

Alchemy 341

Chapter 341: Yang Ma vs Wan Li

The disciple from the Royal Fu academy that had the next match after Du Yuhan wasn't very happy seeing him take the limelight. So, when he fought against his Honor sect opponent, He showed off his impressive 4th Mind Tempering realm cultivation base, as well as revealing the fact that he too had Sword Intent as well.

Seeing this, the audience was beyond excited to see a match between two weapon intent user in just the Quarter Finals.

After the Royal Fu Academy disciple won, it was time for the next match.

Yang Ma and Wan Li came out of the waiting area and entered the stage. They both went to the opposite ends and waited for the match to start.

Wan Li took out his sword in preparation, while Yang Ma took out his spear. They were both planning on giving it their all from the start.

"Who do you think will win?" Wen Cheng asked Alex.

Alex wasn't expecting such a question so he thought for a little bit. Both the fighters were his fellow sect members, but it was clear who Alex liked more.

"Brother Wan Li has a higher cultivation base, but Brother Ma should have more fighting experience amongst the two. Brother Ma also has superior Fire elemental roots, so as much as I like brother Wan Li, I will have to go with Brother Ma," Alex said.

"Good analysis. Now, let's see how close your theory stacks up with the actual thing," Wen Cheng said and looked back on the stage.

"BEGIN!"

Wan Li let no time go wasted and immediately launched a fire slash towards Yang Ma. Yang Ma sent a red slash of his own to stop the attack.

A small explosion rang out as the attacks collided and destroyed each other. Wan Li had the better Qi Density and amount, but Yang Ma had the higher Elemental strength, so the damage they dealt was almost equal.

Yang Ma smiled when he saw that. 'An alchemist wants to win against me? Keep wishing,' he thought and sent out a fireball towards Wan Li.

Wan Li also threw out a fireball of his own.

BOOM

Smoke filled the stage from the collision of these two fireballs and Yang Ma took the opportunity to throw in more fireballs and red slashes towards Wan Li.

Multiple explosions rang out in succession. More dust and smoke rose up covering the whole stage in it. Yang Ma relaxed and said, "It should be over right?"

Just then, a stone flew directly at him and nearly hit his head. Yang Ma managed to react in time and hit the stone away with his spear.

"What the hell?" he looked towards the settling dust and smoke. Behind it, he could see a silhouette of something square. When it finally became clear, Yang Ma saw a large wall that was charred black because of his attacks.

"The hell? An earth wall?" he thought. Just then another stone flew towards his head from the center of the wall. He blocked that, but another came as well. And another and another.

Wan Li had opened a small hole and started sending out a barrage of stones while he himself hid behind the wall.

Yang Ma's face contorted when he realized he hadn't managed to deal any damage to him. "Stop hiding and come fight me," he shouted and suddenly sent out a massive flame attack into the sky.

The fire, as if getting sentience, suddenly manifested into a massive snake and flew down towards Wan Li. Wan Li could tell that this was a strong attack, so he didn't hesitate any further either.

He dropped the sword and placed both of his hands on the ground and out of nowhere, the ground started melting. Wan Li was putting so much fire Qi into the earth that it started turning into lava.

He then controlled the lava and threw it at the sky, towards the incoming flame snake. Not only did the lava manage to destroy the flame snake, but it was also so strong that it wasn't phased at all and made its way towards Yang Ma.

Yang Ma looked at the incoming lava and fear showed in his eyes. "Sh*t, he has a Fire-Earth spiritual root," he said. Without a moment's delay, he used his movement technique and went sideways to escape the lava.

When the lava fell onto the ground, instead of freezing, it melted the ground making a pool of lava on the ground.

Huff Huff

Wan Li was a bit out of breath. Pushing so much fire Qi into the earth has left him breathless. However, when he saw Yang Ma dodge, he immediately picked up his sword and got back into the fight.

Yang Ma sent forth a red slash to catch Wan Li off guard, but Wan Li was ready. His sword started glowing brown and he slashed as well.

The energy turned into the shape of a hammer as it flew towards the incoming slash. Yang Ma expected it to cause another explosion, but instead, the hammer destroyed his slash and kept moving forth.

Yang Ma's eyes went wide. The Earth attack was empowered by Fire Qi. Yang Ma dodged the attack once again and moved to the side.

"Why the hell do I have to keep fighting people with complimenting dual elemental roots," he complained. Suddenly, he saw another brown attack flying towards him.

He knew he couldn't beat it, so he started dodging and moving sideways to get out of the way of the attack. 'Keep throwing out attacks and get tired. Then I will beat you,' he thought.

His plan was working perfectly fine for a minute or so, but then he realized something. At some point, Wan Li had started targeting the land instead of him.

Yang Ma stopped and looked around. When he finally saw what had happened, he was shocked. All of those attacks he thought he had dodged, had actually formed lava on the ground all around him.

"Oh no."

Wan Li suddenly gestured both of his arms upwards and the lava followed suit and devoured Yang Ma.

The referee had to interfere and stop the lava before it actually hit Yang Ma, or the result would have been disastrous. He then looked at Wan Li and announced, "You Win."

Chapter 342: Top 8 - Luo Mei

"That— That was incredible. I did not expect brother Wan Li to be that strong," Alex said in shock. He was simply blindsided by this win.

"That kid— He hid his abilities quite well. Just the fact that he had to compliment dual spiritual roots, those are actually just as strong as Superior roots if used correctly. He definitely deserved this win," Wen Cheng said with approval. While his own sect's disciple had lost, he couldn't help but compliment Wan Li.

"Do you know who taught him how to fight?" Wen Cheng asked.

"No. I don't think anyone taught him that," Alex said. "He... probably learned that on his own."

"I see. I could tell he didn't have much experience with actual fights. If he was, he could have ended the fight long ago," Wen Cheng said.

The next battle on the stage was starting. It was between the 3rd Mind Tempering realm disciple of the Honor sect who could use Spear Intent, and the 6th Mind Tempering realm disciple of Royal Fu Academy.

