

Alchemy 291

Chapter 291: Fourth Day

Alex was greeted by the now-familiar Focus Mode. He very quickly adjusted to the amplified sense and looked around. The sun was up by now and the room was lit.

'What's the time?' he thought and looked. It was 6:42 PM. 'Oh, I took quite a while today to log back in,' he thought.

Had he not woken up early, he might have missed today's competition start.

Very soon, there was someone calling them by knocking on their door, and in a usual fashion, Alex and Wan Li walked out.

"Everyone is here. Let's leave," Ma Rong said and walked down the stairs with the whole group. In 15 or so minutes, the group reached the coliseum and entered it.

They went to the stage along with the other dozens of sects looked at the competition for now. For the Alchemy competition, the competition was that they would learn a new pill recipe, made specifically for the competition by the Royal Alchemist and the participants would have to follow it to make the best pill in under an hour.

This required a lot of knowledge regarding the different pills and how ingredients interacted as well as being able to remember every single movement from the pill-making process, including the timing, the flame temperature, the order of ingredients as well as the movement they had to make in the cauldron.

The competition asked for a lot, and only those that could deliver on it could win.

Alex was sure he would do quite well in the competition but still didn't want to take part in it. He wanted to experience the combat or specialized competition at least once.

Ma Rong took the ones that wanted to participate and took them to register, while the rest of them went to the seating area.

Alex saw the Tiger sect and greeted his master and his senior sister, but didn't go join them. Luo Mei insisted on it so he promised he would do that the next day.

Once she agreed, he went back to the Hong Wu sect seating area.

"I don't think I've said this before but I am really surprised that you are the disciple of the sect leader of Tiger sect as well," Wan Li said.

"Haha, that sorta just happened. I can't believe it myself as well," Alex said.

"Learning both Alchemy and battle at the same time, I'm very envious of you, Brother Yu," Wan Li said while making a weird face.

'Huh?' Alex was a little surprised but Wan Li focused back on the stage, so Alex let go of it.

The first few competitions started and Alex looked at them. He felt very unenthusiastic towards the whole competition as a whole today.

People were learning before doing anything, so they made a lot of mistakes and not many intense competitions took place.

Even the formation ones that kept his attentions usually didn't manage to grab his interest. 'Sigh, this is boring,' he thought and looked around the coliseum.

It seemed a lot of people held the same sentiment as him. Some of the audience members even left their seats and left the coliseum entirely.

"Sigh, the Royal Fu Academy should have made the learning competitions on the 2nd day or the third day and kept yesterday's competition for today. That would've made the competitions much more exciting," The second elder said.

"Yes, I feel the same way dear. They screwed up really bad this time. Well at least the alchemy competition starts at 9, so we can leave early if we want to," the third elder said.

Alex nodded when he realized that. Soon the competition on the stage ended and the girls walked onto the stage for the alchemy competition.

Nobody really expected the male disciple to show any amazing performance and only Fan Ruogang and Zhou Mei were what the rest of the sect were focused on.

Alex looked at the stage and saw all the top 3 disciples from the Spring song sect as well as the Twin harmony sect, which was another well-known alchemy sect.

Only the Hong Wu sect didn't send out their A team for today's competition.

"Oh wow, even that guy is there," someone commented.

Alex looked at the stage and saw Huang Fu, who seemed to be looking around the stage for someone. He walked up to Fan Ruogang and asked something, who replied back.

Huang Fu immediately turned towards the audience and looked at Alex and shook his head in disappointment. 'He must've been looking forward to winning against me today. That's a shame, I would've probably taken part if I could take part in the combat ones as well,' Alex thought.

The competition soon started and the host relayed the basic rules.

The rules were the same as the ones for the other competitions. The only difference this time was that everyone got the ingredients from the staff themselves.

So no one had to bring any on their own.

The regular rules applied and everyone was handed a recipe. Then, the timer started. Each one of them had exactly 60 minutes to learn the recipe and make the pills.

The audience could do nothing but watch them just read the recipe for nearly half an hour, if not more. They needed to memorize every movement, every step before they could hope to make the pill.

The timer was running out, so everyone started making the pills immediately. There wasn't enough time to make multiple pills so they had to rely on this one pill.

The audience was a little surprised when a pill cauldron actually exploded while the person was making their pill. Thankfully, the staff member immediately went and stopped the explosion and sound from spreading.

Slowly, one by one the participants started finishing the pills and started walking to the front to show off their creations.

Fan Ruogang, Zhou Mei, Han Long, and Huang Fu too walked to the front of the stage and started putting their pills into the pill tester one by one.

Chapter 292: Unexpected Result

Fan Ruogang was the first one to put hers in, so her result was the first to come up. Up until now, the best result belonged to a random participant for 22% harmony.

That looked bad in comparison to what everyone was used to making the previous days, but one had to remember that this was the first time they had made this pill. So, it was actually a very good result for them to be able to make a near Earth grade pill on the first try.

As for Fan Ruogang's result, it was the best as of yet. She managed to make a pill with exactly 28% harmony, making it the best until now.

Han Long was second and his result was actually better. Fan Ruogang humphed quite audibly when she saw Han Long's pill harmony reached 29%. He had won over her result with a single percentage.

Huang Fu was next and his result stunned the entire stage and competitors. He surprisingly managed to reach a high harmony of 41% on a pill he had never seen or made before. That just went to show the terrifying level of ability this man held regarding Alchemy.

Zhou Mei was next and honestly, no one was expecting anything from her. She wasn't a well-remembered figure from the previous matches as her only notable achievement was getting third place in the speed pill-making competition.

In fact, even she herself was doubtful of what she had made, but when the result came back that she had actually managed to make a pill with 35% harmony, she was exhilarated.

A big smile came upon her face as she learned that she had won 2nd place.

