

Alchemy 211

Chapter 211: Scorpion

Alex logged back in and woke up in the familiar grassland. He stood up from where he was sleeping in the grass and looked at his wound immediately. Fortunately, it was all but healed.

"2 more fruits should do it," he thought. He would go back to the cliff once he was hungry. For now, he decided to start looking for the yang jades.

His tattered robes were not a good sight to look at and he desperately wanted to take another robe out from inside his storage bags. Unfortunately, due to his qi not working, he couldn't.

"God, even if my spiritual sense just worked, I could do something," he thought. He tried to push out his Qi, against the pressure of whatever was suppressing it, but in the end, his efforts were futile.

Next, he tried Spiritual sense once more. He tried to push the suppressing force once more, using a lot of his spiritual sea in the process.

It was working. He was pushing back the suppression force from his mind and was starting to be able to use his spiritual sense a little. It was one a few centimeters around his mind, but that was a positive result nonetheless.

In the end, he ended up drying his spiritual sea in the process and stopped. The suppression force slammed back, making him unable to use it again.

Alex breathed heavily as what he did took a lot of effort out of him. Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead and he was feeling really hot right now. After resting for a while and cooling down, he moved on.

Every location in this place looked the same. There was not a single tree in sight and the entire land was covered in grass. If it were not for the cliff behind him and the sun's location, Alex doubted he could even remember where he had been and where he had not with his eidetic memory.

He walked on and on and on, for hours on end but still didn't manage to find any yang jade.

"Damn, just how rare is it?" he thought. He continued searching and searching and found that he had searched every single place in the grassland. He only had 2 places left to be searched.

One was the cliffside where the disciples were. He could go along the base of the cliff and see if there were any. He could also try to swap fruits for yang jades with the desperate ones if they had any.

The next place was the river bank. There could be some there, but Alex hesitated a bit due to the danger his Martial uncle said was there. However, he couldn't stop now because of some danger.

He was quite thirsty too, so it was the perfect time to go there. He reached the river bank on one end, where the cliff met it. The other side of the river was a desert that Alex had seen previously.

He didn't have time to admire it last time given that Zheng Min was dying and he was busy helping him. He did however remember the yellowish-red sands. Those were quite surprising to him.

When they had mentioned that a desert was a land filled with sands, he had assumed it would be white sand, like the ones found in river banks, but this was different.

"How different are the other places too? These volcanoes, glaciers, oceans," he couldn't help but wonder.

He drank water from the river and was about to leave when something rustled behind him. He immediately turned around to see what it was.

Surprisingly, or maybe as expected, it was a monster. It was a normal-looking scorpion, with a black exoskeleton and a pointed tail that was sure to have venom in it. The thing that surprised Alex the most was its size.

It was nearly 2 meters in length and a meter in width. He looked at the scorpion with wide eyes, and the scorpion looked back. The scorpion showed no contemplation before it directly ran towards him to attack.

It tried to snap at him with its two pincers in the front, but Alex was fast enough and he jumped back. The scorpion didn't stop, however. It continued moving forward and tried to snap at him a couple more times.

Alex didn't have to worry much, however. His Elusive Heavenly Sword was good enough for him to dodge the monster's attack. He tried to look for an opening to smash the beast's head.

The scorpion attacked him once more, trying to snap at him. But Alex managed to dodge and threw a punch at its head.

Suddenly, the scorpion's tail came at him, faster than any attack that the scorpion was doing until now. Alex hastily dodged backward and the venomous stinger barely went past his head.

Had he been a second late, he would have lost his head right now. Even if his body was strong enough to survive the hit, the poison would surely kill him.

Putrid smell hovered in the air as Alex subconsciously breathed it in. Realizing what he was doing, he immediately exhaled every single breath of air he had taken just now.

"That was close. I nearly breathed in the venom," he thought. He didn't know if the venom in fact did work like that or not. But it was never a bad idea to prepare against the worst.

He once more tried to attack the scorpion, only this time he was ready for the stinger. The stinger came as expected and went past him. Just as the tail was outstretched, Alex jumped on the scorpion's back and grabbed its tail with all of his body.

And then, he ripped it out. Surprisingly, the scorpion's defense wasn't as strong as he had assumed. He rotated the ripped tail and slammed the stinger back into the scorpion, killing it in an instant.

Only then did Alex get off of it, and look a large breather. The fight hadn't lasted long, but it was a very dangerous one, and he was happy to have won in the end.

Chapter 212: Snake Monster

A full moon hung in the southern part of the sky and illuminated the grassland. The sun had been down for nearly two hours, but thankfully, there was light now.

Alex was walking down the river, searching for the yang jade, but he couldn't find any. He had come across a few more scorpions as well and had killed them just like the first one. He had also come across a few torn bodies, clearly belonging to the Hong Wu Sect.

He managed to find a perfectly fine robe belonging to what he assumed was a now dead inner sect disciple, so he quickly changed into it.

"I will continue later," he thought and walked back towards the grassland. He had been walking along the river bank for over 4 hours now, and it was time to log out for dinner.

After finding a good place to keep his body, he logged out.

Hannah had been waiting for him at the kitchen table. He quickly ate his food and helped his cousin with the dishes.

After they were done, he quickly got back into the game.

Once he stood up from the place, he realized that he was getting hungry. However, he still had to search for the yang jades. That was the entire reason he had been here in the first place. If he couldn't find a few tonight, it would be 2 days wasted here, just like that.

"Why are they so rare? Master had 3, and those at the marketplace had one each, so why am I having such a hard time finding it, when I should be the one finding the most," he thought.

