

Alchemy 1811

Chapter 1811: A Few Attacks Remaining

Zhou Linfan remembered the days of the past when he sat with his mother as she taught him how to cultivate. He remembered playing games with his brothers and sisters, all of whom let him win. He remembered talking to his father who promised him that he would one day become a great person.

Those days were destroyed as the Emperor executed his father and then called for the deaths of every one of his family.

Within just a month, everyone and everything that he held dear to his heart was dead and everyone smiled for it.

There was no meaning to their deaths, no reason for them to lose their lives. And they had, and it had all happened because of the man in front of him.

Long had he awaited for this moment. Long had he prepared in silence, waiting for the day he got to kill this man.

The day was finally here, and Lin Xiaojing, as he was named at birth, would not let it go ever again.

Crystalline spikes grew out in the air around Zhou Linfan, surrounding him as a total of 8 spun as a group around him.

Zhou Linfan pointed forward and the crystal spikes flew toward the Dragon Emperor.

Empowered by Immortal Qi, the Dragon Emperor pulled up his Golden Dragon shield, and defended himself against all the 8 spikes. He felt the terrible blowback that came with having to defend an Immortal attack, but throughout this fight, he had been feeling it.

He slowly put down the shield and looked at Zhou Linfan who prepared another technique.

The Dragon Emperor had come to the understanding that Zhou Linfan was going to fight him until the bitter end, and as such he needed to make sure he lasted longer with his Immortal Qi than his enemy did.

But therein came the problem as the Dragon Emperor had no idea of the reserves within Zhou Linfan. As such, he had to take every step with caution, using only the necessary amount of Immortal Qi to fight back.

An illusory water snake the size of the Azure Dragon himself came flying toward the Dragon Emperor, with the strength of an Immortal.

The Dragon Emperor thought of using his shield again but stopped himself.

The shield, while amazing, was only a Saint treasure. While using Immortal Qi itself wasn't much of a problem through it, using it to continuously defend against Immortal attacks very quickly chipped away at its durability, until the time when it would simply be destroyed.

That was the last thing the Emperor could allow to happen to the shield. There was something very important in the shield that he needed it for later on, should the necessity come for it.

He could not let it be destroyed so easily.

The Dragon Emperor shot out a lightning bolt through the Noble Dragon Spear, which took on the appearance of an Azure Dragon as it flew toward the incoming Water snake.

The clash of the two beasts let out a terribly cataclysmic bright light in the sky that darkened anything not in it.

The Dragon Emperor defended against the exploding energy that came from the impact and took a moment to look within himself.

'This isn't good,' he thought. His Immortal Qi reserve was getting lower and lower, and now, it was close to emptying. He couldn't help but frown at the sight.

Zhou Linfan's rage continuously burned within him. But it had been burning for thousands of years at this point, and he had long since learned how to keep a cool head throughout all the swirling emotions inside of him.

He saw the Dragon Emperor's frown through the subsiding colors of the explosion and immediately clocked onto the fact that the emperor was low on his reserve of Immortal Qi.

'Finally,' he thought. It was about damn time. It was a very good news, especially given the fact that he too was running low on his own Immortal Qi.

'3 more attacks?' Zhou Linfan thought as he assessed how many more rounds of attacks he could make using his remaining Immortal Qi. '5 if I can use it efficiently.'

There was no need to use large attacks, and simple attacks that struck just a single person were enough in this instance.

Each attack counted at this point.

A crystalline aura covered his body, formed not of Immortal Qi. Then, he created a single sharp spike out of the crystal using Immortal Qi and shot forward.

'First one,' Zhou Linfan thought.

The Dragon Emperor shot out a single bolt of lightning and destroyed the incoming attack. It had been a very small bolt of lightning and made it evident that the Emperor was trying to do the same thing as him.

Neither the Dragon Emperor nor Zhou Linfan even dared to try to dodge the attacks. They knew without a doubt that unless they could teleport, running would get them nowhere and instead get them killed instead.

One could not expect to run faster than an Immortal attack after all.

'Second,' Zhou Linfan thought and created another crystal spike. That was the weakest attack he could do with certainty that it would kill the Emperor.

The Emperor fought back with another lightning bolt too. That too was the least Qi consuming attack on his side.

The Dragon Emperor stared at Zhou Linfan, wondering the same thing that Zhou Linfan did.

'We'll see who runs out first,' Zhou Linfan thought and immediately used the same attack again.

The Dragon Emperor hesitated for a moment but quickly attacked back, sending another bolt of lightning at the incoming attack.

The two attacks clashed and the explosion sent back a weaker, but still strong shockwave throughout the battlefield.

Zhou Linfan paused his attacks for a moment, ignoring the thousands of other explosive noises that came from all around the battlefield. He stared at the Dragon Emperor, trying to discern that this new face of his meant.

The Dragon Emperor showed signs of anger in his face which beforehand had been calm. There was also a sense of frustration and fear, and Zhou Linfan dared not believe he was seeing what he was.

He felt at his own reserve of Qi. He had plenty of Saint Qi, but Immortal Qi, now he only had enough for 3 more attacks.

That was the only thing he could believe in right now. Himself.

He created another crystal spike and shot it out toward the Emperor.

The Emperor's hand shook a little with which he held onto the Noble Dragon Spear. He felt at his own Qi and knew this was the only thing he could do under the circumstances.

He used his Immortal Qi and sent out another lightning bolt.

The bolt streaked through the sky like white-hot fire and struck the incoming spike in the air, shattering it into a million tiny sand-like dust.

The explosion was something both of them had been accustomed to by now, so the moment the explosion occurred, Zhou Linfan created his 5th crystal spike and shot out.

The Dragon Emperor noticed the incoming strike and he took on a grim expression as he used a massive amount of Qi to quickly produce a defensive shield.

Zhou Linfan saw that and smiled erratically.

The Dragon Emperor was all out of Immortal Qi.

Chapter 1812: Instinct

It was clear to Zhou Linfan that the Dragon Emperor had run out of Immortal Qi completely, while he could still use two more attacks.

There was a chance that the emperor was acting as though he was out of Immortal Qi to lure Zhou Linfan in, but that would be an incredibly stupid thing to do given that he would have to risk his life by not using his Immortal Qi at this point.

The crystal spike streaked through the air, making a beeline for the Emperor and the massive shield he had created.

As the crystal spike flew, Zhou Linfan could see something happening to the spike. It was as though the spike was moving away from where it was meant to attack.

A simple thought from Zhou Linfan was enough to redirect the attack, but that was something that came to Zhou Linfan as an instinct. An Immortal attack was truly too strong to control halfway through.

Still, instinct and Intent were enough for the crystal spike to land on the Dragon Emperor and break through the barrier he had formed using many techniques.

It easily broke through it like a rock to a glass window and struck the Dragon Emperor on the other side.

The Dragon Emperor had done something at the last moment, or maybe he had done something from the very start to lead to that moment. Whatever he had done, the attack from Zhou Linfan had been diverted ever so slightly.

Instead of hitting him in the head, chest, or Dantian, the spike hit the Dragon Emperor to the side on his right arm.

The arm and part of the Dragon Emperor's chest had exploded, enough to gravely wound him, but not enough to die.