The people from the Hong Wu sect cheered when they saw that, and Fan Ruogang went to give her a big hug for winning.

The host announced the results to the audience and the sect accepted her with open arms.

"Great job you girls. Ah, you did not bad yourself, disciple Song. 11th place is not bad at all, " the second elder said.

The male disciple felt a little better after hearing that.

The rest of the sect members congratulated them when they came to the seating area. The group quietened down for a few minutes when the second elder said something.

"Sect leader, there is nothing interesting happening today, so can't we simply leave?" he said.

Ma Rong didn't immediately say anything and looked at the other's reaction. It seemed everyone was really bored today.

"Sigh, alright. There is nothing worth watching, so we will leave for today," Ma Rong said and stood up to leave.

Alex stood up as well and looked towards the Tiger sect to say goodbye if they saw him, but surprisingly, they had already left.

'Well, I can't fault them for that,' Alex thought. He left the coliseum and as usual, Ma Rong asked if anyone wanted to leave on their own instead of returning to the hotel.

Alex thought for a bit and realized that he didn't need to return to the hotel since he didn't have to leave the capsule at all. Since he wouldn't feel hungry for nearly 2 more days, he was free to stay inside the game for just that amount of time.

"I will leave today, master," Alex said and said his goodbyes. Surprisingly, Zhou Mei also decided to take a leave and walked in the same direction as Alex.

Alex was taking the road to the Alchemy hall when he noticed Zhou Mei following behind him. So he slowed down for her to catch up to him.

"Do you need something?" Alex asked when she finally caught up to him.

Zhou Mei fidgeted a bit and finally spoke up. "Yes, I... I want to say something," she said.

"Very well, please speak," Alex said.

"I... " Zhou Mei stopped for something and continued, "I'm sorry. I apologize for all the hurtful things I said to you before. I had thought that you were given everything for free before, and advanced to where you were at the time because of it."

"But I never realized how wrong I was. There is no way a person can make such an amazing pill as the one you made yesterday simply by being given everything."

"So, now I've come to respect your talent and want to apologize for holding a grudge against you," she said.

Alex was very surprised to hear all of this. Honestly, he held a negative view of her until today. He felt that she was petty and couldn't see things from any other perspective than her own. But it seemed that he was wrong and that she was more than just a hateful person.

You really couldn't understand a person just by looking at them or even meeting them for a while. Everyone was different on the inside, it just took some time for their real self to show themselves.

Thus, Alex smiled and decided to forgive her. "It's okay. I can see where you were coming from. I accept your apology," he said.

Zhou Mei seemed to have a massive load taken off her head as she sighed in relief and bowed toward Alex. "Thank you for forgiving me," she said.

Alex was a little taken aback. He already forgave her, so he wasn't sure what more he could say. "Uh... we are in the middle of the street. Please get up." He hurriedly went forward to grab her by her shoulders and get her up.

"Aww... that was so sweet. I didn't know you had a grudge against Mingming, Meimiei. At least you apologized and that is what is important," Fan Ruogang spoke from the side of the road.

"Fanfan, what are you doing here?" Zhou Mei's face immediately went red with shame when she saw her standing there.

"Hehe, you guys left, so I also wanted to join you guys. Thus I came here. Look, I brought him too," she said as she pulled out Wen Li who was hiding behind her.

"So, now that you are done apologizing, where are we going?"

Chapter 293: Beast Attracting Pill

Alex smiled and asked, "Do you guys have ingredients to make pills?"

"Of course, we are alchemists. We always have different ingredients on us," Fan Ruogang said proudly.

"Haha, Yes we do, brother Yu," Wan Li said with a nervous smile.

Zhou Mei nodded as well.

"Well, if you guys do have them, then let's go to the Alchemy hall to take some pills. You guys are probably agitated from not being able to make pills for the last few days," Alex said.

Zhou Mei and Wan Li's eyes shined when they heard they could go somewhere where they could make pills. Fan Ruogang however made a weird face.

"Ahh... I don't really care about pills, but whatever. Let's go make one. Actually, let's go by the market once. I want to try making today's pills. I want to beat the harmony level of that Huang Fu guy. He probably already learned about that pill from his master before me, and simply flaunted his knowledge today," she said.

"Ah, Fanfan, that's not possible. For the sake of competition, he isn't allowed to do that. Sect Leader said so herself," Wan Li said.

"Oh, did she? Well, whatever. I still want to beat him," she declared.

Alex smiled and asked, "Why don't we make a competition out of this then. We will all learn the recipe and... in 6 hours after entering the Alchemy hall, whoever makes the best pill is the winner," Alex said.

Fan Ruogang's eyes lit up abnormally when she heard that it was going to be a competition.

"Alright, here you guys take the recipe," she said as she gave her recipe to Wan Li. Zhou Mei took hers out and gave hers to Alex.

Alex looked at the recipe just once and immediately learned it.

The recipe was for a pill called Beast Attracting pill. The pill was made using a bunch of beast parts that were used to make a pill that spread a very strong fragrance when it interacted with Qi. The pill then attracted various beasts depending on its harmony level.

Mortal grade pills attracted Skin tempering and Muscle tempering realm monsters.

Earth Grade pills attracted Bone tempering and Organ Tempering realm monsters.

Heaven Grade pills attracted Meridian Tempering and Mind Tempering realm monsters.

The purpose for pills with a higher level of harmony was not written. Probably, not even the Royal alchemist was capable of making pills with 75% harmony, even if it was a common rank pill.

He had already learned the pill recipe but giving it back immediately was a bit suspicious, so he asked Wan Li to write the recipe down for the both of them and took it.

They then took a detour to a place that sold the different ingredients. Since the ingredients were mostly beast parts, Alex, unfortunately, didn't have them.

So he had to end up buying a lot of those. Thankfully, he was loaded with money right now and didn't have to worry about the cost.