Spear Intent was strong and could help the disciple from the Honor sect produce attacks that could damage a 4th Mind Tempering realm cultivator. However, it wasn't enough to fight this opponent.

The Royal Fu Academy's disciple overwhelmed the Honor Sect disciple with his massive Metal attacks with his superior Metal elemental roots behind it.

The next match was between the Thousand Hand sect disciple and the girl with the saber intent. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to show the same level of prowess as Du Yuhan did and in the end succumbed to the barrage of attacks from the multiple puppets.

The next match involved the Myriad sect disciple with the crow. However, his opponent was Chu Xiang, the strongest participant in terms of cultivation base.

No matter what attack the master or the beast threw at him, nothing was able to phase him and in the end, he had an overwhelming victory.

And thus, the Top 16 battles came to an end as well.

However, it was already close to 3 PM, so Fu Zhen wasted no time and started the Top 8. The quarterfinals were now beginning.

Alex looked at the match-ups and frowned a little. The next match was between his senior sister and the disciple from Royal Fu Academy who had the 5th Mind Tempering realm cultivation base. It was not his cultivation that worried him, however; it was the fact that he could use Sword Intent as well.

In fact, even Du Yuhan would have to face against a sword Intent user in the next match. Wen Cheng was worried about this very much too.

Luo Mei walked up to the stage with her blue rapier-like sword and looked at her opponent who was standing on the other side.

His sword look quite fancy and she guessed it was at least a Common Earth grade, if not Heaven grade sword. 'This is going to be troublesome,' she thought.

"Begin!"

Luo Mei suddenly attacked her opponent with a blue slash. The man didn't seem phased and attacked with his own slash as well.

The man's attack had Sword Intent behind it, so he was able to match up with her attacks. Luo Mei sent out more attacks, but each of them was stopped by the man.

She frowned. It seemed long-range attacks weren't the way to go. In a battle of the sword, he would lose for sure. She kept her sword in her storage bag and started fighting with water instead.

Water pooled around her feet and tendrils started forming from it. With her command, the tendrils of water started shooting out sharp slashes of water.

Her opponent did his best to block the attacks and was able to. But when the attacks started pouring out from multiple directions. His sword alone wasn't able to stop it.

He used his movement technique and disappeared from where he stood and appeared a dozen meters to the side. The water attacks ended up landing on an empty spot.

Before Luo Mei could even turn her head to check where he had gone, the man used his movement technique another few times and appeared behind her.

With her not knowing where he was, he could attack her freely. His sword glowed bright yellow as he prepared a metal attack with Sword Intent behind it.

However, before he could launch the attack, all of the tendrils of water suddenly attacked him. Multiple water slashes left the tendrils.

The man decided to stop his attack and move away, but it was then he realized that his feet couldn't move anymore. At some point, water had caught up to him and had frozen his legs.

"How?" he couldn't understand what was happening. He had managed to appear on his opponent's blind spot, but the one at a disadvantage was him.

He made the instant decision to go forward with his attack and used the most Sword Intent he could to slash directly at the incoming attacks.

BOOM

A massive explosion sent the water flying everywhere. The man had managed to block most of the damage, but not all of it. He lied on the ground as his frozen feet did not let him get pushed back.

He tried to stand up, but suddenly, he felt weightless. When he realized what was happening, he was already inside a massive ball of water and was floating in the air.

He tried to attack and destroy the ball of water or swim out of it, but Luo Mei kept on adding more water and controlling it to move in the direction he tried to move.

Given the fact that he did not get to take a breath before he was put inside the ball, he was going to be out of breath in a very short time and drown.

He struggled and struggled, but Luo Mei's proficiency with water was too high for him to possibly escape his current situation.

Slowly, the ball of water started to freeze and he could no longer move.

CRACK

The ball of ice fell onto the ground in a million pieces and the man fell out of it and started gasping for breath.

Huff Huff

He quickly searched and reached out for the sword he had just dropped to take advantage of Luo Mei's mistake. Just as he was about to grab it, he saw a foot that did not belong to Luo Mei in front of him.

He looked up to see a dark-robed individual standing in front of him. "Oh," he said and stopped reaching for the sword.

It was the referee that had helped him escape from the ball of ice, not Luo Mei's incompetence. He understood what had happened and fully accepted his loss. His opponent had fully beat him without question.

The referee looked towards Luo Mei and said, "You Win."

Luo Mei bowed a little towards the referee and walked out of the stage. She had managed to enter the Semi-Finals.

Du Yuhan walked out from the waiting area and walked to the stage that was being cleared quickly and didn't even look at her.

He went straight to the end of the stage and waited for his opponent to arrive.

Chapter 343: Sword Intent vs Sword Intent

The Royal Fu Academy disciple with the 4th Mind Tempering realm cultivation base arrived a little after Du Yuhan did.

He stood on the opposite side of the stage and spoke, "I saw your fight earlier. You broke your sword, didn't you?"

Du Yuhan stood there emotionless without a single response.

"No worries, I will beat you very quickly so that you don't have to worry about that, to begin with," the opponent said with a smile.

"BEGIN!"

The opponent brought out his sword and made a massive slash, sending it towards Du Yuhan. Suddenly, a sheathed blade appeared in Du Yuhan's hand out of nowhere and he attacked the incoming slash just as it reached him, sending it to the side.

BANG

The slash ended up hitting the barrier on the side.

"What the— " the man was a little surprised when he saw that Du Yuhan had an undamaged sword. "Huh? But I'm sure the sword was cracked at that time. I even confirmed it with the disciple from the Thousand Hand sect," he screamed.

Du Yuhan said nothing. Now that his sword was out of its sheath, his aura had changed and he was deadly. If he was to say anything, the words would be coming out of his blade.

His sword glowed white and he immediately sent out a sword slash. The opponent immediately moved to block the attack. He also sent out a slash of his own that met at the middle.

BOOM

The sounds the collision of their attacks made were much louder than the other fighters until now. A yellow glow appeared on the opponent's sword as he let it fly towards Du Yuhan.

Du Yuhan could only use wood elements which were bad against metal, so he stuck to normal Qi attacks. The attacks ended out causing another boom.