The Dragon Emperor's eyes widened in pain and shock and he quickly looked toward the Zhou Linfan. Without hesitation, he pulled out a pill from his Storage ring on his left hand.

The pill looked simple with no pill veins and just a cloudy blue color to it. It also didn't have strong Harmony to it from what he remembered hearing.

But that mattered little to the Dragon Emperor as he quickly ate the pill and dove down to grab his spear as it fell.

Zhou Linfan saw the Dragon Emperor eat the pill and knew he couldn't let the man heal. He had to kill him before he could find any help.

He thought of attacking another crystal spike but now knew that it wasn't reliable. He had to kill him with a more reliable attack.

Dao of Crystal filled and surrounded Zhou Linfan's sword as he poured all of his remaining Immortal Qi into this one attack. There was little remaining anyway, and as such this would be his last Immortal attack.

He didn't have to glance around to see if anyone else would interfere in this attack, as he knew everyone else was busy with their own fights, and his friends had worked hard to keep this space free from any interference.

With that thought, he rushed toward the Dragon Emperor who had only just managed to grab onto his spear.

His eyes turned toward Zhou Linfan, the look of pain and fear still clear in his bright blue irises.

Zhou Linfan experienced the moment slower than it happened. He saw the face of the man he was to kill with his sword. He saw his emotions. He saw how he could rid the world of this man with but a single attack.

He swung the sword down and saw the Emperor quickly try to point the spear toward him even though he was already there.

Zhou Linfan saw lightning start to crackle from the shaft of the spear where the Dragon Emperor had grabbed onto it, but he need not fear it. After all, his Saint Qi defense was much stronger than the Emperor's Saint Qi attack.

He saw the lightning move forward toward the tip of the spear from where it would attack and by that point, his sword was already closing in on the Emperor's neck.

Even as it closed in, Zhou Linfan felt something wrong. Something deep in him told him that if he didn't defend himself, he was going to die.

The thought itself formed after his instinct had forced Zhou Linfan to drive the sword toward the spear that burst out with lightning.

The two attacks clashed in close combat and the resulting explosion of energy sent Zhou Linfan flying through the sky, unable to stop himself.

He crashed through 5 buildings before coming to a stop on a barrier around the 6th building. He hadn't even realized that he was knocked downward at all.

Zhou Linfan's body ached all over and he opened his eyes to see that he had been wounded so badly that his clothes were soaked with blood within moments.

He reached into his storage bag and pulled out a 9-veiled healing pill to quickly eat it. As his body was healed by the pill, he felt a sense of fatigue come over him.

It took him a moment to realize that it was not fatigue that he was feeling, but just the feeling of becoming weaker due to no longer being in the Array. His aura was weaker than before.

He joined back into the array and was notified instinctively that he needed to move up from the ground to get to a better position so he could find more flexibility with the array.

'What happened?' Zhou Linfan thought as he flew upward and immediately sensed the Dragon Emperor flying downward with his head held up high with a look of superiority and a perfectly healed right hand.

The right side of his robe was empty, but through it revealed a mighty arm that held onto the spear.

But none of that shocked Zhou Linfan as much as it did the man's aura. There was a subtle power in the man's aura that Zhou Linfan could not ignore.

In fact, the Dragon Emperor was doing nothing to hide that at all. It could be said that he was even showing it off.

Zhou Linfan couldn't help but shrink back in fear. He looked at the man with a look of sheer shock as he understood what he was sensing.

Immortal Qi.

A massive amount of Immortal Qi.

"You... you were hiding it," Zhou Linfan spoke out immediately, only to realize that was wrong. The amount he felt was too much to be something that the Emperor hid.

It was almost as though the Emperor had instead regained Immortal Qi that he had lost. But how was it possible?

"No," Zhou Linfan corrected himself. "You replenished your Immortal Qi. How... how is that possible?"

There was simply no way for a Saint to replenish his Immortal. After all, one had to cultivate for a significant time to convert Saint Qi to Immortal Qi. There should be no way for a person to just gain back Immortal Qi at all.

"The answer is as simple as the question itself, Chef Zhou," the Emperor said. "There is no reason to overthink these things."

"How did I replenish Immortal Qi? Well, that is of course because I ate an Immortal Qi replenishment pill. Simple, wouldn't you say?"

Chapter 1813: Dishonorable

Immortal Qi Replenishment pill.

The words alone took Zhou Linfan into a state of utter amazement. How simple a solution that was to a problem every Saint Transformation realm cultivator faced when they started forming Immortal Qi.

He wondered why he didn't have such a thing. There were multiple immortals that he had come across in the past 2 years. Why did he not think to ask that from the man?

He wished he knew such a thing was even possible.

More thoughts raced to surface in his mind, but even as he did the Dragon Emperor stirred in his vision and he saw the spear glow bright white as lightning crackled through it.

Deep and powerful Immortal Qi filled the Noble Dragon Spear and Zhou Linfan understood that his death had come.

There was not a chance that he was going to live through this. Not on his own.

'I should have asked for protection from the Immortals too,' he thought. He regretted not having any protection at the very moment.

"You fight well," the Dragon Emperor said. "But you were always a better chef. The moment you escaped my death sentence, you should have lived your life in peace, never to come in front of me. You could have maybe survived a little longer than this."

The lightning crackled bright and the Emperor gave one last word.

"But, since you wish for it, I shall deliver you to your kin. Now, die."

He launched the attack.

A Tiger's roar filled the sky as the lightning bolt was stopped by the giant head of a White Tiger that appeared out of nowhere.

When the lights and aura subsided, the Dragon Emperor saw Alex standing before Zhou Linfan, panting heavily as he had come so close to death.

He knew Bai Jingshen's protection would defend him from the attack when he teleported in, but feeling the aura of the Immortal lightning strike right in front of him was not something Alex wasn't to feel so close to him.

The technique that the Dragon Emperor used to create this lightning bolt attack clearly used the Dao of Lightning, so there was a layer of added strength this attack had compared to anyone else's lightning bolts he had fought against in the past many hours or even years.

The Emperor stared at Alex with a stunned expression for a few moments before his face twisted into hatred.

"Damn you!" the man shouted and readied another attack to launch toward them, but he sensed the oncoming attack from his side and was forced to defend against it immediately.

He tried to use his Dao of Spatial Expansion to disrupt Alex's teleportation, but there was nothing he could do as Alex teleported away.

"Damn you!" the Emperor shouted, but he couldn't give thought to Alex much longer.

He turned to the side and watched as Yan Yating closed in on him, his sword burning with red hot fire.

"Long Tiankong," he spoke in a deep voice.

"Oathbreaker," the Dragon Emperor said. "Do you really intend to kill your emperor, whom you made a royal vow to always keep alive and follow?"

"I made the vow to follow a righteous man," Yan Yating said. "Not someone like you who would go behind the back of His Majesty, the Azure Dragon to try and kill his wife and son. Someone, who would force his own army to take part in atrocities that they would never wish to be part of."

"You are no Emperor of mine, Long Tiankong, and as such, no vow I made to the empire stands to stop me from killing you here today."

The Emperor scoffed. "I knew I should have changed the vow to be one that was made to the heavens. I will change it going forward," he said and then paused.