Once they got their ingredients, Alex showed them the way to the Alchemy Hall. At the register, he asked for a room for 6 hours and paid upfront. He and the other 3 were then taken to 4 different alchemy rooms at the back of the hall.

After the door was closed, Alex sat on the seat with the Golden Jade cauldron in front of him and got ready to make his pills.

"This is the first time I'm making an all monster ingredient pill right?" he thought. Monster corpses usually had one or two parts that could be used as ingredients.

But he had never come across a pill recipe that used only them. 'I wonder how the Royal Alchemist came up with the recipe,' he thought.

The cauldron had heated up and it was time for him to put in the ingredients. The recipe appeared in his mind as he knew what to do next.

He took out the first ingredient and put it in. He slowly swirled it around until it became powder and the energy was all released.

Once the first ingredient was done, he put in the second one which released more energy that mixed with the already existing energy.

Then third, and fourth. He kept doing that until he finally put in the last ingredient.

'Oh, so the final energy is wood, huh,' he thought. He quickly started compressing the powder, and a minute later, he had a pill with him.

He quickly pulled out the pill and held it in his hand.

Beast Attracting pill - 38%

'Hmm... not bad. I could've probably done better if I had focused more on the pill making,' he thought and started making another one.

The first one had taken him only 20 and the following ones took even less. In an hour, he ended up making 3 pills. However, every hour after that, he ended up making 4 pills each.

Sometimes, he made more due to making 2 pills at once.

By the end of the 6 hours mark, he had managed to make exactly 28 pills. He looked at the time and realized he only had 3 minutes left.

So he cleaned his cauldron, put everything back into his storage bags, and left the room.

Fan Ruogang was already outside, constantly tapping her foot, annoyed about something. Alex walked up to her and asked, "What's wrong?"

"I've been waiting here for nearly half an hour, that's what's wrong," she said in an annoyed voice.

Alex was a little surprised and asked, "Why did you leave half an hour earlier then?"

Fan Ruogang's face suddenly turned all red and said, "I didn't know how long it had been while I was making the pills and unknowingly left too early."

PFFTT

Alex started laughing. "Hey don't laugh. I didn't have a clock with me okay. That's why I left so early," Fan Ruogang said with a red face.

Alex couldn't stop laughing for a few more minutes and only stopped laughing when the other two arrived.

Fan Ruogang seemed still mad so she said, "Alright, let's just see who won and get it over with."

Chapter 294: Unknown Figure

"Wait we just got here. Why was he laughing? Why are you red?" Zhou Mei started asking.

"Doesn't matter. Show me your best pills," Fan Ruogang practically ordered.

"Well, this is mine. A 43% pill," Zhou Mei said as she took out a pill.

"No, I don't believe you. Use a pill tester," she said.

"Right here? Okay," Zhou Mei said and brought out a pill tester. Wan Li and Fan Ruogang also brought out their pill tester.

Seeing them all take those out, Alex also brought out his spare pill tester, one he kept just for consistency with the other alchemists.

If there ever came a day where he was asked for a pill tester and he didn't own one, that would start making people think of him as weird.

Once he took it out, he also brought out one of the pills with him. He didn't want to embarrass them or make them feel bad about their alchemy achievements, so he brought out a high-grade pill, but not the highest he made.

He put his pill into the pill tester and looked at the others.

Zhou Mei was the first to put the pill first, so hers was the one that moved up the first. As she had said, her pill harmony reached up to 43% and stopped moving any further.

"Sigh, this is the best I could do. What about you guys?" she said and looked at Wan Li's pill tester which was the second one to be used.

The fog slowly rose up and soon caught up to the 43% mark as Zhou Mei's eyes got dejected. She had lost again. At least it was to the first ranking disciple of the sect.

The fog soon rose up to 46% and stopped.

"Wow, you actually managed to make such a great pill," she said.

"Haha, yeah. I got to research a lot for this pill in the last 6 hours and managed to make this amount," he said.

"Wow, Wanwan. Your pill is only 3% lower than what you made for the competition yesterday," Fan Ruogang said.

"Haha, yeah. I was a little surprised myself too," he said. "Although, if I had taken part in today's competition, I would've failed for sure. My first pill was only 22% in harmony."

"Geez, whatever. You won in the end, so be happy. Look at me, my pill is so bad," Fan Ruogang said as she showed the pill tester with 41% harmony."

"Fanfan, you are more focused on the ingredients than pills. You need to give some effort into making pills too. Once I start teaching Mimi better, she will make better pills than you very soon," Zhou Mei said.

"What? Do you think your sister can make better pills than me? ... is she really that talented?" Fan Ruogang asked with a little nervous voice.

"Sigh, no. It will take her some time. She is still young," Zhou Mei said.

"Umm... is she as young as Mingming?" Fan Ruogang asked.

"Umm... no. She is older," Zhou Mei said while shaking her head.

"Oh, it crossed 40%," Wan Li said. He was the only one of the three focusing on Alex's pill tester.

"Huh?" Fan Ruogang turned around to catch the fog go above 41%. "No! I am at the last place," she said.

Soon the fog crossed 43% as well. "Sigh, as expected," Zhou Mei said. Soon the fog rose up and reached 45% and acted stayed there for a few seconds, giving the illusion of stopping, but it increased once more to reach 46%.

"Aii, you are too good, Brother Yu," Wan Li said.

Just then, the percentage went up once more to 47%. Wan Li and the rest knew better than to assume this was the end, so they silently waited for it to go up.

The fog did rise up twice and the final result was 49%.

"Sigh, you have my respect brother Yu. This is truly amazing," Wan Li said.

"Oh wow, Mingming, you nearly made a Heaven grade pill from something you learned just today?" Fan Ruogang said excitedly.

"Haha, that is a really interesting thing I am seeing right now," A voice came from behind Alex. The four of them turned around to see a man in his late 20s staring at them.