Reluctantly, he started to scour the river banks once more. He was extra careful not to fall victim to an ambushing monster, so he kept his eyes and ears open. The river kept on flowing, and the moon shone bright; the night was beautiful, and yet Alex hated it because he couldn't find any yang jades.

"That is just ridiculous. Why can I find snakes, and centipedes and scorpions and not a single Yang Ja— " Suddenly, he felt a THUMP inside him.

"This feeling... " His eyes started shining brightly as he knew what was happening. He had finally found one.

He started looking around for the yang jade, trying to locate it using his body. It didn't take him long to realize that the yang jade was inside the river. He started to get worried.

Outside the river, he could fight with the monsters and be on the lookout for them. But in the water, where nothing was visible and made no sound... that was a problem.

"Sh*t," Alex thought. He started thinking of ways to go into the river and not get attacked in the water. He tried thinking of ideas and only a single one came to his mind.

If he didn't want to get attacked in the water, he needed to get attacked out of water.

He started shouting and smashing rocks together to make as much noise as he could and tried to lure the monsters in the vicinity so that they would leave the water. It was a crazy idea as the noise he was making, made it hard for him to hear the monsters approaching as well.

But he had no choice and could only hope for the best. He did stop once in a while to make sure there was nothing around him.

However, no monster or even humans came by. In the end, he figured there were none in the vicinity and decided to walk in. Just then, he saw an unusual pattern of waves on top of the river, illuminated by the moonlight.

"Something's there," he said to himself.

Suddenly, a rather large snake appeared from the water as it started hissing at him. Alex's first thought was to run away, but then he felt something. The yang jade was moving. His eyes turned wide as he looked at the snake. The yang jade was inside the snake.

The snake itself was about half a meter in diameter, but it was way too long. Thankfully, it looked like it was a water snake, so the chances of it being venomous were very low. Still, it was a good idea to stay cautious.

The snake saw him and slithered towards him, opening its mouth wide, showing the two bright fangs. Alex immediately dodged its attack and started punching at the snake. The snake wasn't as fast or had a poisonous stinger as the scorpion, so Alex freely attacked it, keeping tabs on where its head was at all times.

But suddenly, its tail came from behind him, slamming at him and sending him flying away. Thankfully, Alex landed on the grass and wasn't hurt much.

"Sh*t," he said and ran back at the snake. The snake was pretty beat up with just a few attacks, so it was nothing strong. So, he went and attacked some more. The tail made it very annoying to hit it for long and the fangs were just as scary, even when he had deduced that they weren't venomous.

In the end, he managed to kill the snake with enough blunt trauma. He pulled the snake's corpse onto the grassland and started ripping it apart with his own hands.

Slowly, he felt his way through the snake's body, until he found something. He yanked it out and saw it under the moonlight. It was a disciple's corpse, and he was holding the yang jade with him.

Alex was stunned for a second. A disciple had just died like that, eaten by a snake. Did this disciple really commit a crime that was worthy of death like this? The cruel fate the disciple had to suffer made Alex nauseate.

Was the sect right in doing what they were doing? Was cheating or stealing punishable by a death sentence? He couldn't understand what was going on. In the end, he dug up some land and buried the disciple while taking away the yang jade.

Chapter 213: Boss

Alex walked along the river once more, but couldn't find any yang jades anymore. He had washed the yang jade and kept it in his new robes and hoped that he didn't lose it. How he wished he could use a storage bag right now.

Seeing that there was nothing in the area, he walked towards the cliff to gather some fruit to eat. He was after all starting to get really hungry. When he reached the cliff, there were very few people there, only 3 at most.

"Are they all asleep right now?" he wondered. It was late into the night and their mortal bodies probably couldn't handle the fatigue all they, so they had gone to rest for the day. As for these people awake right now, they probably hadn't had anything to eat all day and were really hungry.

Alex was hungry too, so he could understand their sentiment. He picked up a stone from the ground and targeted one of the branches with multiple pears. He arched his arm back and released the stone with a massive swing.

He hadn't used his full power, and yet the stone made a swish sound in the night, very audibly. Unfortunately, he missed.

"Look out for the stone coming down," he cautioned them. It was especially hard to see the stones now in the moonlight when they were moving really fast. Once Alex heard the stone fall somewhere behind him, he picked another one and threw it up.

He had to throw a couple of times to accurately hit the branch that was over 50 meters high above him, and even then, only 1 butterfly pear fell down towards him.

He caught it and bit into it. Once more, juicy sweet nectar slid down his throat. He just couldn't get enough of it. The 3 disciples around him looked at him in envy, at the fact that he had only just arrived and was already eating something.

They directed their anger towards the fruit and started throwing the stones harder. Alex could hear both the grunts and the growls the 3 disciples were doing.

He ignored them and focused on hitting more of the fruits. After a few more tries, he managed to hit the branch once more and two more fruits fell down gently.

He caught both of them and started eating another one. His hunger was starting to be satisfied, but the taste of the pears was so good that he started to want to overeat them.

The other 3 disciples were more than just jealous now, they were subconsciously thinking of how to get the food from him. Alex saw that too. So, before they could do anything, he spoke.

"I have an extra fruit here, and I am willing to trade it," he said.

"Trade?" the three disciples made a weird expression. "We can't access our storage bags, how do you want us to trade?" they asked.

"Simple," Alex said as he brought out a Yang jade and showed it to them. "If you can find me one of these, I can give you this fruit," he said.

The disciples looked at each other for a few seconds, making an awkward atmosphere, and then violently started laughing. "HAHAHAHA, What? Are you trying to be the boss?" they said with tears in their eyes from laughing too much.