"Or perhaps not," he said. "What need is there for me to have any men behind me after today? Once this war is over, I shall have no need to stay in this world or require anything of its occupants."

The Emperor looked to the sky. "My path ahead is up there, in the world of Immortals where I shall make a name of my own," he said and thought about the things that he nearly got from Alex.

'The Alchemy God!'

"You will die long before it."

Yan Yating swung his sword and began his battle against the Dragon Emperor.

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Hannah fought the man in front of her, a man she had come to learn as Long Huoyang, the general of the enemy army.

There were legions and legions under this man's command in this war, and as long as he died, there would be chaos within the enemy ranks.

She wanted to go fight the Emperor, but the task was equally as important.

Her blade was a hurricane in her hands, like a snake that twisted and turned to attack her opponent.

She fought at a close distance with the man, making it hard for him to react to her attacks in time. It was a double-edged sword too as it affected her reaction too, but she was the stronger of the two in general, so she came out on top either way.

She struck out with a fiery sword slash, attacking the man even as he attacked back with his own. The two attacks clashed, but hers was meant to explode upon impact.

The explosion technique she had learned from Alex helped her keep the man on his toes as he tried his best to fight, but he couldn't do that.

Unlike the others, he did not have a high cultivation base and thus did not have that much Immortal Qi.

He had hidden behind his troops all this time, but caught on his own like this, the man could do nothing.

Hannah struck him again and stepped back a little to say something.

"I hear you were the Crown Prince's bodyguard," she said.

"So what of it?" the man asked and swung out another attack, which Hannah stopped quickly.

"Isn't a bodyguard meant to protect his master?" she asked.

The man's eyes narrowed. "Speak not in circles, wench," he said. "Say what is in your mind or do not speak."

Hannah gave a grim look. "Do you not feel any shame at what has happened then? Do you not feel any pain?" she asked.

The man felt a hint of a news in her words and suppressed his shock. "I said speak not—"

"Do you not care that the Crown Prince is dead?" Hannah asked. "Long Fangyu was struck down by his own father just earlier."

Long Huogang paused at the last moment and stared with deadened eyes at Hannah as shock overtook him. "The Crown Prince—"

Hannah's sword dug deep into the man's chest as she dashed forward and attacked while his mind was distracted by the news.

The man tried to attack but Immortal Qi exploded from Hannah's sword, instantly destroying his body as blood rained down on the ground.

Hannah looked at where the dead man stood and knew what she had done would be considered dishonorable by many, to use underhanded means.

But this was war, and she had learned this very day to kill. So, kill she did, one way or another.

She left the place, moving toward Alex, knowing that she had done her work in sending disturbances throughout the enemy forces.

Chapter 1814: Weak

Alex teleported out with Zhou Linfan, arriving at a safe location. Both Alex and the old man panted as if they had just survived death in mere moments.

"Are you okay?" Alex quickly asked the old man, pulling out a few healing pills to feed him.

Zhou Linfan caught Alex's hand and shook his head. "I'm fine. I am not wounded," he answered and took a large gulp again as he realized how close he had come to dying just then.

"What happened out there?" Alex asked. "I wasn't paying all of my attention to your battle, but I could still see that the Emperor was having a hard time in your fights. Was he playing with you?"

Zhou Linfan shook his head and looked toward the patch of sky where the Dragon Emperor and Yan Yating now fought with loud noises and bright colors.

"He was out of Immortal Qi," Zhou Linfan said. "I was so close to killing him because of it. But... he ended up eating a pill to replenish his Immortal Qi. And he got the upper hand on me instantly."

Alex stared at Zhou Linfan with wide eyes and turned to look at the Dragon Emperor in the distance. "He ate a pill to replenish his Immortal Qi?" he asked. "I can't believe that he has a pill like that. I can't imagine there being a pill capable of doing that."

"He didn't use Saint Pill," Zhou Linfan said through a grim expression as he could understand why Alex was confused. That had been part of his own confusion at first as well.

"He didn't use Saint Pill? What does that mean?" Alex asked. He wondered if he had misunderstood Zhou Linfan's words and that the Dragon Emperor had eaten something entirely different.

"He ate an Immortal pill to replenish his Immortal Qi," Zhou Linfan said in the end.

Alex remained with his stunned expression for a long time before he shook his head. He must've heard wrong. "Sorry, what did you say?" he asked.

"You heard me," Zhou Linfan said. "He ate an Immortal pill."

"That's impossible," Alex said.

"He told me he did," Zhou Linfan said.

"But that shouldn't be possible," Alex said again.

Zhou Linfan frowned. "He told me what he did himself. Are you doubting my ears?" he asked.

"No, I..." Alex churned out thoughts in his mind, trying to look for an explanation. "You were lied to. That's the only explanation."

"What makes you say that?" Zhou Linfan asked, sensing something went on here that he hadn't considered.

"Saints can't eat Immortal pills," Alex explained. "They would die if they did."

Zhou Linfan paused. Only now did his mind clear enough to realize that he had been wrong in his thinking.

Eating Immortal Pill to replenish Immortal Qi was simple, but only to Immortals. To Saints, it was a deadly matter.

"So... he lied to me?" Zhou Linfan asked.

"He must have," Alex said. "That or... no, he must have lied. The Emperor is a master alchemist himself. He wouldn't make the mistake of judging a Saint pill as an Immortal pill."

"I see," Zhou Linfan said. "He lied to me... but why?"

What reason did a killer have to lie right before killing off the person they were talking to? It made no sense to Zhou Linfan at all. It wasn't as though the Dragon Emperor expected him to survive that attack.

Alex was in a similar mindset, looking out at the Emperor, wondering both if or why he lied. He wanted to immediately dismiss the question of if he lied, but he held onto it, looking for answers.

The main question at the moment still remained the question of what pill did the Emperor eat.

"You sure it was a pill?" Alex asked.

"Absolutely," Zhou Linfan said.

"Hmm, does he have a Saint Pill recipe that can provide him with Immortal Qi instantly?" Alex wondered, looking out toward the Dragon Emperor. He knew for a fact that one could not make anything with Saint Qi to produce something that could rival Immortal Qi.

It would need something else on top of it, and that usually came from the person's own being. Like how the Darkness element corrupted a person and consumed their Qi and flesh to give them power, Immortal power with Saint materials required a similar sacrifice.

Any such sacrifice would be so clearly visible to anyone looking for it.

However, no matter how much Alex looked for it in the Dragon Emperor's actions, he could not find the telltale sign of him undergoing any such phenomenon.

'How can it be? How can he not show any signs?' Alex wondered. How could one make a pill great enough to instantly form Immortal Qi in someone using items that did not give some pushback to the person consuming it?

As he thought in that matter, the first question he had in his mind drifted right back again.

'Did he lie at all?' he wondered.

He could not imagine the Dragon Emperor telling the truth regarding the secret to his instant replenishment but thought some more in that direction to see if he had missed something.

Eating an Immortal pill was bound to kill someone, that much Alex was sure. Immortal pills had just way too much power in them for anyone to easily consume them and...

A thought bubbled up from deep within Alex's mind.