He wore a simple grayish robe with black linings. He was wearing a small hat, but Alex could see his handsome face clearly.

The man walked forward stood next to Alex. He was nearly 3 finger-widths taller than Alex.

"Young man, can I take a look at your pill?" the man asked.

"Umm..." Alex wasn't sure what to say. A random person coming up to him and asking to look at his pill was something he had never experienced or prepared for before.

"Thank you," the man said, taking Alex's non-responsiveness as agreement.

He took the pill tester and dropped a pill out. He brought it close to his face and looked at it. He frowned a little and brought out another pill from his bag and immediately ate it without hesitation.

He shook his head as if electricity coursed through his body, and the next time he opened his eyes, the pupils were wide open.

He looked at the pill once more and now he started nodding at it. "Good, good. The composition of the powders is a little flawed, but the overall structure is good. You also managed to get the timing correct a lot of the time— No, almost all the time."

"Temperature control was good, but it could be better if you acquire a better cauldron. Hmm... aside from that... you just need better ingredients and you can easily make Heaven-grade pills," the man said while nodding to himself.

He seemed to be fascinated with the pill, more so than any other person Alex had seen in his life.

He finally looked up from the pill and stared at Alex and asked, "What's your name, little brother?"

Alex could tell that this man was a pill-making genius or at least one that could analyze as greatly, so he decided to answer, "My name is Yu Ming."

Chapter 295: He is...

The man was a little taken aback by the name and suddenly smiled, "haha, Yu Ming. You are the person that make a 60% pill on the competition yesterday, aren't you?" the man asked.

"Yes, I am," Alex said without a hint of arrogance on his face.

The man looked at his face with a slight smirk and said, "You are quite talented, aren't you? What sect are you from?"

"We are from the Hong Wu sect," Alex said.

"Hong Wu?" the man dropped his head into a thinking face and said, "Ah, Little Ma's sect right? No wonder you guys are so talented."

"You took a recipe and learned it in a single day to this level. That's worthy of compliments. Especially you little brother, I don't think even my disciple can do what you did in a single day," the man said.

Alex and the rest felt a little awkward listening to his compliments. They didn't know how to react to a random man, albeit a great alchemist, complementing them.

"Ah, I am a little late now, so I must leave. I hope our paths cross in the future," the man said as he handed the pill back and nodded to the group.

The four of them also bowed a little to show respect.

He started walking away, but as soon as he reached a little further away, he stopped. "Oh, and another thing, a suggestion. Cut the Fire lizard's tail into 4 equal pieces before putting them in one after another with a 1-second interval and follow the rest of the recipe. "

"I just discovered that a few days ago and didn't get to give the academy guys the updated recipe. Haha, my bad. Do that and you guys will have a much better pill come out. Goodbye," the man said and quickly walked in.

The guy at the register saw him and quickly stood up to greet him with a deep bow. He did not stop the man at all.

Fan Ruogang was the first to come out of her shock as she said, "D— Did that man just say he couldn't give the updated recipe?"

"Doesn't that mean— " Zhou Mei didn't speak any further and waited for confirmation from the others.

"Yes," Alex said. "It seems... we just had our first meeting with the Royal Alchemist." Even as the words came out of his mouth, he couldn't believe it. He had been hearing how good the man was and how talented he was, but never in his life did he expect him to look so... young.

"He looks younger than Master, doesn't he?" he asked.

"Yes," Wan Li said. "I— I wonder if it's some sort of pill or... his cultivation base is just that high." The only way someone could stay young despite being old was if their cultivation base was high or if they ate some sort of heavenly ingredients or pills that gave that effect.

Alex was still in thought when he checked the top right of his vision and saw that it was already 5:45 pm.

"Oh no. It's late. We need to hurry back," he said and immediately walked out of the Alchemy hall, with the rest following quickly behind.

They tried hurrying back to get before 6, but the streets were crowded in the evening, and they couldn't fly over the people. So, they ended up being a little late.

They quickly went up the stairs, but there were Ma Rong and the other elders with a frowning faces, waiting for them.

"Where did you guys go? You were gone for the entire day. You guys didn't even come back once, and now you turn up late. Did you know how worried we were?" Ma Rong said with an angry face.

"Master, we can explain," Alex said.

"Go on, explain why you were gone for so long," Ma Rong said

"Umm... the thing is..." Alex went on to explain how they went to the alchemy hall to make new pills.

"So, you didn't think to leave on time?" Ma Rong asked.

"No, we did leave on time Sect leader, but then he appeared out of nowhere and we couldn't leave sooner," Fan Ruogang said.

"He? Who is he?" the second elder.

"Umm... we think he was... the Royal Alchemist," Zhou Mei replied.

Suddenly, everyone's eyes perked up and they looked at the 4.

"You guys met the Royal Alchemist?" Ma Rong asked.

"We're not sure. We think so from the comments he made," Alex said.

"How did he look? Why was he there? What comments did he make? Explain everything," Ma Rong said.

Alex proceeded to explain everything he remembered from the comments about the composition and structure of the pill to his height, so him calling Ma Rong 'Little Ma' and etc.

Ma Rong was a little surprised. "Sigh, it seems you really did meet him. Alright, I will excuse you guys for today. If you don't want to be punished, you better keep track of your time from tomorrow onwards. I can't have the best disciples of my sect disappearing on my watch," she said.

"Yes, Master" "Yes, Sect Leader," the 4 of them said at once.

"Good, now you can go," she said and let them pass on. The 4 of them went to their own rooms and closed the door.

The Third Elder looked at Ma Rong and said, "I can't believe the kids got lucky enough to meet with the Royal Alchemist himself. Even I have never seen him."

"Yeah, it's hard to spot him. He likes to change his appearance from time to time, so it's impossible to recognize him by his looks. It seems he is opting for a young face this time," Ma Rong said.