Neither of them wasted time thinking and sent out multiple slashes that all struck each other and brought them to a standstill.

Alex was quite engrossed in the fight as it apparently wasn't every day you got to see two Weapon Intent users but something distracted him suddenly.

'It's back,' he thought and looked towards the direction the feeling was coming from. 'Is it from the crowds? Or further away?' he wondered.

Just then, he saw Wen Cheng's legs constantly shaking as if he was really anxious about the fight.

"What's wrong, master? You seem a little scared," Alex asked.

"Hahaha," Wen Cheng gave nervous laughter and said, "That's because I am scared, about the match that is," he said.

"Oh. Is there something to be scared about? It seems an even match to me," Alex said as he looked at the stage once again. They were still sending out slashes and neither of them could beat the other.

"That's only because they are sending out those Qi attacks. Sooner or later, a sword fight will get physical, and that is when we will see their cultivation base make more of an effect on their attacks," Wen Cheng said.

"Also, if I am not wrong, then Yuhan's opponent has a Heaven grade sword, the impact of which will only be truly seen when the swords clash. I am afraid... Yuhan won't have much of a chance to win after that," Wen Cheng said.

Alex finally understood where Wen Cheng's fear lied. The main battle between the two had yet to begin, and when it did was when we would finally see the disparity between their power.

Du Yuhan sent out many small slashes at once using his infinity attack again. His opponent used a barrier technique and blocked most of it. The ones he missed, he simply parried with his sword.

Both of them stopped attacking. They both understood that such a fight was going to bring them nowhere.

The opponent smiled. He showed a huge grin and became the first of the two to proceed forth with the attack. He closed the gap very quickly and also managed to parry another slash that Du Yuhan had sent after he launched himself.

When he landed, he sent an overhead slash with all of his momentum behind him.

DING

Du Yuhan blocked the sword with his own, but his sword got a nick in return. When the opponent saw that, he smiled. He was winning.

He pulled back his sword and slashed down once again.

DING

Another nick appeared in Du Yuhan's sword. This time even Du Yuhan knew what the problem was. His sword wasn't measuring up to his opponent's.

This time, the both of them pulled back to attack. Both of their strikes had the additional strength of their intent behind them.

DING

Du Yuhan was forced back a little. His physical strength was not matching up with his opponent's who had a higher cultivation base.

DING DING DING

Strike after strike, his opponent sent in relentless attacks that kept on nicking his sword until it was too dull to fight. Du Yuhan concentrated hard and raised his intent to the extreme. His sword glowed white and one could even see the white Qi fill the gaps in the edge.

His opponent smiled as well. He too sent in Qi into his sword, only his sword glowed Yellow due to the inclusion of Metal Qi instead of normal ones.

Once their swords were pearl white with glow, they slashed.

BANG

A large explosion occurred right where their swords collided and created an explosion that sent them flying backward, away from each other.

His opponent stood up the moment he landed and started laughing maniacally. "Haha, I could feel it. Tell me I am correct," he shouted.

Du Yuhan took a little longer, but he stood up as well. He looked at the sword in his hand and sighed. The sword was broken in half.

He only held the sword hilt and had no idea where the upper half had disappeared to. He looked towards the laughing opponent and looked at his sword. That sword had no damage at all.

That was a high-grade sword and wouldn't take damage that easily.

"You are very strong," Du Yuhan spoke for the first time in this match. It was so out of nowhere that even his opponent was surprised.

"Haha, you only realized now? Of course, I am strong," his opponent said.

Chapter 344: Sword-Shaped

CLACK

Du Yuhan put the half-sword back into its sheath and then the whole sheath disappeared into his storage bag. His opponent smiled and asked, "You got another sword in there?"

Du Yuhan didn't speak and instead nodded to affirm his suspicion. His opponent was a little surprised.

Suddenly, the same sheath came out of the storage bag once again. "Huh?" his opponent responded in confusion. "Are you going to fight with a broken sword?" he asked.

CHING

Du Yuhan pulled a brand new sword from inside the sheath and surprised him. His opponent looked at the sheath more carefully and realized it was slightly different than the first one.

"You have multiple of the same sword?" he asked. Du Yuhan nodded once again.

"No wonder you had another sword ready after the last battle. But what's the point of having multiple trash swords when a single high-grade sword can last much longer than any of them?" his opponent asked.

Du Yuhan thought for a moment and asked, "Tell me, who suffers more hardship? A man with a good sword or a man with a bad one?"

The opponent was confused why he was asking that but still decided to answer. "Obviously it's the man with the bad sword," he said.

Du Yuhan smiled and then asked, " Now tell me, what person grows the most? The one who has it easy, or the one facing hardship?"

Once again the opponent decided to answer. "Of course it the man who—" he stopped and got angry. "Are you trying to say I haven't improved because I used a good sword?" he asked.

Du Yuhan shook his head and said, "I'm just saying I have improved a lot since I decided to only use Common Mortal grade swords."

"That's a load of bullcrap. One can improve no matter the circumstances. As long as we have the will, we can do it," the opponent said.

"I can not tell you whether you are right or wrong, as I too am barely a beginner in the ways of the sword," Du Yuhan said. "However, let this beginner show you what he has learned ever since he started using the so-called trash swords."

Du Yuhan looked at his sword once before putting it back into his sheathe. He then got into the same stance that destroyed the 3 puppets in the last battle.

Air started getting slowly distorted around Du Yuhan. His opponent was just as surprised as when he saw this in the last match.

'Why is he pushing forth so much Sword Intent?' he wondered. He immediately got into his best stance to deliver the strongest attack as well.

Suddenly, something flashed in front of Du Yuhan. It was white in color and it went from the upper right of Du Yuhan's face to the lower left. It then disappeared as quickly as it had appeared.

'What was that?' his opponent wondered but didn't care about it enough to think for long, however.

Another one flashed once again. This time it appeared near his torso and flew up and went behind him.

His opponent got alert and decided to see what the white thing was. Another one appeared just as he thought that, and he finally managed to see what it was.