Was it possible for Immortal pills to not have much power in them? Just a tiny hint of power, something a man who was used to using his Immortal Qi could use.

'Weak Immortal pill,' Alex thought and his eyes widened at the possibility.

Making an Immortal pill that was weak by nature was something Alex knew to be impossible. However, the possibility of an Immortal pill that was weak as a result of being a failure was in fact possible.

Everyone sought far and wide to have the highest harmony in any pills they could get, but what if one could go in the other direction?

An Immortal pill with less than 10% harmony, maybe even just 5%. Such a pill would be too weak to do anything to an Immortal but to a Saint...

"That bastard!" Alex couldn't help but curse out loud. He wondered if he had just figured out something that only a few people knew. This was something he would have to test when he had the time.

Hannah arrived and asked Alex about Long Huan. Knowing that he was being looked after by Zhan Luoyang made her feel good. They then told her about how the Emperor had regained Immortal Qi.

"Do we not have such pills?" she asked Alex, only to be replied with shaking heads.

"What do we do then?" she asked with a worried expression. "If he can keep replenishing his Immortal Qi, beating him will be impossible."

"I don't think he can," Alex said. Just the Pill impurities from the pills that Dragon Emperor ate alone would take years to cleanse.

"You don't know that for certain," Hannah said and Alex nodded. It was true that they had to work with the worst-

case scenario in mind.

"I had prepared something if things got really bad," Alex said and sighed. "While they aren't the worst they can be, I fear it might be time for me to use that thing."

Chapter 1815: One Pill

Both Hannah and Zhou Linfan stared at Alex with curious looks on their faces.

"What are you talking about?" Zhou Linfan asked. "Do you have something we can use? Did the Immortals give you something?"

"They didn't give me anything," Alex said. "I made it myself."

Alex brought out a small ceramic bottle from his Soul Space and presented it to the two of them.

"Inside this is a pill that can temporarily grant you the power of an Immortal," he said

Both Hannah and Zhou Linfan narrowed their eyes as they didn't trust Alex's words.

"I'm sorry, the power of an Immortal?" Hannah asked.

Alex nodded.

"Is that... different from Immortal Qi we've been using all this time?" Zhou Linfan asked. He imagined it was different but failed to see how at the moment.

"It's different, very different," Alex said. "After all, the Immortal Qi you use cannot be compared to that of a true Immortal."

Zhou Linfan thought for a bit and nodded. He could tell just how weak he was compared to Scarlet back when she had just broken through to the Immortal realm.

Her Immortal Qi had been so much more vigorous than his own.

"My Immortal Qi should be stronger than the Emperor's right now," Hannah said. "But I can't do anything with it against him. I think he's being empowered with Dao that stumps any advantage I have over him, leveling the playing field."

"Your Immortal Qi is stronger?" Alex asked with a surprised look on his face. He thought for a bit and saw some truth in that.

'She can skip realms,' Alex thought. That was most certainly the reason why her Immortal Qi was so much stronger.

"But you can't win against him, can you?" Alex asked.

Hannah reluctantly shook her head. "My lack of any sort of Dao is holding me back," she said.

Alex sighed. "I'm sure you'll learn some one day," he said. "We have plenty of pills for you to try later on."

"Let's forget about Dao for now," Zhou Linfan said. "What about that pill? Are you telling me that pill can bring forth the power of a True Immortal?"

Alex nodded. "Fully," he said. "Maybe even past just a newly ascended Immortal, given that I made this pill with 9 pill veins. It's at a level that even Immortals could eat and find some tiny benefit from it."

"The closest a Saint pill can come to comparing to an Immortal Pill, was it?" Hannah murmured.

"Then it's a good pill," Zhou Linfan said. "But I sense your reluctance in using it. What's wrong with it?"

"It's a forbidden pill in a way. Its downsides are many times worse than what it offers. It is bad," Alex said. "Maybe... maybe even fatal."

Both Hannah and Zhou Linfan gave a grim look when they heard Alex speak.

"Fatal, you say," Zhou Linfan asked, looking out at the battle between the Emperor and Yan Yating.

The rest of the war was slowing down.

Hannah's killing of Long Huogang had disrupted the enemy formation and the enemy was being picked off one by one. Many were changing sides mid-battle, screaming oaths to stop fighting at the top of their lungs.

As their numbers dwindled, Alex's army became stronger and stronger in comparison and the war was moving very much in their favor.

Unfortunately, victory required them to kill the Dragon Emperor and until he drew the final breath, the war would continue.

"Are you sure it is fatal?" Hannah asked.

"The soul of the Dragon that taught me this pill recipe told me that whoever ate this pill would gain the power of an immortal temporarily, but they would also end up damaging their body in the process."

"The closer you are to Immortality the less damage you take, is what the Dragon Soul told me," Alex said. "But I fear that might have been for a normal pill. For a 9-veined pill, even close to Immortality, it would do irreversible damage at the very least. Hence why I call it fatal."

"If we have no choice in the end, I will eat this and fight him," Alex said. "Hopefully, I am strong enough that whatever it drains from me to make me immortal, I will stay alive in the end."

"How many of those pills do you have?"

"One," Alex said.

"One?"

"The pill requires part of a Fire Coral to make, which is extremely difficult to find. I only found one on accident when I was in the ocean with you," Alex said. "So, there is only one pill. Not that I thought I would need more since I alone would be taking it."

"But you aren't even Saint Transformation realm yet," Hannah said. "To make you an Immortal, the pill would have to draw out a lot from you. Let me eat it instead."

"No," Alex said.

"I have the highest cultivation base," Hannah said. "I am the most fit out of anyone here."

"No," Alex shook his head vigorously. "You might have a higher cultivation base, but I have more strengths for the pill to draw from. My Spiritual energy, Blood aura, Qi, and even my physical body, all of them together make me stronger than a normal Saint Transformation 9th realm cultivator. I should be the one to eat it."

"But I have Immortal Qi. If it draws from my Immortal Qi to give me strength, then I will—"

"Sister, I'm not giving this to you. You lived with a ruined body for 70 years. I'm not letting you go through something like that again," Alex said.

Hannah knew that she did not want to go through the same either, but she also didn't want Alex to eat the pill. She didn't know what to say or do.

"I'll eat the pill," Zhou Linfan said.

Alex turned toward the man and quickly shook his head. "You're even weaker than me, senior," he said. "I'm the only one who has the highest chance of survival after eating this pill."

"I don't care about surviving," Zhou Linfan said. "All I care, all I've ever cared about is killing that man there. If I have to give my life to do it, I'll happily do so."

Alex was about to refuse when Zhou Linfan spoke again.

"How old are you right now? 80? 90? You're not even 100 years old," he said. "Meanwhile I've lived for 6 thousand years at this point. 6 thousand years, working toward a single goal of revenge. Do not deprive me of this now."

Alex hesitated. "But senior, you're already so weak. If you eat this, I'm afraid..." he let the words hang.

Zhou Linfan nodded. "You said yourself that the power it gives will be the same for anyone," he said.

He then extended his hand forward. "Give it to me. You know you don't want to eat it. Deep down, you know this is not where you want to die. You have so much to live for, both of you."

Alex remained silent.