"Haha, they got to learn something from the Royal Alchemist himself. It's not every day that happens. They really did get lucky," the Second Elder said.

The other elders also talked in small voices surprised about the disciples meeting the Royal Alchemist.

"Alright, let's forget about this. Call everyone to my room. It's time for the meeting."

Chapter 296: Breakthrough

Alex opened his eyes early in the morning at 7 am. There was no competition today and the only thing he had to do was go to the auction house later on.

"You can stop now Pearl," he told Pearl who was inside his robe currently cultivating. "Meow," Pearl meowed lightly and stopped.

The minor cuts around his body all healed and he was back to being fine.

"Have you broken through yet?" he wondered and asked Pearl before opening the status page. Unfortunately, he was still in the Bone Tempering 9th realm.

"Do I really have to give you a monster core? I am afraid the same thing that happens to me will happen to you as well. Not to mention, I don't have that many anymore. Only a couple more. I will soon have to go to the jungle to fight the beasts some more," Alex said softly.

"Meow," Pearl meowed.

"Sigh, I will think of someday. Come enter," he said and let Pearl go back into his arm.

"Hmm... I should be fine to breakthrough now right?" he wondered and opened his status page. He looked at it and thought, 'Oh, I'm a few hundred thousand Qi less than the required amount.'

So, he took out an Organ Tempering 7th realm monster's core and sneakily ate it so that Wan Li couldn't see what he did.

Suddenly, his consciousness disappeared.

When he reappeared inside the Spiritual sea, he could see the vast, turbulent water in there. "I guess it won't increase or get stronger until I reach the mind tempering realm huh? Thankfully, I can eat a few pills in the True realm to increase my mental strength," Alex thought.

He looked around and quickly found a red stork with a golden beak hovering in the air without moving its wings.

'This should be easy,' he thought and started attacking the beast with everything he had. The metal techniques especially were very strong and he could easily defeat the stork.

It did take him nearly 10 minutes though due to him not having the physical strength to close the gap as he did outside the spiritual sea.

The beast died and as usual, the yellow mist appeared from a small shadow at the surface of the lake and quickly devoured the both of them.

When Alex came on the outside, he was bombarded with the notification about gaining Qi. Once the notifications subsided, he clicked on breakthrough and immediately went to 6th Realm of Organ Tempering. It wasn't the strongest in the competition by a long shot, but it was progress for Alex who had to focus on Alchemy too.

'Just 4 more, and I can reach Meridian Tempering realm,' he thought.

He finally decided to log out of the game. He slowly opened the capsule lid as the lack of intense senses made his entire world very dull.

It took him a few seconds to get used to it, but that few seconds, he hated every time he had to experience it.

"Ah, I'm a little hungry today," he thought. He had stayed inside the game for nearly a day and missed all food since the cereal yesterday morning, so when he felt hunger, he got happy.

It meant that just staying in the capsule didn't mean that he wouldn't have to ever eat. It also meant that his body's functionality was normal, albeit a little slow.

Alex walked out to the kitchen and saw Hannah in the kitchen. "Hey, sister. Are you eating?" he asked.

"Yes, come eat... or don't. If you don't feel hungry, you don't have to force yourself," Hannah said.

"Oh, it's fine. I haven't logged out in over a day, so I am a bit hungry," Alex said.

"Hmm... try not to stay in the game for that long. We still don't know if it's good or bad," Hannah said.

"It's fine, or at least the scientists and doctors say so," Alex said.

"They do? Well then, I guess it's fine. I will look at it later. You eat right now," Hannah made him get his food.

Alex nodded and ate what food they had. "I need to grocery shop. If we both end up playing the game, we won't have food anymore," Hannah said.

"Hmm... I don't think I have free time today. Well maybe in the evening. I can go with you then," Alex said.

"No need. I will just order online," Hannah said.

"Oh right. I keep forgetting that this is a city and people can do that," Alex said while shaking his head.

"Alright, I'm going back to the game, see you later... or tomorrow. Whenever our timing matches," Hannah said and left.

Alex too quickly ate his food and went back to his room. He looked at the time and saw that there was a lot of time left before the auction, he decided to do a few things he had been ignoring until now.

He called his parent and talked with them for a bit. Apparently, his father had paid the money for the tractor and had used some of the remaining ones for building a better shed and stable for the animals.

He also showed off a new phone he had bought for himself and Alex's mom. Alex smiled seeing them happy and said his goodbyes.

He then went on the internet to check a few different things. The library didn't have the information he was looking for, but maybe the internet did.

So, he started searching for Sun God's Divine Yang Body and the Spirit Cleansing Lilies.? There were very few mentions of the lilies as they were not easily acquirable.

As for the body, no matter how deep he searched, even going as far as to look at the second page of the search results, he couldn't find any.

Alas, he had to accept the fact that there wasn't any information and give up on finding it.

Once he was done with all of it, he went back to the capsule and logged in.

Chapter 297: Auction day

Alex logged back into the game at around 9 pm. He stood up from his bed and saw that Wan Li was already gone from his room.

'Where could he have gone?' Alex wondered but didn't really give much thought to his disappearance.

He walked out and saw a few people from his sect walking up and down the stairs. He saw a few elders leave as well.

Suddenly, his master walked out of her room as well and saw him standing.

"Oh there you are, I was about to go look for you," Ma Rong said.

"What's going on master?" he asked.

"Oh, there are auctions taking place in the capital today, really big ones. One of the auction houses saved a VIP seat for us. Do you want to come?" she asked.

"Is it the Pink Cloud auction house?" he asked.

"No. It's a different one. Why? You wanted to go to that one?" Ma Rong asked.

"I have a VIP room in that auction house for today. I will be going soon too," Alex said.

"Hmm... Who will you be going with?" Ma Rong asked.

"I'm going there alone, I guess," Alex said.

