being pushed back. This is bad. We will enter a stalemate soon. And if the soldiers continue pouring in as they have, we will be on the losing side soon enough."

"Our element of surprise has run its course," Alex said, dodging another attack to take out the woman who was coming for him with a hammer.

He punched her with his left hand so hard that the woman ended up having her face crushed inward, the shards of her skull piercing through the back of her head.

Alex couldn't guarantee that he had killed the woman, but he didn't have the luxury to check. More attacks came for him and Zhou Linfan.

As they were important figures in the battleground, he was a primary target and was thus constantly under attack.

Alex and Zhou Linfan moved back, joining their army.

"At least your father seems to know what must be done to overcome this problem," Zhou Linfan said, nodding in a direction toward the city.

Alex looked down at Zhou Linfan's gesture, and far away in the city that now looked deserted, Graham had brought along a group of soldiers to attack the building with the teleportation formation.

As long as they could destroy that building, they could limit the amount of reinforcements the army got for the time being.

Chapter 1768: Whisker at Work

Whisker scuttled along the side of the road, his aura completely gone from all around him. He looked at the sky in the distance where the giant ship hung in the air, and tiny humans in the sky fought like gods, sending tremors through the city.

Most of the city had evacuated already. Since everyone was a cultivator, it didn't take the people to close the shop and leave immediately.

It took Whisker a moment before he arrived at the building he had been looking for.

'Finally,' he thought. He was supposed to have found it long ago.

His little whiskers moved in the wind, sensing all sorts of information through them. He got simple information like sight, smell, sound, and even taste of whatever was in the air through his whiskers, and he got some more complex information such as temperature, pressure, and such.

On top of that, he sensed any sort of elemental or non-elemental aura all around him, giving him an accurate idea of where he was and what sort of place he was in.

This feature was the main reason Seeking Mouses were so sought out for. Their ability to gain so much information through their whiskers and then relay it back to the cultivator that owned them made them invaluable during many expeditions where every other step had to be taken with thoughtful care.

Whisker slowly moved forward toward the building, sensing the complete lack of any sort of formations beside a barrier that had been put up to defend them from any attacks that might come down from the sky.

A simple shadow step using the Flickering Shadows technique sent Whisker inside the barrier, and he continued his investigation.

Arriving at the window of a room, Whisker looked inside. The room had 3 people inside, two men and a woman, all of whom looked to be in their middle ages.

Whisker tried sensing their aura, but it was difficult from outside the window. He needed to either get inside or send his senses inside, neither of which he could do right at the moment.

He couldn't attack these people who were bound to be strong by himself anyway. He needed to drag them out.

He looked through the window for a short while longer before rushing back outside the formation, running to a building just a couple of buildings down the road.

Long Huan stood still with a young man who had a giant sword resting on his shoulders.

"Senior, what did you see?" Shan Wangjiu asked Whisker.

The young man whom Alex had taught sword skills back in the Martial Transcendence ground was now with the two of them.

During Alex's search for individuals in the Balance Haven realm to cause chaos while he escaped, he had found Shan Wangjiu as a participant in there thanks to a ticket Alex had managed to get for the young man.

Once Alex told him what he was doing there, Shan Wangjiu was more than happy to lend aid to his master.

During the 15 minutes that Alex was given to announce his presence to the emperor, he had taken Whisker, Long Huan, and Shan Wangjiu out, giving them a small task.

The task had taken some time to get to, but now they were ready to do it.

"I checked the building and there are 3 people inside. But there's a barrier covering the building. I can go in, but I don't know if either of you can make it in or not," Whisker said.

"Can you close the formation by any chance?" Shan Wangjiu asked.

"Maybe," Whisker said. "I have some knowledge in breaking formations, but that is only if they're using formation flags. If they're instead using a formation diagram carved into a large stone on the round itself, I can't do it."

"No, I don't think they have that," Long Huan said. "That building wasn't built long ago with proper care. It was hastily built for what it needs to do, and that only happened after the other people started showing up."

"On top of that, I can take us in. The only problem is I can't stop my aura, so they will find us immediately if we enter."

"Can you not call us 'other people'?" Shan Wangjiu said from the side. "We're humans, just like you."

Long Huan gave a small grin as an apology before turning back to Whisker. "What about the people in there?" he asked.

"I only saw through the window, but the three I saw were 2 men and 1 woman," Whisker said. "I can't speak to their strength, but if we rush in, we should be able to take them by surprise."