"I'm going back to fight that man one way or another," Zhou Linfan said. "At least give me this power to kill him."

Alex stared into the man's eyes and saw the resolve he had prepared for himself. So, he hesitated no longer.

He handed Zhou Linfan to temporarily become an Immortal.

Chapter 1816: Coming to an End

"When should I use it?" Zhou Linfan asked with the pill in hand.

"As late as possible," Alex said. "I do not know how long you can handle the energy in that pill. So the later you do it, the better."

"So you don't have a time frame?" Zhou Linfan asked.

"Senior, truthfully, I don't even know what that pill does exactly," Alex said. "All I can be certain of is that it will draw from you and itself to bring out the powers of an Immortal. That is the only pill that exists in this world, so it is hard to tell exactly how it will work."

Alex had some idea of what would happen by looking at the ingredients and how they were working. His Alchemy God's Knowledge allowed him to internally visualize what the pill would do.

But with 9-veins in the pill, he had to amplify everything

overall, making his understanding of the events from the pill

not match the reality. He had a feeling that such issues would

be solved when the Alchemy God decided to let him learn a

few more things in the future.

"You should move back, Alex," Hannah said. "You need to get to

safety."

Alex looked at the battle that raged out there and nodded.

He had known since before he came, since before he sought

to bring war, that he would most likely not be the one to kill

the Dragon Emperor.

He not only knew it wouldn't be him, he knew that it couldn't be him. He had suffered at the hands of the Emperor, but not as much as the other's hand.

Yan Yating had lost soldiers and friends following the Dragon Emperor's commands when he did not want to.

Hannah had been made to live a torturous life without any senses for 70 years.

Zhou Linfan had his entire family killed by the emperor.

These were men who deserved to kill the Emperor. Everyone else, including him, came nowhere near to be as deserving to kill these people.

He wanted to kill the Dragon Emperor for the dead soldiers and Yao Ning, but even so, he found himself accepting the fact that the Dragon Emperor was not his to kill.

Even Pearl, who was more deserving, had let others kill the man, so Alex could only do the same.

He walked away from Hannah and Zhou Linfan, returning to his army who were defeating more and more of the Emperor's soldiers to bring the war to an end.

Alex met up with Whisker and his father who were together handling the army in the absence of Yan Yating.

"How is the fight going? Does it look winnable?" Graham asked his son.

Alex nodded. "There is a good chance we will win," he said and turned back toward Zhou Linfan. He could tell that the man was looking for an opening to attack and Alex wondered when that would be.

"Any minute now," he said softly.

He then turned back to his father and Whisker. "How is the

situation here? What are our losses like?" he asked and

readied himself for the answer.

Graham gave a saddened look and gave the worst of the

information first.

"We've lost 4 elders," Graham said. "2 are critically injured, but

it is possible they will make it through. As for the remaining 3,

they are still fighting out there."

Alex felt immediate pain when hearing the numbers. 4 elders

had died aside from Yao Ning. That was 5 in the span of 2 or so

years.

Alex looked around at the battlefield and noticed Qiu

Jianhong, Gong Liuxian, and Ren Guanting among the many

who still fought, despite being wounded.

"Who are the two injured?" Alex asked.

"Elder Liang and Hou," Graham said.

"I see," Alex said.

'So Liang Shufen and Hou Xinya are still alive,' Alex thought.

'That means senior Huang Chen, Kang Xuefeng, Tan Yang, and

Lei Zhong died in this war.'

Alex couldn't help but develop a sour feeling at the thought of

them dying. But that wasn't even all the information at all.

"Who else died?" Alex asked.

"From our soldiers, we have confirmed the death of 900 right

now. There are most certainly more dead than that, but that

information will take time to come," Graham said. "The war is

still ongoing."

Alex nodded. The war was still ongoing.

"You guys handle things here, I'll go check on the wounded

and see if I can do anything for them," Alex said and rushed

toward the ship.

Alex walked in and saw his aunt helping the others under Zhou

Luoyang's guidance.

Long Huan stayed brooding to the side, not looking anywhere

at the moment, lost in his own thoughts.

Alex wanted to go talk to him, but he hurried to the two

elders who were hurt.

He saw both Liang Shufen and Hou Xinya lying next to the

phoenix flames, healing. They were awake, but at the same

time not very conscious of the world around them.

Both of them had lost body parts that they hadn't generated

yet and seemed to be in extreme pain. He quickly sat beside

them and checked their situation.

The good news was that they had stabilized and their situation

was under control, but he didn't understand why they were still hurt.

"I just gave them a pill to heal their soul a while ago," Zhou Luoyang said. "Once that energy is gone from their body, I will give them the healing pill."

"I see," Alex said. "Do you have enough pills?"

"For body, yes. but not for the soul," Zhou Luoyang said. "I'm already low on them despite what you gave me just a while earlier."

"They should have a few," Alex pointed toward the elders.

"Have them give you theirs once they are conscious again."

Liz walked up to Alex. "How is it out there?" she asked. "How is Hannah?"

"Sister is fine," Alex said. "The war itself is concluding, but the Emperor is still alive and well, and until he comes down, I'm

afraid it won't be over."

Alex looked toward the prince to the side and gestured a question.

"Don't worry about him," Liz said. "I won't let him do anything stupid."

"I won't do anything stupid," Long Huan said in a grim tone.

His eyes were red with hatred, and there was a tension in his face from him constantly gritting his teeth. Stains marked his cheeks where his tears had yet to dry.

He looked up at Alex.

"Is my father yet unhurt?" he asked.

"He was close to getting killed earlier, but he ate a pill to heal himself," Alex said.

Long Huan's eyes moved as his mind raced to get information.

"You have to be careful. My father has the accumulated fortunes of the Azure Empire at his side. While not everything is with him, he is sure to carry many lifesaving treasures with him. Killing him outright will be difficult."

Alex nodded. "He's used a few already I believe," he said.

Long Huan got up from where he sat. "Then he must be close to dying. Let's go," he said. "I wish to be there to see him die."

Chapter 1817: Pearl's Command

Yan Yating's sword slash took the form of a giant four-legged beast that flew across the air toward the Emperor.

The Emperor's spear attack was one that always took the shape of a dragon.

The two attacks clashed in the sky and the world seemed to lose its color upon impact. Reality warped where the two attacks touched each other and ripples were sent through space that broke and reformed immediately.

"How long do you wish to keep this up?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "You cannot think that you can beat me by fighting straight, can you?"

The Dragon Emperor sent out another attack, throwing tendrils of lightning in all directions, attacking not just Yan Yating but also every other location that the attack could land on.

Most of those who were attacked were people who were too weak to protect themselves and had to hide behind others.

The Dragon Emperor could see that his army had lost the battle, so all that remained was for him to win the war. So, he started attacking more recklessly, without a need to worry about who the stray shot landed on.

Yan Yating did his best to stop all the attacks, but the attack was too vast for him to get to all of them and stop them. He had to rely on the people behind him to protect themselves.

The only good thing that came through this was the fact that the Dragon Emperor was wasting more Immortal Qi than he needed to.

Yan Yating, as a Saint Transformation 8th realm cultivator, had maybe 35% of his Qi as Immortal Qi. The Emperor, just one realm higher, would have nearly 50% of his Qi be Immortal Qi.