"Hm, be careful out there. Don't try to get into a bidding contest with others. If they really want it, just let them have it. You are very weak in the grand scheme of things, so it's better if you don't make enemies, okay?" Ma Rong said with concern in her voice.

Alex nodded and said, "I understand master."

"Alright, you need some spirit stones? What are you looking for today?" she asked.

"I don't need spirit stones. I sold a few pills some days before and have enough for today. As for what I want to buy, I'm thinking of getting armor for myself. As you said, I am weak and need better protection," Alex said.

"As for the other things, I will see what I like," Alex said.

"Alright, take care. I'm already late so I will leave now," Ma Rong said and left down the stairs.

Alex looked around and the other ones had left as well. 'Damn, everyone is gone somewhere huh. Well, it is a free day after all.'

'I should leave as well,' he thought. However, before that, he decided to change his robes to something more normal like the Blueish-gray robes his master had given him when he went to the Tiger sect.

So he changed into those before walking out of the room and going into the southern side of the capital city.

The roads were particularly lively today since most of the people weren't in the coliseum and instead of enjoying the free day from the competition.

Alex weaved through the crowd of bypassers and made his way to the auction house.

There were more than a few auction houses at the same spot, so the crowd was very huge today. Alex squished through the people to reach the auction door, but that too seemed impossible.

Thankfully, he was able to make his way to the door and a staff member who recognized him accepted him and took him inside. As for those that didn't have a VIP room registered to themselves, they would have to wait until it was time for the auction.

The staff took him to a VIP room that was much smaller than the one he was in back in Scarlet City. However, that was a VVIP room and this was a VIP room, so that was to be expected.

Alex walked over to the window and looked down on the hall. This was something that was completely different from the auction house back in the Scarlet City, however.

The hall was beyond massive and could easily house over 2000 people. Alex then looked to the side and saw other similar rooms lined up all over the wall of the hall.

There were about 200 rooms counting both the VIP and the VVIP rooms. The VIP rooms were lower while the VVIP ones were higher.

'So that means there will be someone above me, huh?' Alex thought. He turned around and saw the staff member standing by the door, the same as the last time.

"Umm... you can come to sit here if you want. I'm not so important that you have to stand there," he said.

"It is our job and we are used to it. Respected guest does not need to be concerned about this lady," the staff politely said.

"Are you sure? Cause you are welcome to sit," Alex said.

The lady just shook her head, and Alex left it at that. He went to sit on the chair and waited for the auction to start.

More and more VIP and VVIP rooms were filled but he couldn't see who was near him. He wasn't going to randomly use his Spiritual sense in a place like this, especially when there would be so many high-level people in the auction.

As more and more people entered, it seemed that it was time for the regular folks to enter, so the doors were opened and the people started entering in droves.

Alex watched as the lower hall managed to be filled in practically minutes.

Once the entire hall was full, including the VIP and VVIP rooms, the lighting in the hall changed and soon a spotlight appeared on the curtain that hid the stage away.

The curtains opened in a single unstoping motion and revealed a lady behind them. The lady was around 25 years old with a face that had fair skin and hair redder than the empire itself.

She was wearing a pink dress with cloud patterns on it, just as the name of the auction house itself.

The crowd full of people was mesmerized at her beauty as this was the first time most of them had even seen her.

The lady smiled at them and finally spoke, " Welcome to the Pink Cloud Auction House. I am your auctioneer and host for the day, Yu Min."

Chapter 298: First Few Item Sales

" Welcome to the Pink Cloud Auction House. I am your auctioneer and host for the day, Yu Min," the lady in pink spoke on top of the stage.

"I hope all of you are doing good on this fine day. We have a massive catalog of items we have on sale today. For those who already know what is coming up, you must be excited."

"For those who haven't, please bear with me, everything will be revealed in due time," the lady named Yu Min said with a smile.

She turned to the side and nodded. A group of staff members walked onto the stage with item covers in pink cloth. The audience tried to figure out what it was, but it was in the shape of a box and was thus impossible to tell.

Yu Min walked up to the item and pulled away the pink cloth to reveal the box. No one could really see what it was, so they waited for the lady to start speaking.

The lady slowly reached into the box and brought out a small bottle.

"Pill?" Alex thought, but it couldn't be. The bottle was just too big for it. The crowd started murmuring and the lady decided to speak.

"The first item being auctioned today is this Spirit Wine, made by one of the greatest winemakers of the Cardinal City if not the entire Crimson Empire."

"This spirit wine is said to be able to heal minor injuries and even give you some advancement in cultivation as well."

"It can also get a True realm expert drunk in just 3 sips. If you've ever disliked the fact that you couldn't get drunk anymore, here is your chance."

"The bid will start at 80 spirit stones and the minimum bid can only be 1 spirit stone. Please start," Yu Min said.

"81 spirit stone."

"83 spirit stone."

"84 spirit stone."

People started bidding in droves. It was only the people at the lower hall that bid, and none of the people.

Alex was in his room a little surprised at how much the people were bidding for the wine.

"Is it because it can help them in cultivation and healing... or because it can get them drunk?" he asked himself and looked down at the crowd.

"Yeah totally because it can get them drunk," he thought and laughed to himself.

The bid went for a little longer until the man at one of the VIP rooms bid 3 True spirit stones and no one outbid it. It seemed the wine was nice, but not worth that much to most people.

"The spirit wine goes to the guest at room N5 for 300 spirit stones," the lady said and hit a wooden board with a gavel she had taken out at some point.

The staff came forward and took away the item as another group brought along another item. This time it was another item covered in a cloth, but it wasn't a box.

Instead, the item looked slightly circular in feature. The lady Yu Min walked forward and pulled up the cloth revealing a white egg with small black splotches on its shell.

"This is the egg of an Emerald Winged Lizard. As many of you might know, the Emerald Winged Lizard is a very rare beast to find even in the southern forest."