Alex was not expecting this reaction from them. In his mind, they would either get angry, saying that they didn't have it, and order him to give it to them if he didn't want to get hurt.

Or get happy and show him a yang jade, in which case he would swap one with the food. But he never expected them to just laugh at him. This was a really weird incident.

"What's going on? Why are you laughing? Do you not have these?" he asked.

"Hahaha, Stop trying to act like you're the boss. We've already seen the boss before," one of them said.

"Haa, That might have worked on some poor newcomers, but us who have been here for a while now won't get so easily scammed. If you think you can swap the yang jade with us old ones for a single fruit, then you are mistaken boy," another one said.

"It seems you don't know that the boss trades two fruits, instead of one for the yang jade," the third one said.

"Huh?" Alex was truly confused now. "What boss are you talking about? It seems you know what a yang jade is, so, will you swap it with me or not?" he asked.

"Go away kid, we don't have any. If we did, we wouldn't be stuck here, trying to hit the fruits down," the first person spoke. "We could've just trades yang jades with the boss for food if we had one. We wouldn't be in this current predicament."

Alex was really intrigued by the current information, so he said, "Give me information about this boss and I will give you this fruit."

The three guys looked at him weirdly. "You want to know about the boss? We don't have much information about him," one of them said.

"Give me any. This is my first time hearing about this boss and is really curious why he wants yang jades so much," Alex said.

"You really don't know anything about the boss?" the three asked in confusion. If he didn't know about the boss, why did he try to impersonate him? They were quite confused right now.

"No. I only came to the Forbidden Fields two days ago and I do not know much about this boss," Alex said.

The three people's eyes went wide when they heard this. "If that is true, then... you really don't know about the boss?" They asked.

Alex simply put forth the pear towards them and said, "Enough nonsense, do you know anything or not? I don't have time to waste on you people."

"Wait, wait, wait, we will tell you. We will tell you about the boss," he exclaimed and continued, "It all started about a week and a half ago."

Chapter 214: A few weeks ago

"Everything was normal for a while now. I had been here for half a month by then, these two came a few days after me. At first, we had no problem living in this place. It was dangerous around the river, but that was that." He said.

He then pointed up the cliff and asked, "Can you see that? Around 30-meter marks."

Alex looked at where he pointed and saw marks of something. He couldn't make it out exactly due to it being so high up and the moon wasn't at an angle to hit the walls of the cliff yet.

"What is that?" Alex asked.

"That, my friend, is the remnant of the trees that used to grow there," he said. "Before the boss came here, there used to be trees around those marks. Numerous fruits hung there, and those who were punished would stay around here, hitting the tree in hope of making it fall."

"We were still punished, but life wasn't terrible. But then, he arrived, the boss."

"Around a week and a half ago, he came to that spot in the corner and surprisingly, climbed all the way up to the 30-meter mark on the cliff. And then, he destroyed everything," the man said. The other two were just listening.

Alex was a little surprised at where the story was going. 'Did a glutton enter the forbidden fields?' he wondered.

"There already wasn't enough fruit for all of us, and yet the man took most of them all himself. People started to criticize him at first, but quickly stopped and instead cheered him. That was because he moved along the side of the cliffs and started dropping all the fruits to the ground."

"Before a day had even passed, he managed to drop half the cliff's worth of fruits to the ground. Everyone was happy seeing this, but soon, they started to get worried. The man had gone to the other side of the cliff as well."

"People realized too late that he was getting rid of all the food for us. In the end, aside from the boss, nobody could get the food. It was then that the boss named himself the boss and put on a new rule," the man said.

"What rule?" Alex was curious.

"He said that if we could get him Yang Jades, he would give us 2 fruits. Now, yang jades were rare, but not impossible to find. However, the many disciples here scoured the entire grassland and in less than a week, there was none to find."

"Some stupid idiots even tried to go to the other side of the river to get yang jades. Some succeeded, most died there. In the end, most of us got stuck here trying to find food for ourselves," said the old man.

Questions started running across Alex's head. So, he decided to ask.

"What is this boss's name?" he asked.

"No idea, he only refers to himself as the boss," the man said.

"Then, what does he want with the yang jades?" Alex asked.

"Again, No idea. He takes the jade and leaves. He never tells us what they are for," he said.

"Where does this boss of yours live then?" Alex asked.

"He is not our boss. We just refer to him as one. Also, he lives in a cave on the cliff on the left side," the man said as he pointed far away.

Alex realized these people didn't know anything about this boss. So he decided to change the question.

"What did you do to get here?" Alex asked.

"Me? I got into a fight with someone else and beat them. Both of us got sent here, but the other person didn't have to stay as long and left a week ago," the man said.

Alex looked at the other two and expected them to answer too.

"I stole ingredients for a pill from the inner sect disciple I was aiding," said one man.

"I destroyed the house of someone who was trying to court the girl I liked," the last person said.

Suddenly, hearing their reasons for being sent here, Alex's perception of them changed. At first, he thought they were vile criminal scum that deserved to be hungry and punished, and now, they were just broken people who did stupid things on impulse.

One stole, another got into a fight, and the last one destroyed a house. What was stolen, could be given back. One could make up after a fight. Houses could be rebuilt. But sending people like these to suffer for so much time was not something he saw the sect doing.

"Unless..." he thought. It originally wasn't meant to be a tough punishment. "Master did say one would be really bored here. Hunger was just something that came later," he thought.

'These people were sent here to be banished from society for a few weeks and contemplate on their mistake. And yet, their very survival has become hard. I should tell master about this when I get out.'