"Well... we'll see about that," Long Huan said. "Let's move."

Whisker jumped onto Long Huan's shoulders and rode him all the way to the building. They all arrived at the building and just as they did, a woman walked out of the building at the same time. Their eyes met and Long Huan couldn't do what he was about to do at all.

It was the woman that Whisker had seen from the window. She stopped in her tracks, looking at the two humans, completely ignoring Whisker.

"Who are—"

Long Huan stood up straight. "I am Long Huan, the second prince of the Empire. As someone of the Head Legion, you should recognize me," he said quickly.

The woman's eyes narrowed. At first, she wondered if she was being pranked or something, but the longer she looked, the more she was certain that the man in front of her was telling the truth.

"Your Highness," the woman said. "What brings you here to our headquarters?"

"Me and my friend here need passage inside," Long Huan said.

"Oh, is that so?" the woman asked with a gentle smile but remained unmoving. A moment later, the other two men that were inside the building walked out, both of them looking at the prince while nodding.

Long Huan grimaced a little. This wasn't going just as he had planned.

"Are you going to stand there or let me in?" Long Huan asked. "Surely you're not going to deny my order, are you?"

"Hmm, I'm not sure, Your Highness," the woman said. "We have been informed that you are an enemy of the empire now and you are to be captured on sight."

As the woman said that, four other people arrived down from the sky, outside of the barrier.

Shan Wangjiu took his long sword, brandishing it as he prepared to fight. The ones in the sky looked strong, but so was he.

Long Huan looked at the woman in front and the two men, slowly judging their power. They were in the Early Saint Transformation realm, meaning they were stronger than every single one of them here.

Long Huan sighed and looked toward Shan Wangjiu. He placed his left hand on the young man's shoulders and looked at the sky as he brought a black sword out.

"Those aren't the ones we will be fighting," Long Huan said and activated the Ebony sword. In a snap, he appeared beyond the barrier, teleporting right behind the three people.

"They are!"

Before the three could even turn around, Whisker had already pulled out 3 wooden puppets to deal with them.

Each of the three puppets was an Immortal puppet.

Chapter 1769: Some More Time

As soon as the three puppets appeared, they slammed into the three people, knocking them away. Two of them flew toward the barrier uncontrollably and surprisingly slipped right past the barrier without encountering any difficulty.

The barrier either didn't allow people from only entering, or had no problems with people leaving it. Or, these two had some sort of tokens that let them go in and out of the barrier without being stopped.

The other four that were flying outside quickly caught the two that were tossed outside, but those were already knocked out, some of their bones surely broken by the impact.

Whisker had the puppets grab the last person who slid across the ground close to the barrier and drag them back. The man who had remained inside was very clearly knocked out, maybe even was already close to death.

Even a simple attack by something that was used by Immortals to train against was not something so simple.

Whisker ran up to the man and started searching for something. He grabbed the man's storage bag and tossed it toward Long Huan who quickly grabbed it.

Long Huan looked inside briefly before quickly rushing into the building. He had only gone in for a few moments when he heard loud bangs coming from outside.

"They have started attacking the barrier," Shan Wangjiu said. "We should finish what we're here to do and leave quickly."

"Yes," Long Huan said as he stood before a platform that was clearly a base of control for a lot of different formations. He looked around frantically, trying to understand what did what.

Whisker looked at it too, recognizing a lot of the base formations. He started explaining what he thought some of these formations did.

Long Huan also finished looking through the man's storage bag and managed to find a small golden medallion with an inscription of a giant cube at the center.

He closed his eyes and poured his senses into the medallion.

There were more loud bangs on the outside, taking away some of his attention, but not enough. Shan Wangjiu said something once again, but Long Huan ignored it as he looked at what he saw.

"Yes, got it!" he said and tried to do something, only to end up failing. "Ah! It will take some time. Dammit!"

There was one small problem, it seemed. He was at the headquarters and he had the authority to do whatever he wanted here thanks to the medallion he received. But even then, it would take time for him to manually go over each of the connections allowed to him through the medallion to disconnect them.

"Some time?" Whisker asked.

Long Huan nodded. "Don't disturb me now. I'll start working on it immediately."

As Long Huan lost himself in the medallion, Shan Wangjiu realized that the noise coming from outside had not only intensified, but someone had managed to sneak in as well.