"It has very high chance of reaching the True Realms and very, very tiny chances of reaching the Saint realm. Since it's an egg, you can get it attached to you and very easily bond with it."

"So, we are starting the bid at 100 spirit stones with the minimum bid being at least 1 spirit stone. Begin," Yu Min said as he hit her hammer.

"Another beast huh? Those seem to be quite popular in these auction houses. Although, I can't complain. They really are quite great," Alex thought as he remembered how strong Pearl was.

However, he also knew that Pearl was an exception to all of these and probably had a guaranteed chance to enter the saint realm, just like his mother. "I just need to find a way to speed up his cultivation," Alex said.

The bid for the egg continued at a high rate. Anyone with a brain would bid for a beast that could easily reach the True realm.

In the end, the people had to stop bidding cause the bid was getting too high. Yu Min did the countdown and ended the auction for the egg.

" The final bid is 600 spirit stones. The egg will go to the guest in room D4," Yu Min announced.

Once again the staff members swapped the items.

"D4?... isn't that directly above mine?" Alex thought. He looked at the other rooms outside of his windows and could see the names.

His own room was N4. Since there was 20 lettered room each with 10 individual names to themselves, D4 was directly above N4.

'I wonder who is staying there? Some kind of sect leader or elder?' Alex wondered.

The next item on the list was announced. It was a Common Heaven-grade sword that had decent sharpness and weight to it. It could be used by any sword user without any drawbacks.

The sword was auctioned for 110 spirit stones and it went up until a man in room J7 won it for 250 spirit stones. Unfortunately for the auctioneers, this one didn't go as high as they wanted it to.

The next item being sold on the list was a cultivation method. Alex wasn't interested in it first, but when Yu Min said that it was a Cultivation Method for a true realm user, his interest was caught.

'Should I get it?' he wondered. However, he wasn't in the True realm yet and this would be like putting the carts before the horse.

'I need to reach the True realm first before I worry about Cultivation methods. Besides, this is an Earth-grade one. Maybe the Tiger sect has a higher one,' Alex thought. In the end, he decided to give up on it.

The Cultivation method was sold to a person from the hall down below for 360 spirit stones.

Chapter 299: The Man from D4

A bunch of more ingredients was being sold and the auction wasn't close to being halfway done. The prices were barely at around 4 to 6 True Spirit stones. There were items with a lot more value being sold later on for sure.

Alex was getting lazy when suddenly a feeling appeared inside him. It was very, very, very minute, but he caught it and thought, 'An alchemy ingredient?'

Yu Min pulled the cloth and revealed a box with a small flower inside of it. Yu Min pulled out the flower to show to everyone and said, "This is an Umbra Lotus, a flower with incredible Yin Qi. "

"It can be used to make pills with Yin energy or be used in poisons. There are also Yin bases formations and artifacts that can possibly use this flower as it's incredibly versatile."

"The bid for the Umbra Lotus will start at 280 spirit stones and can only be increased by a minimum of 5 spirit stones," Yu Min declared.

The audience was a little taken aback. The minimum bid price had suddenly increased. Meaning, everything from now on was going to be way more expensive with each bid.

"You may now begin," Yu Min said as she banged the gavel on the wood.

The bid amount had increased but that wasn't a deterrent to any of the people with money. As soon as they were allowed, they immediately started to bid.

The bid increased 5 spirit stones at a time and soon the bid was at 400 spirit stones.

'Should I get in on it too?' Alex thought. An alchemy ingredient, especially one that had the higher energy Yin as well.

'Why not? Not like I'm going to lose anything whether I get it or not,' Alex thought and started bidding.

"500 spirit stones," he bid. However, his bid was immediately outbid by someone else. Even though many people wanted it, Alex could head that the guy in D4 really tried his best to outbid everyone.

'Does this guy want everything?' Alex wondered.

"580 spirit stones," Alex tried to bid again.

"600 spirit stones," the man immediately outbid him again. A few other people tried to bid against him but people couldn't really outbid the man.

"Ahem," a voice came from the same room where the bid was happening. The voice was quite low, however, and only Alex and a few others near the room could hear it.

'Did they accidentally leave the mic on?' Alex wondered.

"Uncle, let the other people get the flower. You don't really need it right?" A young voice appeared from the room in contrast with the old man's voice.

"630 spirit stones," the man bid loudly and addressed the young man's queries. "Uhh... Nah. I'll just get it cause I can," the man said.

"Sigh, uncle. What will you even do with that flower?" the young voice asked.

"I don't know. I will let the alchemists and formation masters figure it out," the older voice said and continued bidding.

Alex was beyond dumbfounded by what he was hearing. 'Get something just because he can? Just how rich is this guy. Could it be he is the son of a rich merchant?' Alex wondered.

The man reminded him of Huo Tu. He also was used to throwing around money to get what he wanted, even when fighting, and didn't really care about others.

'I hate these types of men,' Alex thought. Unfortunately, the world loved these people. The man managed to outbid every single person in the Umbra Lotus big and successfully won it.

"The Umbra Lotus has been won by the guest in D4 for 740 spirit stones," Yu Min announced.

Not many people clapped at the announcement as they did earlier on. It seemed the people had already started hating the man on D4.

Yu Min didn't pay attention to the people's sentiment and proceeded with the auction. The next item was a Fan artifact that sent out gusts of wind which could disrupt the balance as well as the focus of anyone below the True Lord realm.

The bid started at 300 spirit stones and went up 5 spirit stones at a time.

As soon as Yu Min hit the gavel, people started bidding immediately. People started outbidding each other, but the man from D4 never joined the bidding war.

450, 500, 550.

The bid quickly reached 600 around which the bid started slowing down. There were still a few dedicated bidders who really wanted it, but the others had stopped by now.

"760 spirit stone," a man from VVIP room 15 bid.