'Also, I will have to find this boss and see what need he has for these yang jades. Given that he collected them, he must have a lot,' Alex started to get excited at the notion of dozens of yang jades.

"How much longer do you have to stay here?" Alex asked

"A few more days," they all answered.

"All right," Alex said. He picked up a couple of rocks and shoot them at the trees up above. Soon, the pears started dropping and he handed out one to each of them in thanks for the information.

The three were nearly brought to tears seeing food after so long. It turned out, they hadn't eaten in over a day and were really desperate for it. They were even planning to go to the boss and try to beat him up for the food.

Alex asked them why they didn't already. If the boss had so much food, they should have tried to at least steal it, if they couldn't beat him. Their response was simple.

The boss was way too strong.

Chapter 215: Sword

"Strong?" Alex asked. He was a little surprised to hear the word 'Strong' on a disciple from Hong Wu Sect, in the forbidden fields. 'Is the boss a body cultivator like me as well?' he thought.

Those were supposed to be incredibly rare due to the limited opportunity one had to become a body cultivator.

'If he really is a body cultivator, what need does he have with yang jades? Could it be?' Alex started thinking of many things. One thing he felt was guaranteed. This man was definitely not a player.

So, if an NPC had a body similar to his own... Alex had some questions to ask.

'But if he really is a body cultivator, then dealing with him will be hard. I will at least need a weapon with me.' There was only one thing he could think of doing to increase his opportunity of winning against this boss if they ever got into a fight.

He needed a weapon. And what better weapon was there than his steel sword. Alex had tried to use the inventory, but the system said that he did not own any storage bags and was empty.? Thankfully, He knew of another method.

"I need to fight against this suppression and increase my area until I can release my sword from my storage bag," Alex said to himself. He knew that was possible. At least, it was possible to fight against the suppression with his spiritual sense.

"I should be able to do it if I bring my storage bags next to my head right?" he thought. The idea felt a little stupid, but if it worked, it wouldn't be stupid at all.

Alex left the three men and went along the side of the cliff, constantly trying to fight the pressure with his spiritual sense. He didn't immediately use everything in his spiritual sea and instead sent out a steady stream of spiritual sense that continued to replenish at the same rate as his expenditure.

He was trying to get used to fighting the pressure before actually fighting it. Along the way, he asked a few more people for yang jades just to see if they had it, but he found that almost all of it had been given to this boss in exchange for food.

'Damn, if I had gotten here a few weeks ago, I would've had yang jades everywhere,' Alex thought.

He didn't go ahead anymore and instead just walked over to a random spot in the grassland and started intensely practicing his pushing with a spiritual sense.

At first, it felt easy cause he was getting used to the pressure, but once he tried to actually push with more than just minimal force, he remembered just how hard it was.

His spiritual sea was getting used up very quickly and had disappeared a lot. He felt his spiritual sense spill out of his head and go a little further away.

His range was around 30 cm now. He quickly took a storage bag and brought it to his head. He sent what little spiritual sense was coming out of him and sent it into his storage bag.

Once inside, he realized that his spiritual sense couldn't enter all the way through the bag. Even inside the bag with massive space that was disconnected from the real world, he was still being suppressed.

Thankfully, a different sword was right on the front. He quickly pulled it out using his spiritual sense. A muffled sound rang out as the sword fell onto the grasses.

Alex stopped fighting the suppression force and let his spiritual sense get pushed back into his spiritual sea.

Huff Huff

He hadn't realized how much pressure he was putting himself in and had even forgotten to breathe somewhere through the process.

He lowered himself and picked up the sword. The sword he had taken out was the common mortal grade sword that his master had given to him.

Unlike his Steel sword, however, even after refining, this sword had never displayed any better abilities. "Guess that is what you get from the trashiest of the swords out there," he thought.

Alex practiced his Elusive Heavenly sword to make sure he could still use it even without the Qi, and he could.

He then looked at the time. It was 4 am. 'Sh*t, I need to find the boss and take away his yang jade,' Alex thought and walked towards the direction the 3 men had given him.

It took him about an hour to reach the place where the boss stayed. Surprisingly, there were a few different people already here.

"Please, just a little bit. I swear I will find the stones tomorrow," a man cried.

"Please boss! I haven't eaten in 3 days. I don't have the strength to look for the yang jades or even throw stones. Please, give me something to eat," another woman was wailing. Her cheeks looked very sunken.

"Brothers, please ask the boss for something. I— I can join you guys too. I can help you. Just give me some food."

Everyone here was here in the first place because they were desperate for some food. The feeling of hunger was not something one enjoyed after being content for months on end.

Now their bodies didn't have Qi to survive, and the boss had taken away all other forms of satiety. They were ready to do anything for just a single bite of the fruit up there.

Alex felt bad for them. Even if they did the most heinous of crimes, they were already being punished. They didn't need another random person to come here and add more punishment onto them.

"Get away from here. Go and find some yang jades for the boss. Only then will you get something to eat," a big-bodied person said to the group of people that were begging.

His body was almost as big as Kong Yuhan's but he looked more like a thug with his current situation than a cultivator.

Alex knew exactly where he had to start his operation from.

Chapter 216: The Boss

Alex had the sword somewhat hidden behind his back. If someone were to give him more than just a glance, they could see the hilt in his hand and the shiny tip revealing from the side of his shoulder.

Hiding was never Alex's intention in the first place. He only wanted to not stand out immediately.

He walked straight ahead, past the begging crowd who ignored him. The big guy and the other lackeys of the boss that were behind him saw him coming and said nothing.

