

Alchemy 651

Chapter 651: The North Mountain

The elite group started deciding on who would attack the door and who would go around doing their own thing, but Alex didn't bother to wait around to see their plan.

The moment he learned that he had the next 4 days free, he decided to go around the Demon Realm and see the places he hadn't visited yet.

The current location he was heading towards was the 6th mountain to the north. For some reason, he could only see rogue cultivators on his way to the 6th mountain.

As he walked along, he couldn't help but wonder what the purpose of the 6th mountain was.

The 1st mountain to the south was a library that likely held books and techniques for the demons that lived here.

The 2nd mountain from there was the Training and Crafting mountain. It was a location where people could go to train their techniques or create artifacts from what he could understand.

Since the demons weren't known for making pills or formations, Alex suspected there was no such room there at all.

The 3rd mountain was the Cultivation mountain. From what he had heard, it had rooms there for people to cultivate. He had heard people saying that time slowed down in those rooms, but he wanted to see that for himself before believing it.

The 4th mountain was the Resource mountain. It was where the different plants and animals were reared and given a dense Qi environment to grow properly.

Finally, the 5th mountain was where the demons lived. Those demons had to be strong as each of the houses was protected with Saint rank runes.

Now, Alex couldn't help but frown as he thought of what was possibly left for a hiding clan to have.

They had enough resources to do whatever they wanted here. Had places to live and cultivate, as well as train and craft. They even had an entire mountain dedicated to just a single library that wasn't even very large.

'The leader's mountain? But the house from back there looked like that would be it. Then... a place to pray? I can't think of anything,' he thought.

He decided to stop thinking about it as he would learn very soon.

When he reached the peak, he would know for sure.

As he went further along, he saw the disappointed looks of the people returning.

Someone even told him not to bother going there and that the door was locked.

That only increased Alex's curiosity. He quickened his pace and reached the mountain in just the next hour.

There weren't many people here, just a few rogue cultivators who were returning down from the mountain.

Even from where he was, Alex could see a small stone door halfway up the mountain which was where these people had likely been too.

Alex walked up the mountain, ignoring the other people's disappointed looks, not letting it bother him at all.

When he reached halfway up the mountain and saw the stone door, he stayed back and let the young man there do what he wanted.

The stone door was a single stone slab, that seemed to be placed right where the room was carved into the mountain itself.

It was about 4 meters tall and 2 meters wide, with a bunch of runes on it that were a little more complex than the ones he saw on the houses back in the 5th mountain.

The young man placed his palm on the door and blue light filled the rune. Then, the young man struck it with a sword, in which case the blue barrier appeared around the door.

This barrier was nothing like the flickering barrier from the House of the Undying. This one was perfectly healthy and would continue to be so for days to come.

Once the young man left, and Alex realized he was alone, he walked up to the door and placed his hands on the rune just like that young man did.

Then, he passed along his Qi into the rune, and it glowed yellow.

'Why is it glowing yellow, if it glowed blue for that young man?' he thought.

He would have assumed that it was because the young man had a Water attribute to his Qi just like he did with the young woman who had tried to open a door, but Alex had gone beyond that thinking.

Now that he realized that the barrier itself was blue, he gave up on the thought of it being related to the person's Qi, but to something about the rune itself.

'Why is it shining Yellow though?' he thought. He decided to see if the barrier was blue when he hit it too. So, he punched the door with his only hand.

As expected, a blue barrier spread around the door.

"Wait, so it is blue? What?" None of this was making sense to Alex at all.

He sent out his spiritual sense but it was blocked by the barrier. He had expected as much.

He thought for a moment and decided to test what happened if he hit the door while it glowed yellow.

As he placed his only hand on the door and poured in his Qi, he struck the stone door as hard as he could with his feet.

BANG!

"Argh!" Alex fell to the floor as he clutched his foot with his only hand as he writhed in pain.

When he looked down, he saw blood spilling through his shoes. He quickly took it off and checked his feet.