He waited for the other woman that was currently on a bidding war with him to bid, but she never bid again. It seemed the bid was finalized.

Yu Min waited for a few minutes and asked, "Any more bids?" seeing no one answer, she started hitting the gavel.

"760 spirit stones going once."

"760 spirit stones going twice."

"760 spirit stones go— "

"770 spirit stones" A familiar, but equally hated voice spoke at the last moment. The people in the hall looked up with hateful eyes at room D4. Although they couldn't see anyone that was inside, they could still let the person know that they hated it.

"What? Do you guys want the fan too? Then why don't you bid it?" the man said. The audience got a little angry and a person decided to bid.

"775 spiri— "

"780 spirit stones." Before the other man could even finish, the man from D4 outbid him.

"785— "

"790 spirit stones," the man bid again.

"800 spiri—"

"810 spirit stones." The man who had been bidding all this time tried to join the bidding war as well, but he was immediately outbid.

In the end, the man couldn't continue and gave up the fan to the man in D4. Yu Min waited a bit more and counted. However, there was no one that was going to stop the gavel now.

"Congratulations to the guest in D4 for buying the Millennium Feathered Fan for 810 spirit stones."

Chapter 300: True Mortal Grade Armor

The auction continued. It had been half an hour now and around 8 items had been sold until now. 6 out of those 8 items however had been won by the man in D4.

People were extremely angry at the man right now. Normally, one would only be jealous or envious of seeing a man with so much money.

But the man from D4 was not only showing off his money, he was ruining the auction for the rest of the people here. Not only did he bid for items immediately after someone else bid for it, from time to time he would tell them to bid for it if they could.

That was a level of arrogance that people did not like.

The latest item sold was a pill cauldron of True Earth grade, exactly the same in grade as Alex's Golden Jade cauldron. The cauldron was sold to a person from room F8 for 950 spirit stones. It seemed the man from D4 was not interested in alchemy at all.

Another tray of items appeared and Yu Min pulled off the cloth from atop it revealing a thin, black shirt.

"Huh?" Alex thought. "Why is a T-shirt being sold here. How did the design even come into the game? Is this an... what is it called?? easter egg? or are the players already influencing the game world enough?" Alex wondered.

Whatever the case, he was looking forward to why a t-shirt would be in an auction this late.

Yu Min picked up the T-shirt and showed it to the audience. "This is an armor, crafted by an elder of Tranquil Union sect and recently brought here to be sold. It is a True Mortal grade armor that can block the physical attacks from anyone below True Master realm."

"Let us show you," she said and brought out two different people. One was in the self tempering realm, while the other one was in the True Disciple realm.

The weaker man wore the armor and withdrew all cultivation base until he looked like nothing more than a mortal.

Alex had seen this before and as he expected, the True realm man hit the Self tempering realm man and he was not hurt at all.

'Wow, this is much better than blue armor Huo Tu was wearing. I must get this,' he thought.

"As you can see, the armor is truly amazing, especially for those still in the Self Tempering realm. Best of all, the armor needs no refining to work properly and is 100% usable from the very start."

"The bid will start at 800 spirit stones and increase by 10 spirit stones at a minimum. Please begin," Yu Min said and hit the wood with her gavel.

The armor was very valuable and thus everyone jumped on the bid. Alex wanted to join too but decided to wait for just a little longer until the number of people bidding was lower.

Soon the bid reached 1000 spirit stones. Everything was fine, and people were bidding happily, but then the man from D4 decided to join the bidding war as well.

"1040 spirit stones," he bid. As soon as he joined, the rest of the crowd grew quiet.

"1050 spirit stones," someone else tried to bid while everyone was silent but was immediately shut down when the man bid once more.

Someone else tried to join in but they were shut down as well.

Alex looked at the situation and frowned. He really wanted the armor and was an amazing one too since it was so thin and wouldn't be seen as one. But he didn't want to go against this man.

'F*ck. I need to get braver and take my chances,' he thought to himself and decided to join in.

"1100 spirit stones," he bid, but he knew another bid was coming.

"1110 spirit stones," the man in D4 bid, but Alex didn't let him get away with it.

"1120 spirit stones," he immediately bid back.

"1130 spirit stones," the man bid back too.

"1140 spirit stones," Alex wasn't backing down either.

The back and forth was intense and lasted for a little while until it reached 2000 spirit stones. 20? True spirit stones were considered a bit too much even for an item like this, but Alex didn't care. He needed armor and had the money, so he would spend it as he saw fit.

The man was about to make another bid when suddenly a small voice only a few rooms in the vicinity could hear appeared once more.

"Uncle, why are you fighting for an armor like this? I can't understand you. You have a galore of armors much better than this," the young man spoke once more.

The staff lady in Alex's room suddenly walked up to him and said, "Please excuse me for a moment, dear guest." Then she left the room. Alex didn't know what she was doing but he didn't bother her.

"Haha, but it's fun though," the older man from D4 replied and bid back, "2010 spirit stones."

Alex didn't want to give up just now, "2020 spirit stones."

"It seems the fellow from below us really wants it, Uncle, why don't you stop this?" the young man said.

"Haha, his voice sounds so young, it must be a kid younger than you, Nephew. Let me see," the man said.

Alex didn't understand what the man was saying but suddenly, his heart dropped. He could feel something washing over him. Over his body, over his cloth, and over his face.

'Spiritual Sense,' Alex thought in shock. It was good that he didn't send out spiritual sense to check the different people in his vicinity, or he would've revealed himself by now. He tried to not show his shock and stayed as calm as possible.

"Oh, this young fellow... hahaha...you are right Nephew, I should let this young man take the armor. It might—" the man suddenly stopped as another much smaller and barely audible voice appeared from the room.

"Dear guest, you are pressing the button for the speaker and your words have been broadcasting to the nearby vicinity."