That discrepancy was something that he had to fight through.

Yan Yating had been notified by the others that the Emperor

had regained all of his Immortal Qi back, so he had to be

careful.

'Let him use his Qi without any thought,' Yan Yating thought.

'The more he uses, the better my chance of besting him.'

The Dragon Emperor was a being that had haunted him for

the past 70 years, so he was more than ready to get it all over

with.

He returned once again to attack the Dragon Emperor and

force him to use more of his Qi.

* * * * *

Pearl flickered and appeared in four places at once, each one

of him dashing toward the woman that had charged in wildly

to attack him.

She had a crazy look on her face and a wild grin, and she kept

saying that she wanted to kill him to get on the Emperor's

good side.

Thankfully, she overestimated her strength in front of him as

he too had a battle prowess far beyond what the others saw of

him.

The woman created a vortex of fire in front of her, with the

tail end of it facing one of the four Pearls.

She stared at each of the four Pearls at once, attacking the

one 2nd from the left.

The vortex turned sharper and launched a fiery arrow toward

that one Pearl.

Pearl's body glowed bright golden just as the attack landed on

him, and stopped the attack.

The woman smiled. "Haha!" she shouted. "You can't hide from me."

A ball of fire appeared in her hands and she launched it toward Pearl. The fire took on the shape of a diving hawk and slammed against the same Pearl she attacked earlier.

The Pearl that was attacked suddenly turned illusory, disappearing into motes of golden light that spread toward the other three Pearls that still remained on the field, who kept charging at her.

One of the Pearl arrived right in front of her and swung his arm at her. His paw glowed bright golden as well as he used the Golden Tiger Claw technique etched into his bloodline

The air seemed to hold behind a streak of glowing light where the claw passed and the woman quickly used a defensive

talisman to protect herself at the last moment.

A burst of energy appeared from the talisman, fighting back

the incoming paw strike. And in that burst of energy, Pearl

disappeared once again.

He turned into motes of golden light that flickered back into

the two other Pearls who had arrived in front of the women as

well and they both attacked.

The woman had already fought back and she found it difficult

to bring herself to do so at just this moment. Still, she

concentrated raw Qi in her hands and pushed it toward the

Pearl on the left.

The Pearl on the right attacked her and instantly swiped his

claw through her face, ripping away a chunk of her face.

The woman screamed and tried to fly back, but golden lines

appeared from Pearl, like wires that caught the woman in it,

stopping her from moving any further.

His claw glowed once again and he swung it at the woman's

head once more.

This time, the woman's face caved in, crushing her skull

entirely. Her body died at that instant.

The other Pearl had already turned into motes of life, entering

the real Pearl, becoming one.

The woman's body slumped under Pearl's binding, and a small

blue illusory soul flew out from her body.

Pearl roared at the soul and it crumbled into motes of light,

dying just there.

"Good fighting, young lord," someone spoke from behind

Pearl.

Pearl turned around and saw the leader of the Lizard colony

moving toward him. He then looked around the battlefield and saw many of the other beasts smiling toward him.

They had been waiting patiently for him to be done with his battle.

"You are only at Saint Core 7th realm, and you can kill people in the Saint Soul realm. You truly are the son of his Majesty," the Lizard said.

"Why have you all stopped fighting?" Pearl asked.

The blue Eagle moved toward Pearl. "Young lord, the battle is all but done," she said, pointing toward the few fights that happened here and there.

"We have won, young lord," the Lizard said.

Pearl felt the intense aura of battle coming from a distance far away. He looked at the fight between the Dragon Emperor and Yan Yating.

"No," he said. "It's not over."

He pointed toward the Dragon Emperor. "As long as he is alive,
the battle is not over."

The beasts looked toward the Dragon Emperor too and
grimaced. "We're afraid we are not that useful in that regard,"
the Deer answered. "We're not strong enough to contend
against him."

"No," Pearl said. "But you will make for a fine annoyance."

Pearl raised his voice and spoke to every beast, both from the
Beast Paradise and the ones that were under his great
Grandfather.

"Everyone in the Saint Transformation realm, listen up!" he
roared a command. "If you have any Immortal Qi in you, do
not keep it. Attack it at that man. Distract him with all the

power you can muster."

The beasts looked toward the Dragon Emperor, with great consideration in their face.

"Attack him all at once, so we may kill him," Pearl shouted.

"This is my command as the ruler of the Eastern Continent.

Go!"

Chapter 1818: Getting Close

The Dragon Emperor felt pressured as beasts from all around the battlefield started targeting him with attacks that were too strong for him to ignore.

They were thankfully far away that he could dodge the attacks instead of having to deal with all of them, but to dodge everything was all but impossible.

So, he had to constantly fight back other attacks while fighting against Yan Yating at the same time. He started worrying a little that if he didn't focus in the battle enough, he would take a hit from a stray Immortal attack and instantly die.

Thankfully, due to having been an alchemist for thousands and thousands of years, the Dragon Emperor had learned ages ago to split his concentration into multiple things at once.

Focusing on everything at the same time was difficult, but not impossible due to that.

The Dragon Emperor pulled out a talisman from his storage ring and threw it to his left. A glow of energy burst out from the talisman, instantly forming a shield next to him that could protect him from either 2 or 3 Immortal attacks.

On the other side, he applied his Dao of Space Expansion to expand space to the point that the attacks simply didn't land on him as they were meant to.

He then created a cage of lightning around him on the left side, protecting him from the attacks from that very side.

Finally, he sent out a burst of lightning attacks that split into many smaller tendrils of lightning bolts that struck almost all of the remaining attacks that came for him, including the one that Yan Yating used on him.

Two attacks landed on the shield formed from the talisman and was destroyed. The Emperor immediately replaced it with something else to protect himself.

He didn't have many treasures to protect himself from Immortal attacks. The strongest one he did have, he had used it already to protect himself against the attack from the Immortal in the Central Continent.

Now, he was running out of it all.

'If things continue like this, I will lose,' the Dragon Emperor realized and the truth of his impending doom became real to him for the first time.

Hatred filled him at that very moment. 'It's alright,' he thought. 'I just have to kill them all.'

* * * * *

The many blood beasts flew back to Alex. Of the 300 that he had sent out, only 130 had returned. Most of the beasts ended up dying in the battle due to their lack of versatility when it came to fighting.

The one that he was saddened the most to see die had been the blood beast formed of the great 6 winged feathered Wyrms, which he had killed on his first journey to the Eastern Continent.

Yao Ning had been the one that had weakened the beast and he had killed it. As a beast in Saint Transformation's 5th realm, it had been one of the strongest Blood Beasts he had, and now they were no more.

The blood beasts flew into his Blood God's Manual, disappearing under the eyes of everyone that surrounded him.

Zhou Linfan looked at it with curious eyes. "I hope you can someday teach me how to use those things too," he said.

Alex smiled. "I'll have to see if it is possible or not," he said. "If it is, I don't mind aiding you a little in it."

Zhou Linfan smiled. The conversation helped him get his head out of the thoughts that he was most likely going to die in a few minutes.

He did not want to think about that.