The toes on his right foot were completely mangled.

"Meow?" Pearl cried out from his robes in worry. "Are you okay?" drifted onto Alex's mind.

"Yes, I'm fine," Alex said while he gritted his teeth. He hadn't expected to feel such sudden pain.

He then quickly took a healing pill and the toes on his foot immediately healed, relieving him of the pain.

Then, he looked back at the door in shock.

The barrier on the door had not appeared at all, and there was a dirty smudge on the door itself where Alex had hit it.

He had made direct contact with the stone even when he was trying to hit it.

His eyes went wide. Did the barrier not work because he was pouring in his Qi?

He decided to try once again. This time, he hit a little less hard.

As his foot hit the stone door, he could tell that it was working. He was at the very least getting rid of the barrier.

However, the stone door itself was super strong, to the point that he couldn't imagine breaking the door until his body reached Saint realm.

'Just what sort of stone is it made up of?' he thought as he hit the stone again.

Dirt fell on Alex's head, which he cleared from his hair. Then, he looked up to where the dirt had fallen from.

There was writing on the top of the stone door that Alex hadn't noticed before. he tried to remove it with his hands, but a barrier appeared.

Alex was confused. He placed his hands on the door, but no barrier appeared there. But when he tried to touch outside, the barrier popped up to stop him.

It didn't take Alex very long to go around testing how far the barrier extended to, before realizing that it was a barrier that covered the entire upper half of the mountain.

He didn't have evidence to support his theory, but he was sure that if he were to dig through the ground towards the bottom of the mountain, he would surely find a barrier halfway through as well.

This mountain... it was likely more important to the entire realm than any other, even the House of the Undying.

Alex circled back to the stone door and placed his hand on the barrier, then started hitting the door continuously.

Since he couldn't touch through the barrier, he wanted to use the vibrations of the kicks to dislodge some of the dirt in the writing to make it clear.

'If only I could use my spiritual sense,' he thought.

As the dirt was more and more dislodged, Alex could finally make out the outlines of the word.

'North' it read.

"North?" Alex looked at the name weirdly. He looked around the word and saw if he missed something.

"Did they really just name the mountain in the north, North?" Alex thought. "They could have at least named it after what its purpose is."

"Hmm... or was this on purpose and they wanted to hide the purpose of the mountain?" he thought.

That certainly seemed plausible. If the Library mountain's door was named 'South', people wouldn't be able to tell what it was for until it opened up.

'They must have been prepared to have intruders then,' Alex thought.

'I wonder what they were trying to hide here,' he thought. 'I wish I could see insi—'

"Oh wait, maybe I can," he thought and quickly placed his hand on the door. Once the rune glowed yellow, he tried to send his spiritual sense inside.

To his disbelief, it did. His spiritual sense entered the door and into the room.

From what he saw with his sense, it was a long and wide hallway that led all the way to... Somewhere.

The hallway was longer than his senses could reach, unfortunately. In the end, Alex was forced to stop as it yielded no result.

He waited around the mountain for a little longer, but nothing seemed to be working anymore.

However, he did gain some ideas on what he could do in the houses back in the 5th mountain.

So, with renewed vigor, he walked back and left the North mountain.

Chapter 652: Diary

Alex walked back to the 5th mountain. By the time he was there, the sun had set already and night had fallen.

The open sky was filled with dozens of bright stars and many more that twinkled. The bright half-moon hung in the sky, illuminating the far reaches of the Demon realm.

Even though night had fallen, the demon realm was still restless. The sound of distant bangs told Alex that there were people at the top of the mountain, still attacking the door with everything they had.

'Well, keep on working guys. I'll see if I can reap some benefit from you,' he thought to himself and went up the mountain to find a house that wasn't opened yet.

There were still a few cultivators here and most of the elite ones were likely just around too, so Alex didn't dare use his spiritual sense to search for anything.

Not even halfway up the mountain, Alex found a decently large house with its door intact.

When he lightly punched the door, a solid blue barrier appeared like a film around the house to protect it.