In their eyes, he was just another person coming to beg. However, the boy that had just come looked straight at them and asked, "I'm here for you boss. Can you tell me where he is?"

Alex wasn't expecting a proper answer but still wanted to see how these henchmen of the bosses would react to him asking that. As expected, they started laughing.

"Hahaha, you want to meet the boss? Dream on kid. Even we get to barely meet the boss every day, and you think you can meet him after just arriving here? Haha," the man kept on laughing.

"Brother!!," one of the other lackeys walked up to him and said in a small voice and said, "look behind him, is that...?"

"Hmmm? What's behind him?" the big guy to look.

Alex didn't bother hiding the sword anymore. "You guys talking about this? Oh, I only brought it here to deal with your boss. However, I can use it to deal with yOu too, if you want me to, that is," he said.

The group of henchmen was shocked. Not at his statement, but the fact that Alex had a sword. No one was allowed anything before they were sent away here. Even their storage bags were confiscated by the elders.

"How do you have a sword in the forbidden fields?" the big guy started to get a little scared. He could fight against these empty-handed, weak, hungry, and tired folks that knew nothing but how to beg.

But a fine person with a weapon on top of it was an actual problem.

"Oh, let's just say I got lucky, hehe," Alex said. "Anyway, so is your boss not here?" he asked as he poked his head to the side and looked toward the hole in the cliff.

That was where he was supposed to be staying.

"You can not meet the boss. You think our boss is afraid of a random sword from a nobody?" a henchman at the back screamed.

"Oh, then what about you. Will you take a sword strike from this nobody?" Alex asked as he stared at him with a slight smile on his face. The henchman hesitated.

"Alright, I will have to ask you to step aside so I can meet this boss of yours," Alex said as he started walking towards the cave.

"No you don't," the big man tried to use his carelessness as an opportunity to strike at him. Alex was waiting for him to do that. The punch was very slow for him, as it was done by a mortal after all.

Alex easily dodged the incoming punch by a hair's width of distance and returned a simple punch with no force, to his solar plexus.

The goon fell to the ground and start wheezing as the pain and difficulty to breathe hit him at once. The other people behind him got shocked that the strongest one of them got defeated in a single hit.

"You dare!!," another of the henchmen screamed and came right at him. Alex straight kicked his legs, stumbling him to the ground and have a solid kick to the back of his head, fainting him in the process.

Alex turned toward the rest who had made no movement yet and asked, "You guys gonna fight me too?"

The goons immediately shook their head violently and started pointing towards the cave. "The boss is there, don't hurt us." They immediately shouted and gave up on their boss and ran away.

The begging disciples on the ground had noticed the violence and were now staring at Alex in shock. They couldn't believe that someone would actually dare come fight against the boss.

"Is he...? stupid or brave?" someone asked.

"Whatever he is, if he can succeed, it will be awesome. I will help a little if he needs my help," another person said.

Alex ignored the rest and started walking towards the cave. He had his sword with him, still unused, shining in the moonlight. Just as he was nearing the cliffside, he suddenly heard something and saw some movement at the opening of the cave.

"Goddammit, who is making so much noise during the night. I'm trying to sleep here," A voice came from inside. It was the voice of a man unenthusiastic about what was happening and angry that he had been woken up for no reason.

Soon a man with a lean body and scruffy beard came out of the cave, being lit by the distant moonlight. The man lazily stretched himself as he yawned and looked at the different people in front of him.

He saw the group goons that he had employed looking at him terrified. He saw the group of beggars on the ground looking at him and another man that was standing there.

He finally looked at the single man standing in the moonlight with a blade on his back. At first, he didn't care much for the newcomer. Plenty had tried to fight him before, but they never won against him.

However, when he looked at his face a little more carefully, he lost all sense of laziness and an evil grin appeared on his face. "It's you."

Alex was shocked when he saw the boss as well. The dark green robes, the lean-looking body, and the face of someone bad. He remembered this core disciple very clearly, as he had helped Alex a lot indirectly.

The boss was Song Zun.

Chapter 217: Revelation

"It's you!," Alex said in shock as he stared at Song Zun standing in front of him.

"So you came here by yourself brat. I wanted to kill you myself when I went back to the sect, but it seems that I won't have to do anything crafty to find you and kill you. You came to your death yourself," Song Zun said.

'Kill me?' Alex was shocked that that was the intention Song Zun had. If he was strong, it would be dangerous right now.

"Kill me? Just because I found you doing something evil?" Alex asked with a snort.

"Hehe, I've killed people for less," Song Zun said as the grin on his face became even more dangerous.

Alex finally realized. He wasn't up against a person who did some low-level crimes and got sent here for a few months. He was now going to fight against an actual killer.

'Damn, does that mean he had killed people from Hong Wu Sect before too?' Alex wondered but immediately ignored the different thoughts popping in his mind as this was not the time to be getting distracted.

"You should be ashamed making so many people hurt and hungry for no reason at all," Alex said.

"Is that all you want to say to me? Don't you want to apologize before I kill you?" Song Zun asked.

"Apologize? You got into this situation because of yourself. If you hadn't stolen your alchemy ingredients from the alchemy gardens, you would've never been here in the first place," Alex said.

"Besides, I'm not here for them in the first place. My original intention is to take away the yang jades you have gathered anyway. So our intention to fight each other is the same."

Song Zun frowned. "You want my yang jades? What use do you have for them?" he asked.

"What use do you have for them?" Alex asked the same question back.

"Pfft. HAHHAHAHA," Song Zun laughed. "Nice one kid. Alas, you are a day late. I have used up all the ones I gathered by now," He said.