When he realized it, his eyes nearly fell out of his sockets. "That's—" he couldn't formulate any words. 4th, 5th, 6th... 10th... 20th...40, 50.

Hundreds of such small white light appeared and disappeared around Du Yuhuan very fast. They were incredibly small in size, so anyone who was looking from the audience couldn't really see what the shape of the white thing was.

However, anyone who knew anything about swords would immediately recognize what it was.

"That's..."

"No way..."

"He's so young..."

"How did he train to this level?"

Multiple questions appeared amongst the crowd. Wen Cheng who had been shaking his legs all this time stopped and immediately stood up.

"How is he..." he screamed and stood up abruptly.

Alex was really surprised by everyone's reaction. He couldn't see what those white lights were so he asked Wen Cheng.

"Master, what is that? Is that not Sword Intent?" Alex asked.

"No, that... that is a level higher than Sword Intent," Wen Cheng said with absolute shock.

"A level... higher?" Alex was confused.

"Yes. You see, when you get good with the sword, you create your own Intent of it. However, when you keep on improving with it, along with yourself, you Qi follows along and becomes a sword itself." Wen Cheng said.

"We call that..."

"Sword Qi!" the opponent said with terror in his voice. "Ho— How do you have Sword Qi already at such a young age."

Du Yuhan no longer answered. He was concentrating to the fullest. The Sword-shaped Qi that was flying around him slowly converged on his blade.

Then he opened his eyes and he launched forward. His opponent couldn't keep his calm with what he was seeing in front of him and didn't even set up a defense for himself.

When Du Yuhan reached him, he slashed.

PING

Du Yuhan's sword once again broke and flew off into the distance. However, this time, the one that blocked it was the referee. He had decided to intervene and save the opponent.

He had stopped the attack, but even then he was pushed back 3 steps. That was how strong this single attack of Du Yuhan was.

Du Yuhan stood up straight and put his broken sword back into the sheathe, and when he stopped holding the sword, his arm slowly trembled.

This was the first time he had truly attacked with the Sword Qi, and the one he attacked had ended up being someone in the true realm.

It took the referee a moment to realize that he had to reveal the results, so he quickly shouted out towards him, "You Win."

Du Yuhan clenched his fist to stop it from trembling any longer and bowed towards the referee before walking away. Once again, the crowd was in absolute silence as he left.

Chapter 345: Coward

"Sect Leader, did my brother truly gain Sword Qi?" Su Min asked from the side. She had seen the event unfold and had thus listened to what Wen Cheng had said.

"I... don't know. He can definitely use it, but it doesn't seem to be at a level where it is consistent," Wen Cheng said. "Still, just the fact that he reached there means that he will be able to freely use Sword Qi sooner or later."

Su Min smiled when she heard that. She really liked her senior brother being strong and was looking forward to when he became the prime disciple.

Wen Cheng suddenly smiled and then started laughing like an idiot.

"Master? What's wrong?"

"Are you okay, sect leader?"

Various voices of concern started ringing from either side.

"Hahaha, you guys. Don't you realize what just happened? Little Mei will be fighting Yuhan in the next battle," he said.

The people didn't understand what was so funny about that.

"Don't you see?" he asked, "We have a guaranteed spot in the final round."

" Oh... OH!," they finally realized what that meant.

"We... We are going to be 2nd in the competition," they rejoiced.

Alex looked at them all happy and smiled. Suddenly, the feeling vanished once more. 'What is that?' he thought.

He suddenly turned to the stage and saw Wan Li on the stage along with his opponent. Alex couldn't help but sigh.

Wan Li's opponent was a person in the 6th Mind Tempering realm and used Metal Qi. Both Earth and Fire were either Weakened or Ruined by Metal Qi.

As such, Alex didn't even want to watch the match. However, he watched it for the single reason that it was Wan Li. Wan Li put up an excellent fight, but there was just no way he could win.

Even with the lava attacks, the metal Qi took care of them like it was nothing. In the end, it didn't even take 2 minutes for Wan Li to lose.

However, nobody was disappointed in him for losing here. In fact, everyone was genuinely surprised and amazed at the fact that an alchemist was able to make it this far without relying on pills as a form of combat.

The next match was even worse. Since it was between Chu Xiang and the disciple from the Thousand Hand sect, it was obvious who would win.

Chu Xiang used a single palm attack and destroyed a puppet entirely. The opponent gave up before his other puppets were destroyed as well.

So, the Top 8 competitions came to a close as well.

The stage was prepared as the audience waited listened to Fu Zhen speak about the competition. Once everything was prepared, Luo Mei and Du Yuhan walked up to the stage.

They both went to either side of the stage.

Anticipation rose in the air as everyone wanted to see their fight. One was a fighter that overwhelmed the other with water arts, and another was a fighter that could release Sword Qi. Adding onto the fact that people knew they were from the same sect, they naturally looked forward to it.

The people who looked forward to it most were still the tiger sect disciples. The Core disciples rarely ever fought in the fighter hall as they had a tacit understanding of each other's strength.

So when they got to see their top 2 fight, they were naturally excited... except for Wen Cheng. His face was solemn as he looked at the stage with a serious face.

"Are you worried about sister losing, Master?" Alex asked. Wen Cheng would likely lose his status as the sect leader if that were to happen.

Wen Cheng shook his head in denial.

"Then... are you worried about brother Yuhan losing?" Alex thought that wasn't possible but still asked.

"Yes," Wen Cheng said as he nodded. That surprised Alex. Wen Cheng would have to step down if Du Yuhan won, and yet he was worried about the opposition losing.

"Why?" Alex asked.

"Well, it's not so much about Yuhan losing, but rather... how he loses," Wen Cheng said.

'Is he worried that sister will defeat him so badly that he will lose all motivation to advance? That doesn't seem like his character,' Alex thought.

"BEGIN," the referee shouted.

Luo Mei immediately brought out her sword and prepared an attack when she saw that Du Yuhan had prepared no sword. She could tell something was wrong. She started to feel a little annoyed when she realized what was going to happen.