Since those barriers could withstand attacks from the Saint realm, Alex didn't even think of attacking it twice.

He slowly turned around to see if anyone was looking at him. Once he was absolutely sure that no one was looking at him, he placed his palm on the door and poured in his Qi.

Once again, the rune of the door glowed yellow. Alex sent out his spiritual sense and bypassed the door to slowly peep inside the house.

The house, was as he had expected just a single room. There was nothing of value in there from what he could see. Even if it was, Alex doubted it could have lasted so many years.

There was a bed, a table, a chair, and a bookshelf from what he saw. There was a metal sword to the side of the shelf, but from his senses, he could see that it was just a light tap away from crumbling.

It didn't seem like a weapon that was meant to last. Even if it was, it was likely not a very good one then.

The bed was messy, with part of the wood rotting all the way through. The chair and the table were the same as well.

The shelf to the side seemed to have lasted a little longer, but it too seemed to be rotting at the sides too.

Alex couldn't tell if the rotting speed was slow or fast. For one thing, it was only rotting halfway despite being here for so many years.

For another, it was likely a strong wood from one of the better trees in that forest that wouldn't succumb to rot so easily.

'That doesn't help me at all,' he thought and looked through the other things. He checked the bed, pillow, table, and chair but found nothing. There were many items on top of them, but time had taken everything.

On the shelf, however, there was still a book in it. For some reason, Alex couldn't read it at all.

'A book that my spiritual sense won't bypass?' he thought. Now he really wanted to check it.

"What do I do?" he thought for a moment. Then, an idea struck him.

'No way a random home can have the same strength as a door that leads to the entire mountain right?' he hoped and prepared to hit the door.

He looked around to make sure there was no one there. There were likely people around and would hear him if he hit it too hard, so he needed to time the kick right.

He waited for the banging noise from the top of the mountain to fall into a rhythm for him to learn.

Then, timing it perfectly, he hit the stone door at the same time someone attacked it on top of the mountain.

~CRACK~

The stone cracked and Alex didn't feel any hint of pain. This was not a very strong stone from what he could see.

Although, it would surely still be considered a treasure to not get destroyed by a True Lord 1st realm cultivator's attack.

Alex hit the door twice again and only then did the stone crumble and fell down. When the run was destroyed, the barrier disappeared as well.

Before anyone could realize what had happened, Alex rushed in, grabbed the book, and rushed out.

He also grabbed one of the pieces of stone from the door and walked away from the location. Not long after, a few rogue cultivators came to see what had happened.

Despite timing the hits with the attack from the top of the mountain, they were still not fooled at all.

'Thank god I walked out,' he thought.

People immediately started shouting and telling people that someone broke open a door that was previously locked.

Some called Alex lucky, while some just believed that the barrier was on its last leg.

Still, a lot of people were motivated to see if they too would get lucky like him.

"Tsk!" Alex thought to himself. With this many people occupying the mountain and more likely being called here, he wouldn't be able to try out the same thing here again.

"I will have to do it some other time after the people here realize that they won't be able to do it on their own," he thought and left to go see what was happening at the plateau.

When he saw Han Daiyu, Fu Tao, Lu Yan, and a few others still attacking the door one after another, Alex understood that he had some time to spare.

He felt the Qi in his body start to pile up a bit and thought, "it's about time I breakthrough."

So, he left the mountain and walked towards the 3rd mountain, the Cultivation mountain.

Along the way, Alex took out the stone piece from his storage ring and looked at it.

"This certainly isn't an ordinary stone," he thought to himself. "Since a rune was carved onto it, I wonder if stones are to runes what metals are to formations."

"No, that wouldn't make sense," he immediately thought. "Formations can be carved onto stones too."

"Hmm, then maybe the reason is just to have a sturdy door," he thought and tossed away the piece of stone.

Then, he took out the book from his ring.

The front of the book was stuck to the rotting side of the shelf, so a few of the front pages were rotted away as well. Using his spiritual sense, Alex realized that there was no seal or anything in the book. It was the material itself that stopped him from doing so.