"Used up?" Alex asked in confusion. 'He knows how to use the yang jades too? Does he had the Son God's Divine Yang body like me or is it something else?' Alex wondered.

"Enough talking. You can go die now." Song Zun launched forward and delivered a normal punch at Alex. Alex immediately brought both of his hands upfront and tried to block the attack.

Instead of blocking, however, he was sent flying backward by the sheer force behind Song Zun's punch. Alex managed to flip in mid-air and landed on his feet, but he couldn't help but be surprised by the force behind Song Zun's punch. His arms were fully numb from the strike.

Song Zun was shocked to see Alex perfectly fine as well. He had expected to put a hole in his body, and instead, he was just sent flying backward. There weren't even any signs of broken bones or anything.

"Did... Did the boss get weaker?" one of the people on the side asked.

"No way, he defeated that terrible Zheng Min without any problem. He can't have gotten weaker than before," another person said.

"But, that new guy wasn't even hurt," another person said.

"Are you guys idiots? Look at how far he was thrown back with a single punch. You think somebody weak can do that. Instead, the newcomer must be really strong as well. Hell, I'm getting out of here. I don't want to get in the fight between these two," the girl said and immediately ran away from the area.

The others got up and ran away as well after realizing that she was right.

Song Zun looked at him with a stunned expression and asked, "Was that a fluke, or did you really block that?"

Before Alex could even answer anything, Song Zun once more rushed forward with a much stronger punch. Alex didn't let him get him this time. He too threw a punch right back at him.

A not-so-small sound resulted from the clash of their two punches. They were both sent back and stood on their feet. Song Zun looked back at Alex dumbfounded.

"How are you not dead right now?" Song Zun asked. "You blocked my punch without a single treasure or armor. That would only mean your body is strong."

He then looked at Alex more curiously and asked, "hmm... are you a clone? Did someone make your body strong too after your death and are using it?"

"No, can't be. Only your skin or muscles would be strong that way. But you are actually fully strong from the inside out. That could only mean.... A body cultivator?" he was shocked by his own analysis.

"That's right," he smiled as he looked at Alex and asked, "You are a body cultivator, aren't you? It's very rare to see your type. No wonder you came here trying to fight me. You must've thought you could beat me."

"Well, bad luck to you. I have a strong body as well," Song Zun said.

Alex heard everything that was said. He understood how Song Zun came to the answer that Alex was a body cultivator. Body cultivators were rare, so it was no surprise Song Zun would be surprised by the fact that Alex was one.

However, at the moment, Even Alex himself was surprised. Somewhere along with his speech, his analysis, Song Zun had slipped something that he probably didn't intend to say, but accidentally did.

"So you are not a body cultivator like I thought you would be, huh?" Alex asked, still with some surprise on his face.

"Hmm? A body cultivator? Sorry to say it you kid, but I'm not one of your types. I wouldn't even know where to begin," Song Zun said. He was very honest about it.

"I understood that. I came here expecting to fight a body cultivator. However, I would've never in my wildest dreams expected the boss of these forbidden fields to actually be a clone."

Chapter 218: Assumptions

"Oh, a clone huh? And what made you come to that conclusion?" Song Zun's face had changed to show a weird emotion when Alex guessed that he was a clone.

"You asked if I was a corpse that was strengthened and turned to a clone too, didn't you? That would mean that you were either one or were currently using one somewhere else. I would go as far as to guarantee that you are actually the one that is the clone"

"Which means... your real body is out there somewhere," Alex said with a stunning face. He hadn't realized what Song Zun being a clone meant before he spoke it out himself.

"You... you have a real body somewhere else, and this is just a clone of yours that you made from a dead body. The clones are always supposed to be worse than the original. So, if ... if the body that got to the 3rd spot in alchemy achievements and had immortal grade techniques is a clone then..."

Alex got serious and looked at him dead in the eyes and asked, "Who are you?"

Clap Clap Clap

"Bravo little guy. You perfectly figured out everything. Hah, I must be getting old to let slip such an obvious thing, haha. I'm surprised that someone from the Hong Wu sect even knows about clones."

"I don't remember seeing any information about ones in the library. Not to boot, you are a body cultivator, someone impossible to find in the Hong Wu Sect as well," Song Zun said and his face got serious as well.

"So, who are you, and why are you trying to get in my way? What? Are you trying to act like a savior so that you won't have to work hard to get accepted by the people here before you do what you came here to do?" Song Zun asked.

Alex was surprised at the conclusion Song Zun came to. 'I can see why he would think that,' he thought.

Song Zun too Alex's silence as an acceptance of guilt. "Well, I don't care what you came to do here anyway. At first, I thought you had ruined my chances of doing what I came here to do. But in the end, the exact thing you did send me here, the place I wanted to come to, but didn't know."

"You... wanted to come here?" Alex asked. "To find the yang jades?"

"No. I came to find something else. The yang jades were just some interim stuff to get me stronger. Was it not for them, This body would've died to your punch just now," Song Zun said with a smile.

"You got stronger after using Yang jades? Then, does that mean... you have none of it anymore?" Alex asked in shock.

"Hahaha, not anymore. When I first came here, this body was weak. However, thanks to a technique of mine, I managed to use the yang jade to temper this body. It was then that I realized that yang jades were extremely important for my body. So after strengthening a bit, I made everyone gather me some more in exchange for the food."

"And now, I'm ready to go venture out into the desert and find what I was looking for," Song Zun said. "Who knows, maybe my body will get stronger under the harsh atmosphere there," he said.