Du Yuhan didn't take out his swords. Instead, he opened his mouth and said, "I concede."

Luo Mei was stunned for a moment. It wasn't until Du Yuhan turned around to leave that she realized what had happened. She immediately started shouting, "What are you doing? Why are you refusing to fight me?"

Du Yuhan ignored her and started walking away. The referee looked at Luo Mei and said, "You Win." She didn't want that.

"Stop walking away you coward, and come fight me," she screamed. Her annoyance turned to full-on anger and she started gritting her teeth.

"Come back right now and fight me, you coward. Stop walking away," she continued screaming. However, Du Yuhan made no such attempt to stop at any point.

In fact, he didn't even bother going to the waiting area and directly walked towards the seating area for the Tiger sect.

Luo Mei kept on screaming, and that was the noise anyone heard for a while. The tiger sect's disciples and elders were both surprised and disappointed by the outcome of their match.

'Why would he do that? Did he know he was not her match?' Alex wondered.

"Why did senior brother give up?" Su Min said with a hint of sadness to her voice.

Everyone asked some variation of the same question. The only one who didn't look surprised was Wen Cheng.

"Sigh, I knew this would happen." He started shaking his head.

Du Yuhan returned to his seat and looked down on the empty stage, ignoring all the questions he was asked. The man who said he would become the greatest... gave up.

Chapter 346: Plea

Alex tried to think about something else when suddenly, the feeling he had been feeling disappeared once again, completely derailing any semblance of a thought he had beforehand.

'What is going on?' he wondered, yet the answer was just as unknown as any other time. His body, his talent, his spiritual roots, his pets, most of the things surrounding his in-game life were a mystery.

So this was just another mystery to add to the pile.

Two black-robed men walked onto the stage. They were the second pair who were going to fight now. One of them was the 6th Mind Tempering realm cultivator who most likely had a superior Metal spiritual root.

The other was the 7th Mind Tempering realm cultivator that went by the name of Chu Xiang, the strongest cultivator in the game. Unlike the previous match, neither of them was going to back down right now.

"BEGIN"

Both of them started attacking the moment the match started. Chu Xiang was an elemental attacker that had a superior wood element.

The guy with the Superior Metal elemental roots took out a sword to combat him.

The fight was intense and it went on for a while. Alex watched intently, but he found there was nothing new to be learned from this fight. It was a very typical fight between two strong people.

As such, it also had a typical result as well. Chu Xiang, through a little more than normal expended effort, managed to win the fight in the end.

The two left the stage and Fu Zhen arrived on the scene. He gave a little speech, giving time for Chu Xiang to recover his strength before the final fight.

People started opening up bets in the meantime. Alex was pretty sure his sister was going to lose but didn't want to bet against her, so he didn't bet at all.

Finally, at around 4 pm, Fu Zhen finally called the two finalists onto the stage.

Alex watched as Luo Mei and Chu Xiang walked up to the stage and stood on either edge of the stage. He waited for the match to begin when suddenly, the feeling came. Not only had it come back, but it had also come back stronger than others.

It was so strong that it managed to flinch, Alex, a little. "Ah!," he said as the feeling suddenly hit him.

"What's wrong?" Wen Cheng asked.

At the same time, Fu Zhen started his main speech.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it's here. There match we all have been waiting for. We will now begin the final match of the competition." Very loud applause sounded from the audience.

Fu Zhen nodded to the referee to start the match, but suddenly, a large TING sound came from outside the arena. Everyone stopped cheering when they heard of it. People started looking around curiously, trying to figure out what that was.

TING

Another sound came. Fu Zhen told the referee to stop for now. He was about to ask someone to go check what the sound was when he saw someone fly in the sky.

It was the Emperor.

TING

Another sound came, this time at a closer interval. People started having a sinking suspicion that something was wrong. They could see the Emperor's face slowly go from curiosity to confusion, to slight fear.

TING

TING

TING TING TING TING TING TING TING

The bell started sounding continuous, without stop, and it even managed to make Alex look towards it. The sound of the bells was surprisingly coming from the same direction the feeling was coming from.

'The south,' Alex thought.

"Everyone, please listen to me," A voice came from up above. The Emperor had started addressing not only the crowd in the arena but also everyone in the city.

"Those we are weak, below the Organ Tempering Realm, please leave the southern side of the city right now in a calm and collected fashion. Everyone else, please follow me to the southern side. The guards have conducted a small check, and it turns out, there is a hoard of beasts coming to the Cardinal City from the southern forest," The Emperor said.

"This is a plea and an order from your Emperor. Everybody, move now."

As soon as the Emperor stopped talking, people started scrambling to run away from the coliseum. The civilians and weak ones as well as the cowards ran towards the northern side, while the ones that were going to fight started to fly up.

Both Luo Mei and Chu Xiang immediately flew up and went towards the south.

"Yu Ming, You go back. It's okay, you don't have to fight. Stay safe," Wen Cheng said and turned towards his sect members to choose people that shouldn't fight.

"I'm sorry master, but I have to go on this one. I— I feel like there is something out there calling to me and the beast hoard has something to do with this," Alex said with a solemn voice.

"What's that supposed to mean, Yu Ming?" Wen Cheng asked.

"I don't know myself, but I will like to find out. Don't worry master, I will take the most care. I also have the escape techniques, so you don't have to worry about me," Alex said.

TING TING TING TING

The plea for help was still ringing.

"Fine, but you have to be careful," Wen Cheng said. He and the elders as well as most of the disciples started flying to the sky, along with Alex.

Thousands of other people flew up to the sky towards the southern wall, but when they saw the southern wall, they were shocked. A small portion of the wall was completely torn down.

Hundreds of monsters started pouring into the city and started scattering throughout the city. They were wreaking havoc all over the city.

Dust and smoke reigned everywhere on the southern side and beastly shouts rang out from them.

Alex looked at them as well. However, it was then he realized, the feeling he had wasn't coming from the beasts nearby. It was coming from deep within somewhere in the southern forest.

Chapter 347: Disaster

Alex swung his sword at the beast in front of him. He hit the beast in the skull and managed to kill it in a single blow. He got a notification about the beast cores, but he ignored those for now.