He instantly rushed outside and so did Whisker.

Shan Wangjiu launched out a golden sword slash, filled with Sword Qi onto one of the men that had entered with a small medallion on his hand.

The man managed to easily defend himself, but in doing so was stopped immediately.

Whisker sent out the puppets again, and started fighting the two people that had come in.

Nearly a dozen other fighters had gathered outside the building smashing onto the barrier with every attack they could.

With the two new opponents down, Shan Wangjiu looked to the sky with a grim smile on his face. "We will be okay, right?" he asked. "The barrier will hold?"

As strong as the three puppets were, they could not defeat the swarm of a dozen Saint before they could kill Whisker.

Whisker remembered what Long Huan had told them. This building was new, and thus the formation was most likely not connected to a spirit vein.

Which meant there was only a limited amount of Spirit stones for it to use before it ran out of power.

Now, all they could do was hope that the barrier could hold on long enough for Long Huan to do what he had come here to do.

* * * * *

The war in the sky seemed to slow down a lot as the number on either side came to be close. The stalemate increased and no one got any upper hand on the other side.

The Eastern Continent's soldiers slowly moved back, acting upon orders made by some higher-ups. What was once a disorderly army due to being surprise attacked, was no longer that.

As more of their army came to help, the army got into formation, fighting as they were meant to.

Hannah was still fighting with the Dragon Emperor, neither getting the upper hand on the other.

Hannah let out a stream of chill mist from her sword, slashing with it at the emperor as though she were using a whip.

The Dragon Emperor put up his shield to block it and sent out a torrent of water toward Hannah.

Hannah swung her sword, the stream of mist slapping the torrent of water out of the air, before retaliating with another quick attack.

The Dragon Emperor fought back, equally angry and annoyed at the situation. He was angry that he needed so many people behind him just to make him strong enough to fight a girl who wasn't even a century old.

He was supposed to be one of the strongest people in the entire world and seeing someone who was clearly stronger had made him a lot more angry.

He had spent so many of his days improving himself inside of his palace, but that hadn't worked at all, it seemed. He had only just managed to fight her to a standstill thanks to the help he had.

'Her battle prowess is too strong,' he thought. 'This fight will go nowhere.'

His people were also constantly telling him to fall back. The Dragon Emperor decided to comply.

He raised his Noble Dragon spear and called upon thunder and lightning from his body. The power of Wood Qi turning into lightning surged through his body and he fed it all into the spear.

Then, he stabbed forward, attacking with not just regular Qi, but Immortal Qi. He had been saving it all this time just in case he needed it, and this seemed like the best time.

Hannah's eyes widened in surprise and she quickly changed into using Immortal Qi as well. The mist forming in her sword solidified, turning into extremely cold ice that covered her sword.

She drew it all back and then slashed.

Ice and lightning exploded in the center, sending out a massive shockwave that sent people flying away.

Both Hannah and the Dragon Emperor were also pushed back by the force, and thrown into the distance.

The Emperor used the moment to go back to his people as many others slowly closed in to form a wall to stop Hannah from going after the Emperor.

Hannah looked at them with gritted teeth and looked back to see more people closing in on her. Disappointed, she turned around and flew away, leaving the battlefield to meet up with the rest of her people.

She could tell that the status quo of the overall battle was slowly changing.

Chapter 1770: Negatives and Positives

Graham fought in the sky, slamming his fist against the barrier of someone's technique, shattering it to punch the person on the other side.

The man was sent flying away, hurt but not dead.

Graham's shoes activated and he gained speed to shame a Saint. He arrived right next to the man and punched downward through his chest.

Just as he was about to do so, a sharp pain in his mind caused him to lose a bit of concentration and he missed the attack entirely.

"Step back a little. Move a little to the right. Two steps sideways down toward your left. Do not move forward..."

Graham's mind simply subconsciously sent out orders to everyone who was connected with him through the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle array.

He wasn't giving actual word-based orders but rather something that was just feeling-based, not dissimilar to how a young beast would communicate with someone with whom it had bonded.

Graham simply threw out suggestions using the Battle Array itself and anyone using the Battle Array that was not the leader would understand intuitively just what it was they had to do as long as they had the slightest bit of intelligence.

Graham frowned as the pain in his mind flared once again.

He had spread the army wide and thin for himself to come down here to fight the people who were running the teleportation formation. As such, the stress on his mind from having to handle everyone was slowly increasing.