"Anyway, why don't you tell me why you are in the Hong Wu sect? Maybe I can help you," Song Zun asked.

"Well, I don't know what to say. I am a genuine student of the Hong Wu sect," Alex said.

"Hahaha, who are you lying to? I know the Hong Wu sect has nothing about clones. If you know about clones so much, then you must've learned it somewhere else," Song Zun said.

"Yes, I did learn it from the Tiger sect, but I'm still a disciple of the Hong Wu sect," Alex said.

"Tiger sect?" Song Zun's face changed when he heard that. "I see, then you have to die now."

"You don't get to decide that," Alex said as he prepared his common rank sword.

Song Zun lunged at him with his bare hands, while Alex swung his sword at him. Song Zun easily knocked the sword out of the way and punched Alex.

Alex was using the Elusive Heavenly sword, so he didn't have to worry about dodging the attacks in close combat. A punch to the left, a kick to the right, an uppercut, a horizontal sword slash.

Attacks after attacks were thrown at each other. Alex was too slippery while in close combat, and Song Zun couldn't land a single hit on him.

While, Alex couldn't do any damage, as Song Zun's entire body was as strong as armor.

'Sh*t. Is this guy's skin stronger than my sword?' Alex thought. Song Zun was stopping every single attack with his arms without fear.

Alex swung his sword sideways and tried to hit his chest. Song Zun instead didn't bother blocking and punched towards Alex's head. The sword strike landed cleanly at the chest but didn't do anything to Song Zun. Alex on the other hand easily dodged the punch, making Song Zun hit empty space.

"Hehe, you can dodge quite well... not bad. It's your sword technique, isn't it? So you must really have been to the Tiger sect. I can't believe they let you learn one of their techniques," Song Zun said.

'Huh? Does he know about the Elusive Heavenly sword? Or did he just fight with master and knows of this stuff?' Alex wondered.

Song Zun was starting to get worried. He couldn't keep up the fight with a body cultivator he couldn't hit. If this went on for much longer, he would surely lose. So, he decided to go all out.

"So, you aren't going to back off, are you?" he asked.

"No way. Not until I beat you," Alex said readying his sword once again.

"Sigh, what sort of hot-headed youth did I stumble upon. I guess you can go die now."

Chapter 219: Blade

Song Zun started moving his legs a little, jumping ever so slightly each time. Alex was surprised at first since he didn't know what the opponent was doing, but soon he figured out.

" A footwork!"

Suddenly, Song Zun disappeared from the spot. Before Alex could even realize where he was, A punch came from the side of his face, barely missing his ears by a few centimeters.

Alex immediately stepped to the side and looked back to see a Song Zun taking a deep breath. "Urghh, I haven't used this technique with this body. I am not used to it," Song Zun said.

He took another deep breath and disappeared once more from the spot. Another punch appeared from the side, however, this time it managed to hit Alex straight onto the back of his head. Alex was sent flying to the grasses.

"Ah, I missed again. At least my punch did land on you, just not where I wanted it to," Song Zun said and disappeared from the spot.

Alex really didn't know how he was disappearing, but he knew he needed to dodge. So, he hurriedly crouched. A punch passed his head previously was, stopping just a meter ahead of him.

Alex saw Song Zun standing in front of him. His legs were trembling beyond crazy. 'He is using something his body can't handle just to deal with me,' he thought.

He slashed the sword directly at Song Zun's neck from below, but a casual hand blocked it. "You are... huff... not going to get me... huff... so easily," he said while continuously taking in breaths.

'Sh*t. At this rate, even my movement technique won't be able to handle this kid. He just won't take much damage. Unless I get a clean hit on his head and manage to knock him out, I won't win this fight,' Song Zun thought.

Alex on the other hand rubbed the back of his head. He was still kinda numb from the last attack and didn't have the time to attend to the pain.

He ignored the pain once more and readied himself for another attack. The moment Song Zun disappeared, he moved too. Elusive Heavenly sword had footwork too. It was in a way, a sort of movement technique. But since it didn't improve a user's speed, it wasn't considered one.

Still, that was his best bet at the current fight. 'That or if I manage to take out my steel sword. I doubt his skin is tougher than that,' Alex thought.

Song Zun was done taking his breath and once more disappeared. Alex used the Elusive Heavenly sword's footwork to increase his speed somewhat by taking better steps around the battlefield.

He managed to dodge Song Zun's attack by a hair's breadth and immediately struck his neck. Song Zun wasn't hurt, but he was hurled far away.

The fight continued for a little longer before both Song Zun and Alex were breathing heavily, neither able to get a hold of the other.

"Do you still want to continue, kid?" Song Zun asked.

"Yes, I will surely kill you if that's the last thing I do tonight," Alex said. He immediately launched towards Song Zun and delivered a sword blow to the head, but Song Zun locked the sword with his hands.

"This is getting an annoying kid. Neither of us can hurt each other, let's just go our own way," Song Zun said.

Alex didn't budge however, he continued churning out attack once more, annoying Song Zun even further. His plan was working.

"You little sh*t!," Song Zun shouted and started attacking himself. The fight went on for much longer than both of them expected it to. Alex never managed to cut Song Zun and Song Zun never managed to hit Alex's head like he wanted to.

Suddenly, Song Zun disappeared. 'This is it,' Alex thought. Instead of moving sideways or backward, or even forwards. Alex jumped up. He used the full strength of whatever remaining ones he could use on his leg and jumped high up.

Song Zun appeared where Alex was previously and looked up.

Suddenly, a glint of light appeared in the darkness as a sword came flying down at Song Zun from above. Song Zun managed to barely turn his head around and let the sword fly past his head.