He immediately entered a house next to it and checked. There was a woman who was hiding in a corner with her child. He immediately rushed and picked her up.

He wasted no time explaining and immediately got out of the house and started running towards the northern part of the city.

There were hundreds of beasts around him, but he ignored them and ran past them. There were others that would do the fighting while he rescued the two.

Along the way, he nearly slipped on a pool of blood that had appeared after someone had died. Alex's heartbeat was rising from what he was seeing around him, but when he saw other people run past him while carrying people, he got over his fears and started running too.

The cultivators had decided to switch into two groups. The ones in the True realms decided to be the main fighting force that would push the beasts back outside the city, and those not at that realm yet would be the search and rescue team.

Once Alex got the two to a safe location, he handed them to others and ran back.

There were hundreds of thousands of beasts that were attacking city right now, and for some reason, the feeling Alex had was still there.

'Is my intuition telling me that there was going a beast attack today?' He was thinking of random explanations that would fit the situation.

SLASH

He cut down a Muscle Tempering realm beast along the way.

The beasts varied from normal Skin Tempering realm beasts all the way up to True Emperor realm beasts. They were really fortunate that the beast attack had happened when the competition was taking place and so there were a lot of strong people here to help.

Alex suddenly stopped running and looked in fear in front of him. There was a fox beasts in front of him looking at him with its blood red eyes. Worst of all, it's cultivation was somewhere in the early True Realms from the aura it was giving forth.

'Sh*t,' Alex thought. Alex could get rid of his Aura and go invisible, but the beasts had really good nose and could immediately tell where he was.

The fox jumped at him with incredible speed. Alex had been fully utilizing Focus mode to the best he could, and still the fox's jump was incredibly fast to him.

Alex wasted no time and immediately teleported to a house next to him. He checked if the fox was gone with his spiritual sense and walked out.

Then, he went to search for more people to save. The beasts were getting weeded out and in just 15 minutes after the invasion, they had managed to get the beasts from spreading further.

Now it was time to push them back out. By that time, everyone that could be saved was saved as well, so everyone was focusing on defeating the beasts now.

Alex came face to face with a moose like beast that had massive antlers.

"2nd Meridian Tempering realm? This is going to be tough," he thought. The moose immediately ran up to him to attack. Alex teleported behind the moose and cut it from behind. His Smiting Blade was sharp enough to cut the hide of the moose. However, that was the most his blade his now.

The moose immediately turned and tried to slam at him with his antlers, however Alex teleported again. Thankfully, it was 5 pm, so he had a lot of shadows to play around with right now, unlike when he fought that gorilla today.

Alex frowned when he remembered that. 'I'm not at full Qi right now,' he thought. He couldn't cultivate inside the Qi gathering formation, so he wasn't as refreshed as everyone else was.

He cut the beast once more, but this time, the Moose directly slammed at him with its hooves. Alex blocked with his sword and was pushed back quite far away.

'Sh*t,' he thought when he realized the moose was already at him. He teleported once more and attacked the moose's behind. The moose also knew what was happening, so it also hit him with its back legs once more.

The sword and the hooves clashed and the sword managed to crack the hooves a little. Alex pulled back and jumped backwards. He then used Iron Fist punch and Palm of the Sun in quick succession.

The beast got attacked head on and faltered a bit. Just as it got its footing again, a green slash landed on it directly on its forehead.

Blood Spurred out as the beast's skull was broken through a little. 'Damn, that was my strongest attack and it survived?' Ning thought in shock. He wanted to breakthrough but he didn't have enough Qi.

He still required over millions of Qi to go to 7th Organ Tempering realm.

'Screw it, it probably can't survive now,' Alex thought and teleported next to it. He started cutting it left and right with the Smiting Blade, and finally managed to defeat it.

Alex felt his strength a bit and thought, ' That was about 5 realms higher, and I managed to defeat the beast. Is this the power of having Body and Qi cultivation together as well as the mortal cleansing and the dense Qi?'

He put the moose's body back into his storage bags and ran forward.

After running for a dozen or so seconds, he stopped once more. There was another fox like beast in front of him again with True realm cultivation. Unfortunately, there weren't places he could teleport to hide this time.

He was worried what would happen to him. However, just then, a large green python appeared out of nowhere and attacked the fox. It had the fox's body in its wrap within seconds.

Chapter 348: Disappear

The fox tried to fidget to get out of the green python's constriction, but it was unable to. From what Alex could understand, the snake was many realms higher than the fox's cultivation base.

The fox was dead within seconds after the constriction, and the snake directly swallowed its body. The snake then saw Alex standing there and slowly moved its head towards him.

'What do I do now?' Alex started to doubt if he even had any chances.

"Get back, Little Green," A voice came from the sound. This voice was all too familiar to Alex.

"Master,' he said as he looked towards the sound.

Ma Rong walked up to the green snake and patted its head. "Go, fight with those other beasts," she ordered it. She then turned to look at Alex and asked, "What are you doing trying to fight with a True Realm beast. Just run."

"I was about to, Master. I would've used Heaven's impact or my escape technique as a last resort if normal escape was impossible," Alex said.

"You should flare out your spiritua—"

GRRRR

A tiger beast appeared from the side and directly jumped on Ma Rong. Ma Rong waved her hands and cold energy was released from it. Signs of frosting appeared on the fur of the tiger. The green snake appeared from the side with a dead bull and immediately left it to run after the tiger.

"Go," Ma Rong's voice appeared inside Alex's head and he went to help the others.

He saw a 1st Meridian Tempering realm monster and started fighting it. It was a snake beast with a brown body and had abnormally hard skin. Alex had more problems fighting it than the 2nd Meridian Tempering realm moose.

The snake jumped at him with its open mouth, and Alex took the golden opportunity to put his sword into its mouth and cut it from the inside. Thankfully, its inside wasn't as strong and once the skin ripped from the side, it ripped all the way through.