Pearl stood next to Alex, the black jaguar standing some distance away, completely void of Immortal Qi. They stared at the battle just the same as the rest of the people around them.

"He's under pressure," Hannah said, staring at the sky where the Dragon Emperor fought. "He's struggling."

Alex nodded. "Our moment of opportunity draws near," he said. "We cannot mess this up."

"Let the others attack him first," Hannah said. "Let him use all of his treasures."

The others that surrounded the three were yet unaware of exactly what they were planning. They had not told anyone about the pill besides themselves.

Graham flew up to Alex.

"It's done,' he told him. "The war is over."

Alex turned around and was surprised to see that to be the truth. "I see," he said. "Please have everyone that is wounded immediately taken care of. Have all the alchemists start making pills if pills are lacking."

Graham nodded and quickly sent the orders around.

"What do we do with the prisoners?" Graham asked once his orders were followed.

Whisker jumped off Graham's shoulders and onto Alex's, staring off into the skies just like the many others.

"We took prisoners?" Alex asked.

"Everyone who didn't give up is a prisoner, I fear," Graham said. "And there are many of them."

"Have the ones that aren't wounded keep an eye on them," Alex said. "Also, take care of the wounded from the other parties too. Not just our own."

"We're already doing that," Graham said. "I'll relay the rest of your orders. Finish things here."

Since the active elders were busy attacking the Emperor as everyone else, Graham was alone in being the one to deal with the immediate aftermath of the war.

Liz appeared a while later, watching the spectacle before her with wide eyes. Long Huan followed her and stared at his father as well.

"He's still not dead?" Long Huan asked.

"Huan!" Hannah immediately took him into a hug, holding his head tightly. "I heard what happened. I'm so sorry."

Long Huan felt the tears coming back once again and held tightly onto his wife.

Liz walked up to Alex. "What's going on? How is he still alive when the war is over?" she asked in disbelief. She had very much expected the Dragon Emperor to die by this point.

"We're working toward it," Alex said. "We just have to wait a little longer."

They stared at the sky patiently. After a while, it was clear to them that it was time.

* * * * *

The Dragon Emperor took out a giant metallic plate that appeared on the emperor's side, immediately defending him against one of the attacks.

The other attacks were dealt with by him.

'Dammit!' the Dragon Emperor thought. He had run out of every protective measure and was now just one step away from using everything.

He didn't want to use the very last thing as he wanted to wait for what he would have to do once he used it, but he was being forced closer and closer to it.

He threw out another attack, sending tendrils of lightning all around him, exploding all the incoming attacks at once.

What nobody understood was that the Dragon Emperor had not just converted part of his Qi into Immortal Qi through the Immortal pill. He had converted all of his Qi.

So, he had a lot more to use than what people imagined. And he could tell that Yan Yating had almost run out.

He focused on the 7 incoming attacks and sent out another attack, while also targeting Yan Yating at the same time.

Suddenly space trembled around the Dragon Emperor and Zhou Linfan teleported right next to him with his sword ready to swing.

As reflected in the sword, the Dragon Emperor could see his demise.

Chapter 1819: Pure Power

The moment the Dragon Emperor stopped using his defensive treasures to protect himself was the moment Zhou Linfan knew that the time had come.

He pulled open the stopper from the ceramic pill bottle and and smelled the faint aromatic, almost cinnamon-like odor that came from within the bottle.

He lifted the bottle and poured the single pill into his mouth. He tasted the somewhat spicy taste of the pill and at the next second, he swallowed it.

At the first second, the pill simply went down to his stomach, doing absolutely nothing. But as the pill began dissolving in his stomach, the energy that the pill contained started pouring out from within him.

And the energy that came out was something that he could not believe.

Zhou Linfan's face changed immediately, a dreadful look surfacing as he felt the terrifying energy move through his body, giving a sensation of a hungry predator walking through a valley where only prey lived.

And no matter how much the predator ate, it was still hungry at the end.

The energy started devouring Zhou Linfan from the inside, first devouring his Qi, and then his body.

Veins popped up all over his face and neck as golden red light crept through the veins, leaving behind smoke that came out of the man's pores.

Alex and the others moved away from Zhou Linfan to give him space as they saw the change that came to him. Alex watched in shock full of horror at the changes that were appearing on Zhou Linfan's body.

Zhou Linfan's skin started looking older and older, with dark spots appearing on them as though parts of his skin were dying because of the pill.

Zhou Linfan grunted and gritted his teeth as the pain became nearly unbearable. Black and white specks floated around in his vision, spots of light making it hard to see everything clearly.

He felt his throat burn while a loud ringing sound drowned every other noise in the sky where he flew.

Once his Qi and Body were devoured, the pill's energy started devouring his soul as well, making him weaker and weaker.

Zhou Linfan couldn't even tell if the energy had reached his dantian or not. He couldn't tell how much longer he would remain a cultivator.

Things changed, but one thing remained the same.

Pain.

Pain filled every inch of his body, a constant pain that he got used to very quickly. Once he overcame the pain and difficulties that came with the pill, he finally noticed what he had gained from the pill.

Power. Pure unadulterated power.

He lifted his sword and saw his white knuckles, his lack of muscles as it was all eaten away. But even with that, he had power.

However, he could tell it would not remain for too long. The pill he ate was just way too strong for him to be able to survive on it any longer.

If he didn't act right away, it would all be for naught.

'Just 1 attack,' Zhou Linfan thought. That was all he needed.

"Get me there," he said through gritted teeth. "Now."

Alex nodded and acted as per their plan.

He palmed Zhou Linfan on the back, putting aside the immense panic he felt at the uncontrolled Immortal strength that emanated from the old man, and poured Teleportation Dao into the man.

Surprisingly, there wasn't much resistance for Alex at all. He could understand that whatever power was given to Zhou Linfan, it was not Qi or any sort of aura. It was simply power in its purest form.

Pure energy.

He activated the teleportation formation and sent Zhou Linfan away.

Zhou Linfan teleported with his sword already swinging and saw the scenery in front of him change from a large open area before him to having the Dragon Emperor right in front of him.

The Dragon Emperor turned to look at him even as he arrived and saw the wild look of horror and fear that appeared in his eyes.

'That's it,' Zhou Linfan thought. 'That is what you will feel as you die.'

Then with his last thought, he attacked the Dragon Emperor.

The Dragon Emperor had been prepared for many attacks, but this one had still caught him off-guard. Even so, his thousands of years of training and battle instinct acted up at the same time to help him in his situation.

The Dragon Emperor didn't even have to wonder what was happening with Zhou Linfan to know that if he didn't do anything, he would die for certain.

So, the very first he thought he had was to distance himself from Zhou Linfan and his sword swing.

The Dao of Space Expansion worked in but a moment to add space between the Dragon Emperor and Zhou Linfan. He pushed it to the limit to pour enough space between the two of them that despite initially being right next to each other, by the very next instant, he and Zhou Linfan were nearly a hundred meters away.

However, even that much distance would be nothing for Zhou Linfan in his current situation to kill me, that much the Dragon Emperor knew for certain.

He wanted to fuel his spear with Immortal Qi and attack back, but he had just done so to fight back against Yan Yating and the others who were distracting him.