BANG

A rather large noise appeared from the place where the sword struck. Song Zun was sure that he wouldn't have been hurt from that, but he sure as hell would've been dizzy for a long time.

"Haha, you missed," He said as he turned around to look at Alex who was still in mid-air. However, before he continued saying anything else, he froze.

There was another sword in Alex's hand. It was already weird enough to see a sword in the forbidden fields, and now there was another one.

This new sword looked even better. Its crossguard shone with silver light, the handle had red leather poking out of it, and the blade itself wasn't like anything Song? Zun had ever seen. It was brownish in color and had a noticeable golden hue around it.

Alex had used his spiritual sense as a last-ditch effort to take out the steel sword. He had flared his spiritual sea to use all of it just to find the steel sword, but he never got to it. However, he found another sword. A sword that he had never used because of how heavy it was.

He had taken out the Ebony Corundum Stiletto. He still couldn't handle it around or use it like any other normal sword. But what he could do was let it fall by itself, guided by gravity.

And that was exactly what Alex let it do. The stiletto fell from the sky making no noise whatsoever and the blade barely shining any light. Song Zun brought up both of his hands to block the attack.

However, the moment the blade touched his hands, he realized. He had f*cked up.

Chapter 220: Get Over It

The brown blade cut into Song Zun's arms like it was butter. It then went through the side of his shoulders, chest, and leg, chopping the right side of his body clean off.

BAM

A massive loud sound erupted from where the blade landed. The blade itself was halfway into the earth, only a part of the blade and the remaining part of the sword was up above.

The right half of Song Zun's body dropped to the right as the innards started spilling out from wherever it could. "You..." Song Zun was still a little conscious as he spoke a few words in a daze.

"You killed this body. I... I worked hard to make this body and you..." his eyes could no longer focus as his mind was starting to go blank due to the lack of blood.

"I will kill you."

He managed to say that just as he fell to the ground. He was dead.

Alex breathed deeply. He had never intended to kill him, only incapacitate, and yet... "I killed someone," the realization of what he had just done was coming back to Alex.

He had killed many monsters before, but they were just that, monsters. To him, they were like the farm animals back at home. However, a human on the other hand.

"Oh no.... Oh my god. What have I done?" his face started to drain in color as he slumped to the ground and got face to face with the corpse that had dropped to the ground.

The moment he saw that his stomach started churning and everything he had eaten beforehand came out the wrong way. He would vomit for a bit and see the mess he made once again and vomit again.

It took him about 4 to 5 vomits to even manage to turn around from the gore in front of him. Both of his swords were right there, but he cared about none of them for now.

He ran a little forwards to the grass and fell onto it. He put his hands behind his head tried to forget everything. But that was impossible. He could never forget what he had just seen, what he had just done.

The experience remained vivid in his mind as he couldn't forget anything. He wanted to forget everything, and just go hide inside his mind. He felt like his soul was reaching a breaking point and he would tear it down into different pieces at any moment.

Suddenly, he felt someone touch him. It wasn't a real person, only something he felt in his mind. He imagined himself standing behind him, with a hand on his shoulders, telling him, "It will be fine. You will be fine."

Alex looked back in real life, but obviously, no one was there. "I will be fine?" he thought. He stopped constantly remembering the gore and the event.

"He... was a clone. Not a real person," he tried to tell himself. He knew the body belonged to someone else that the man stole and used, so in his head, he knew that it was a real person before this. However, on the outside, he kept telling himself that it was not a real person.

It was then he remembered his master's words. The exact words.

"You are young and you are pure-hearted, but that heart will for sure dye in the filth of the world of cultivation. Make sure you never let that filth stick to yourself. You might get drowned in it, but you have to learn to climb over it."

"I wish you never have to kill anyone, but I know you will have to, even if it's just to defend yourself and your loved ones. The only thing I can do is hope is you don't lose yourself along with your enemies."

He remembered those words as clear as if they were said today.

"Climb over the filth," he said in a monotone voice. "Don't lose yourself along with your enemies." His eyes started turning serious.

"Don't lose yourself, Alex. Climb over the filth. Get over it. You will have to deal with stuff much worse than this. You can't let yourself be devoured by the ones you destroyed," he said with an angry tone.

"I am not going to lose myself because of filths like them. There are bigger things in the wait for me. I can't let these incidents be roadblocks for me. I will NOT let these incidents be a roadblock for me," Alex stood up and turned towards the corpse.

He felt his stomach churn, but he held it in. Instead, he walked up to the corpse and reached the Ebony Corundum Stiletto. He needed to get down to the sword to put it inside his storage once more.

He was right next to the innards, but he didn't let it bother him anymore. Once the stiletto was back into the storage bag, he took hold of the second sword.

Suddenly, he heard rustling behind him. He immediately turned around, sword at the ready to cut anyone else if necessary.

"Woah, brother wait, I..." before the person could even finish saying anything, he saw the corpse in the moonlight and immediately went to the side to vomit. More sounds of vomits and general disgusts arose from the surrounding,

It seemed many people had come back after the sound of fighting was done. Many people voiced disgust towards the dead body, but there were some who were awed in amazement.

These were the people who had actually fought the boss before and got their butts handed to them. They were stunned to see that the boss who had beat them so effortlessly was now dead.

Not just lost, dead. This was something these people would've never expected. Even the three men who gave Alex the information about Song Zun were amongst the crowd, looking at the scene in disbelief.

Alex ignored everyone that was watching, however. Instead, he put his sword behind him once more and walked into the cave.