Alex huffed after he finished fighting. But then, he realized there were two more beasts in front of him. One was in the 9th Organ Tempering realm, which wasn't hard for him to fight against, but the other one was at the 2nd Meridian Tempering realm.

He had avoided strong beasts until now, so he didn't have to confront them, but this one felt doable, although very risky. He couldn't tell if running away was a good choice here or not.

Suddenly, the beasts that were also contemplating attacking him, had a change in expression. Their faces turned from serious to delight at a very fast rate.

'What's happening?' Alex wondered.

Then, the beasts turned around and back towards the broken gate. In fact, they ran out of it. Not only them, but Alex could also see almost all the beasts that were in the self Tempering realm run out of the city.

Only those in the True realm were showing any signs of not moving. Alex decided to follow behind them to see what the cause was.

He walked to the city gates, the same as everyone else, and saw them gathered around a certain spot outside the forest looking for something.

"Brother Yu, What is going on?" Wan Li came up to him from the side. He was bloody from head to foot from killing a lot of beasts.

"I don't know, Brother Wan," Alex said as he looked around to see that there were no more beasts inside the city at all. It was as if it was a miracle.

"I think I know," Wan Li spoke. Alex turned his head around to see him pointing in a certain direction upwards. Alex looked in the direction and saw a certain man flying up there.

It was a relatively young-looking man, amongst the hoard of other people and beasts fighting, yet Alex could clearly tell who he was and why he was the cause of whatever was happening.

"The Royal Alchemist? He came to fight as well?" Alex said in surprise. "He must've used the beast attracting pill to pull all the beasts out of the city."

"Everyone, the Royal Alchemist has managed to bring all the beasts out of the city. Please do not let them enter again. Fight!" The Emperor's voice was heard from somewhere despite not being visible anywhere.

The people were riled up and charged out of the city to fight with the beasts that were gathered there. Alex and Wan Li did the same.

For nearly 15 minutes, Alex fought a bloody battle against more than a dozen beasts. Some weak, some strong. The humans were overwhelmingly winning the fight, although a few did die in front of Alex's eyes.

However, the number of beasts killed was far too many compared to the few humans they had lost instead.

Huff Huff

Alex was getting tired by now. He had been continuously helping and then fighting for nearly an hour now. The sun was going down and the evening was approaching.

He lifted his sword and took deep breaths before being ready to fight the beast in front of him. Suddenly, something happened. The feeling that Alex had been feeling disappeared. He looked to the south and realized that he could no longer tell exactly which direction the feeling had been coming from.

Another weird thing happened almost simultaneously. As soon as the feeling disappeared, the beasts stopped fighting and ran back into the forest.

Every beast including the ones at the True realm ran back into the forest leaving Alex and the rest with nothing but corpses behind them.

Alex slumped back into the ground in exhaustion and started catching his breath. He looked at the mountain of corpses that had appeared around him and realized that he could no longer see anyone anywhere. The corpses were blocking his view.

'Are all the beasts gone?' Alex wondered and sent out his spiritual sense. Just then, he saw something move at incredible speed.

Alex tried to quickly teleport, but he was struck on the back of his head, and he lost consciousness.

Chapter 349: Trapped

"Argh," Alex slowly opened his eyes. His head was dizzy and he could feel a bit of pain on the back of his head. He sat up while rubbing his head.

"What hit me?" he couldn't help but ask out loud. He looked at his hand and was relieved that he wasn't bleeding at the very least.

'Did my armor save me?' he wondered. He could tell he had fainted due to the attack and was a little surprised.

'In the first place, why did I even faint? Isn't the capsule supposed to automatically log us out when we faint?' he questioned. He immediately remembered why.

"Ah right, I changed to the helmet after the maze run. How long have I even been asleep for?'. He checked the corner of his vision and saw that it was half-past 6.

'I've been out for about an hour huh?' he thought.

He looked around and tried to see where exactly he was. He remembered being around the mountain of monster corpses, but now there was nothing.

In fact, rather than saying there was nothing, he was more accurate to say that he could see nothing. He was inside fog and the visibility was less than 3 meters in front of him.

He tried to send out his spiritual sense, but for some reason that didn't work. After around 5 meters of distance, he could no longer tell what he was sensing or even tell what direction that sense was in.

"What the hell is happening?" He started to get worried. He frantically looked around, but there was truly not a single hint out there.

Alex started running away from where he was so that he could get out of the fog, but the moment he started walking, he would get a little dizzy. It was like the whole world around him was moving with him in the center.

It was all very... disorienting.

Since he was having a hard time going around due to the disorienting sense, he decided to simply walk while blocking all sense. He started walking in a single direction and didn't stop. He walked on for nearly 10 minutes when he finally opened his eyes to check.

He was still inside the fog.

"What the hell?" he was surprised. "What sort of place am I at? Is this a formation?" he worried.

"Oh, you catch on very fast," a voice came from somewhere.

"Who?" Alex immediately turned around towards the direction of the voice, but then realized he couldn't tell what the direction was.

'That voice...' he thought and frowned. "High Prince Zexi," he said.

"Oh, you know who I am now, huh?" Zexi spoke right next to his ears. Alex flustered and walked away from the man.

"Wh— What do you mean, High Prince? Why did you bring me here?" Alex tried to act. He knew for a fact that Zexi couldn't see past his disguise unless he gave it away.

"Oh, you seem confused, little guy. Check your hair," Zexi said.

'My hair?' Alex thought with surprise and felt his hair. Suddenly, he realized that his hair was long. He left his hair and went on to check his face with both his hands and the spiritual sense.

"Oh no," he thought in fear. The 58 hours for the Face Change Pill he had eaten had already expired. He was back to having his own face.

'I forgot to take another pill today.'

"Not bad, for an Organ Tempering realm individual. You are quite rich," Zexi said as he held a few storage bags in his arms. "Thankfully, you won't escape from me this time."

"Those are my storage bags?" Alex thought and quickly checked his robes. He didn't have a single storage bag anymore.

"I see you have quite a few ingredients for alchemy. Makes sense since you are an alchemist," Zexi said. "Although, do tell me, how exactly did you get the Spirit Cleansing Lilies? As far as I know, while the flowers themselves are not uncommon, they are incredibly hard to pick since only one of them is a real one. Is that not true?" he asked.