Not to mention, instinct told him that even if he used any technique, he would still die if he did not protect himself.

As such, the Dragon Emperor reached into his Storage Ring and pulled out the Golden Dragon shield that he had put away in fear of losing durability throughout the battle.

Even as he pulled out the shield, Zhou Linfan was already upon him, swinging his sword down on him.

The Dragon Emperor's eyes widened in fear, for if this did not work, he would die.

Zhou Linfan could feel his life racing away from him with each moment, so he could not waste any longer. He saw the shield appear between him and the Dragon Emperor, but it was only a Saint shield. Without the Dragon Emperor using Immortal Qi, it was useless.

So, he swung down hard to kill the Dragon Emperor through the shield.

His sword, empowered by the Dao of Cutting and the Dao of Crystals, was so strong at the moment that it was unlikely that there had been any Saints in the past tens of thousands of years that had been as strong as he was right now.

Zhou Linfan's sword passed through the Golden Dragon shield as easily as though he were back in the kitchen slicing through butter.

There was barely any resistance to the shield as it was cut down and the sword landed on the Dragon Emperor.

The sword struck the Dragon Emperor on his left shoulder, cutting through it with slightly more difficulty than the shield. Even so, there was barely enough resistance for Zhou Linfan.

He watched as his sword cut through the Dragon Emperor's left shoulder, digging deeper through the chest until it was right next to his heart.

The Dragon Emperor looked at Zhou Linfan through the broken shield, and even as he came close to being killed, he believed it with all his heart.

He wouldn't die here.

Chapter 1820: Golden

To Alex's eyes, it all happened in an instant.

The moment he sent Zhou Linfan away, he saw a distance grow between him and the Emperor that he quickly covered and swung his sword down.

Alex saw the Golden Dragon shield appear out of the Dragon Emperor's storage ring, but it seemed useless as Zhou Linfan cut through it and the slash landed on the Dragon Emperor's chest and then...

A bright golden glow covered his eyes.

* * * * *

The sudden glow that appeared in the battle was bright enough that it forced every single cultivator to shade their eyes from the glint, unable to see exactly what it was.

It was only when the light disappeared that they saw what had happened.

* * * * *

Zhou Linfan was right about to cut the Dragon Emperor's heart when he felt some sort of disturbance right in front of him.

The shield that he had cut through suddenly started glowing. Within a split second after being cut, they glowed so bright that Zhou Linfan could not see anything before him.

At the same moment, he felt as though he was blinded, the light turned into a force that pushed him back at the same time.

The pushback came with a power that terrified Zhou Linfan. Had it not been for the power his body had generated at the moment, he was sure that he would have died.

He stumbled through the air and barely managed to keep himself from tumbling further as he looked back at the bright glow of light.

What had happened?

Zhou Linfan felt his death approaching. He could feel the power in his body slowly leaving him as there was nothing more of him for the energy to devour to empower him.

He was dying.

He started falling through the sky as he didn't even have anything to keep him afloat. As he did, he saw a golden sphere that had appeared where the Dragon Emperor had been.

A golden sphere with a golden dragon that swam around it.

'Did he die or not?' Zhou Linfan wondered. 'I cut through his heart, didn't I?'

He was certain he had gotten to the heart, but the bright light made it impossible to tell if he had actually cut through it or not.

His senses were already diminished due to the pill, so telling what had happened on top of that was damn near impossible for Zhou Linfan.

Yan Yating caught Zhou Linfan as he fell and felt his body burn hot with energy, the yellow in his swollen veins slowly subsiding, leaving behind a badly injured and skinny Zhou Linfan.

Yan Yating was horrified to see what was happening to him. He knew not about the plans involving the pills.

Zhou Linfan was caught, but he was still dying. He could feel his mind become slow to process things, the world seemed more hazed than anything. And all that remained in his mind was the question of whether he killed the Emperor or not.

His own mortality came second place to the desire to know if he had completed his lifelong dream or not. He prayed that he had.

Alex teleported right next to Zhou Linfan and brought out a pill from his Soul Space. He didn't know if this pill would in any way help the old man or not, but he hoped it would.

It was a nullification pill, meant to remove any effect from any pill that one might have eaten. It was a simple pill meant for situations such as when one ate a face-changing pill, or when one needed to stop cultivating halfway through while their cultivation enhancement pill was still continuing.

Stopping a pill that gave someone the power to become Immortal was not in its repertoire.

Still, Alex fed the old man the pill, forcing it down his throat so he could swallow it as Zhou Linfan seemed unable to do so.

Zhou Linfan's body calmed a lot after eating the pill, but the state in which it was in didn't make the situation any better.

Alex grabbed his skinny wrist, touching bone through the skin, and felt his heartbeat.

There was barely any blood in the man, so the heartbeat his body produced was very faint as well.

"How... did I do?" Zhou Linfan's voice rasped as he tried looking up toward the sphere.

Flecks of light swam in his vision constantly, making it hard to see.

"I..." Yan Yating looked at the golden sphere as well. He tried forcing his senses into the sphere, but he couldn't see anything inside. He could not notice anything at all.

"You did well," Alex said and looked up as well, less so to look at the sphere, and more so to hide his grimace.

He had no idea what had happened at the final moment when Zhou Linfan used his attack, so he didn't yet know if the Emperor was dead or not.

Something had clearly protected him, but it could very well be true that the Dragon Emperor was dead on the inside. Alex wondered if there was any way to find the truth at all.

"Hold him," Yan Yating said. "I'll finish this."

Alex took hold of Zhou Linfan and watched as Yan Yating flew toward the golden sphere and let out a fiery slash, combined with the powers of his Immortal Qi.

The crescent fire hit the barrier and the golden dragon that swam around the sphere roared as it fought back, destroying the attack before it could land.

Everyone who was looking at it was surprised.

Yan Yating couldn't believe what he witnessed, so he continued attacking again and again, only to be blocked by the barrier.

Yan Yating sensed more attacks from behind him and moved away so as to give a clear field for everyone else to attack.

Every single attack that landed on the barrier was somehow defended against completely.

Alex took Zhou Linfan back to regroup with everyone else.

"What is that?" Alex asked as soon as he arrived, looking toward Long Huan for any sort of answer.

"I... I do not know," Long Huan said. "I have never heard about any techniques of this sort."

Alex frowned. How could he have this strong of a technique that he could stand against hundreds of attacks from everyone?

Attacks drowned out the sky in multicolored explosions, and yet at the end of it all, the golden sphere still stood.

"Not technique," Zhou Linfan said in a low rasping voice as he drew in some breath. "Artifact. Shield."

Alex heard those words and realized what had happened. "The shield you cut apart?" he asked. Was it what had activated?

He looked down at the old man who was now near death and remembered that he needed to help him heal. With his body, as it was, nearly dead and crippled, a healing pill would kill him.

As such, Alex teleported into the ship and let the old man rest near the Phoenix fire.

"Please... tell me I killed him," Zhou Linfan said. "I must... I must have..."

"Worry not," Alex said as he rested his palm on the man's chest to help him calm down. "I'm sure he is dead. If not, he should be at death's door because of you. As for the rest, we can take it from here."