No matter that he had practiced for this a long time when it was the real battle, he was still incapable of properly handling all 10 thousand soldiers.

Without reaching the saint realm, he just wasn't equipped to control the soldiers in a relaxed manner.

Something came for Graham from the front.

Graham's spiritual sense wasn't good enough to comprehend the thing due to its speed, but his glowing purple eyes which were capable of supreme kinetic vision allowed him to see the thing that was moving toward him in what his brain processed as something slow.

A dark brown snake with yellow spots on its body and light green wings nearly half its length in wingspan was coming at Graham with his mouth open.

Graham grabbed the snake even as it tried to bite him, stopping its fangs merely inches away from his face. Venomous purple liquid dripped down the snake's fangs as it was ready to poison him.

A sharp tail lashed onto Graham's body from the back, lacerating his robes as something rattled away.

Graham grimaced a little but he didn't let out any sound. He grabbed the snake's jaw and maw even tighter and started pulling it apart.

The snake screamed as it was torn apart with bare hands. It tried using some wind attacks to free itself.

Everything hit Graham directly and none did anything.

The half-torn body of the snake only fell for 2 seconds before Graham took its body and stuffed it into his storage bag. He knew his son needed blood and cores.

He had been doing this for a while now, with both men and beasts.

Something struck Graham's head, but not really his head. He could feel something hitting his mind, an attack so strong that his weak spiritual sense wasn't even capable of locating it.

However, despite the strong attack, his mind resisted it rather easily.

He had known for a while that due to his unique physical conditions, there were things he would never be able to do that even the worst cultivators would have no hard time doing.

The heavens had cursed him so that even after nearly 3 decades of using the best pills and best cultivation techniques, he had never been able to breakthrough the cultivation realms fast enough to reach the Saint realm just yet.

However, as a counter to that very curse, the heavens had also given him some blessings as well.

He was protected from any sort of poison or toxins. He was protected from any sort of spiritual attack or effect. And he was granted the capacity to improve his physical body at a rate that defied all logic.

There were both positives and negatives in what he had received from his body, and it was about time he stopped focusing on the negatives and used his positives to live a better life.

Graham shook his head, easily getting rid of even the most minor inconvenience that came with the spiritual attack. He looked at the man who he had missed his attack on, who had used the spiritual attack on him just now.

He dropped from the sky like a meteor, going straight for the man below him.

The man looked up in surprise, quickly forming a technique in his hands as red glowing energy filled his open palms. A flower-

shaped blast of fire was launched upward, which grew the further above it went.

The Dragonheart gauntlet activated and fake weight was added to Graham's body as he smashed through the attack, destroying it easily. Before the man could even realize what had happened, Graham slammed into his body and delivered a devastating blow to his rib cage.

The man's body broke apart into blood and bones, spilling everywhere. Graham stood up bloody, and as he did, a small blue soul floated out of the man's body, unsure of where it was.

Graham reached for it to grab it, but the soul simply passed through his hands with some difficulty and disappeared far away.

Just because he had yet to enter the Saint realm, his body's Qi was just too weak to interact with the Nascent souls in any meaningful way.

"Tsk!"

Well, just because he was going to forget about the negatives of his body, the negatives weren't going to forget about him.

Graham's eyes moved toward the building that was some distance in front of him that was still active. New soldiers were continuing to come out in groups.

Thankfully, they were not coming out in a stream. That was a good thing, but Graham definitely had to close this formation quickly. If not, they would be run down by the new soldiers.

Graham felt the pang of pain again in his mind. Outer attacks surely couldn't hurt him as much, but he had little capacity when all the pain was his doing.

Still, he was the leader of the entire army, and he had to control them.

While he was slightly distracted, many soldiers gathered close to him, but not around him. Instead, they clumped up together and soon enough Graham could see the floating image of a golden dragon around them.

An old man with gray hair stepped forward, holding a simple yet incredible staff in his right hand.

"I am Li Baiquang, leader of the 9th battalion of Talon Legion. With whom do I have the pleasure of fighting?" the man asked.

"Graham Benton, no ranks," Graham said as he stood straight, his sweat-covered muscle gleaming as if a sculptor's masterpiece. He looked at the man in front of him, slightly worried. He could tell this was going to be a difficult fight.

At that very moment, a voice drifted down from the sky into his mind.

"I will assume control of the array now, Father," Alex said. "You just let loose."