Alex didn't answer. "Give me back my storage bag," he demanded.

"Oh no, that's not happening this time. I was fair to you last time, but you don't get that opportunity this time. This time, I will get the information out of you myself," Zexi said.

The moment he said that his eyes turned upwards and he lost consciousness. At the same time, Alex teleported right next to him and hit him with a second dose of Heaven's impact.

He then immediately stole back his storage bags and used the Earth Devour technique to leave once more. The moment he activated his technique, the earth beneath his body opened up and Alex was devoured inside. He was then taken away by the earth.

He could feel himself moving at incredible speed through the earth as he—

BANG

Suddenly, he hit something inside the earth and was ejected outside once again.

"What?" he thought as he quickly sent out his spiritual sense. In front of him, he could see and sense the same fogs that hindered his sense of direction.

While behind him was a perfectly normal forest that had not a single bit of fog.

Alex tried to walk towards it and hit something again. "Ow," he screamed as he rubbed his forehead. He placed his arms forward and realized that there was an invisible barrier disrupting his entry and exit.

"Another formation?" Alex said in shock.

"Oh, it works," Zexi spoke from behind him. "I was hoping it would when I set up that formation. Your disappearance trick was a little bit of a problem for me you know."

"So I had to set up both formations, just for you. The barrier formation to keep you from leaving, and the Spirit Disorienting formation to keep you inside at all times," Zexi said.

"Since I was good enough to set it up as a mid-Earth Grade formation, we have anywhere from 30-40 days of time with each other.

"I hope I get to learn a lot about you."

Chapter 350: Questions

The Spirit Disorienting formation was a True rank formation that was the most valuable item that was sold in the most recent auction Alex had gone to. He remembered what the auctioneer had said when she had described the formation.

It disoriented the person's sense of surrounding and trapped them forever inside by not letting them realize where the exit was. Alex didn't really need to know the direction of the exit to leave it, but unfortunately, Zexi had thought of that as well and put up another formation that put a barrier around the edge of the Spirit Disorienting formation.

Alex looked at the man and feared what was about to happen next. There was no way he was going to let him go from this without getting what he wanted to get, but he would also not let him go after he got what he wanted.

Besides, it was not like Alex could just say 'I just know' and the man would be happy with the answer.

'Should I just log out and act as if I have fainted again?' Alex thought but immediately dismissed the option. There was no way the man was going to let him go just because he had fainted. Besides, as the man said, they were trapped in here for over a month. Alex couldn't simply faint every single day.

'Besides, it would be terrible for me if he killed me. My next body likely won't have the same talent this one has and I will lose my source of income.

'What should I do?' Alex tried to think of something, but couldn't come up with any ideas.

"What are you thinking so deeply?" Zexi asked with a terrible smile.

Alex tried to back away, but the barrier stopped him. Zexi then said, "Let's keep the talk about the flowers for later, shall we? I want to ask you about a few of the different things you have in there."

As soon as he said that, all of Alex's storage bags were ripped out of his robes, back into the man's hands. "Let's see, you have so many high-level ingredients here, where did you find them?" he asked.

Alex didn't know what to answer. The truth? It wouldn't be bad to try it out if he could survive. That was the only option he had right now.

"I found them in the southern forest," Alex said.

"You found them.... In the southern forest? Hahahaha, Nice joke. Tell me, really, where did you find them? Did you rob the treasury of your sect? Or did you rob the treasury of a different sect?" Zexi asked.

Alex replied the same answer, "I'm telling you, I found them in the southern forest."

"Tsk. So you're going to keep lying about it huh? Very well then, let's move on with the questions then. What does this do?" Zexi asked as he brought forth a yellow talisman.

Alex looked at it and was a little surprised to even see what it was. It was a yellow talisman that normally he would simply forget about since he never really learned much about it.

All he knew was that the talisman was meant to do something when activated, and he wasn't brave enough to use the talisman of a man who was very likely in the saint realm.

That could backfire very badly on him.

"I don't know. I just found it somewhere," Alex said.

"You found it somewhere? You really want me to believe that you found a True rank talisman somewhere randomly?" Zexi simply shook his head.

SLAP

Without any warning, he slapped Alex with the back of his hand. Alex skidded along the barrier and stopped someplace far away.

Nothing was broken, but he was hurt a lot. He quickly ignored the burning cheek and looked around to find Zexi, but that was no longer possible. He didn't even know which direction he was just slapped from.

The formation was messing with him too much. Suddenly, the only thing he could see, the barrier, disappeared as well. He looked around confused as to what had just happened, and tried to make sense of it.

'Sh*t,' he thought. He had realized what had just happened. The Spirit Disorienting formation not only made him bad with his whereabouts inside the formation but it also, from time to time, shift space itself to further disorient the person inside.

Alex was perplexed and had no idea what he could even do. Suddenly, a crushing sensation appeared and pushed him onto the ground.

"Alright, then. If you won't tell me about the ingredients or the talisman, then you can at least tell me about this right?"

BANG

Something landed right next to Alex's head. Alex slowly turned his head to see what it was and came face to face with a dark blade.

'My saint grade sword,' he thought in fear. That was one of the most important secrets he had been holding, and it had come to light in front of this man.

"How does a normal, nobody like you come in contact with a sword like this? I feel stupid even asking this, but this is a saint-grade sword, isn't it?"

"Who are you? And why are you in possession of so many of these things?" Zexi didn't even ask it as a question. It was almost as if he didn't want any answers from Alex.

"I—"

"No need to speak. I can see that you don't really want to answer me about any of this. This brings me back to the initial reason I got you here in the first place, the Spirit Cleansing Lily. Whether you like it or not, you are now going to tell me the answer to everything."

"I will make you do it," Zexi said as he kneeled onto the ground and placed his palm on Alex's head.

"Don't bother resisting. Not even a True Master realm cultivator from the auction house was able to resist this move. You are just an organ realm cultivator. This will end in the blink of an eye."