The remaining part of the book was legible, so Alex flipped it to read in the moonlight.

[My eyes still haven't healed. I know I was lucky to be chosen for this and everyone expects great things from me, but I don't know how much help I can be until I can actually see.]

"It's a diary?" Alex looked with a surprised face.

The demon language was easy for Alex to read as it was the normal language of this world. So, he continued reading.

It looked like the diary of a demon who lived inside this realm. There were a few unimportant information like when the person broke through or how long he cultivated that day.

So, Alex focused on the important ones only.

[I hear the war outside is reaching an end soon, mostly since we are losing. I don't want to die, but we might be exterminated.]

[I killed a human today. I vividly remember as his blood melted the snow beneath his dead body. I can't believe I had it in me.]

[I hear the young lord nearly died when he was ambushed by 4 humans on the outside today. Thankfully, he is Undying.]

[My eyes reached the next level today, and I'm really happy about it.]

[I hear the lord is taking in a lot of those little fellas into his house. I wonder what he's doing with them.]

[News says that we are reaching the humans for some sort of truce. I hope it happens. I have fought the humans too many times and I hate fighting again and again endlessly.]

[I lost my left leg in the fight today. The enemy hid under the frozen lake and sneak attacked me. I'm a little saddened.]

[Good news. The young lord might be passing on his techniques to one of us. I will have to try extra hard to get it.]

[The young lord took heavy damage to his spirit today. He has gone to closed cultivation and likely won't come out until he has broken through to the next realm. He says that is the only way for him to live.]

[Truce seems to have been met, and we demons are definitely on the losing side of it. But since we get to live, I don't really mind. I just hope these new rulers aren't evil humans that hate the demons.]

[We are leaving today. The young lord still hasn't left the timeless palace. I hope he successfully breaks through.]

Alex turned the page, but there was nothing else written besides that. That was the end of the book.

Who was this person? What happened after he left? Who was the young lord? Did the young lord ever survive?

Many questions moved around in his head, but there wasn't nearly any information in the diary as he had expected.

Still, he got to hear the thoughts of someone who was present during the war between the demons and the humans. So, Alex considered that a win.

With a sigh, he put the book back into his ring and continued on his way to the 3rd mountain.

Chapter 653: Waiting for a spot

Alex slowly walked through the forest with Pearl by his side. With Pearl's insistence, he went around searching for a worthy enemy for Pearl and watched as Pearl annihilated his enemy.

"Yeah, you need someone stronger than that. Or at least someone with better skill and intelligence to use them," Alex said to Pearl who was busy chewing on his victory prize.

"Meow!" Pearl sent information to Alex's mind that shocked him a little. "You can break through again? When was the last time you did it?" he asked.

"A month ago," Pearl replied.

"Hmm... that is a little fast. I'm not su— oh wait, the 3rd mountain's training room each last for a month. If we can get a place there, you can break through towards the end of it," Alex said.

Pearl nodded happily.

'Geez, only 3 years old, and already close to True Lord 6th realm. He might end up being unstoppable in the future soon,' Alex thought. Then, they continued walking at their leisurely pace.

The 4th mountain had been stripped empty, and the 5th mountain was stolen from already.

Since the 2nd mountain was a training mountain that most cultivators didn't care about, almost all of them were present in the 3rd mountain and it was filled to the brim.

Alex arrived here as the sun rose from the east, and he couldn't help but be surprised at just how many people there were in this place.

And they were all gathered by the foot of the mountain too. A few people did go up, but from what Alex could see, there wasn't anything up there.

At least, the diary didn't mention it. It did mention the cultivation mountain and how the owner of the diary went there once a week to cultivate in the mountain.

Alex was sure after reading that line that the cultivation rooms were likely carved into the mountain itself.

From what he could see now, that was correct.

"Are the rooms all occupied?" he wondered when he saw the many people just sitting around, not even looking towards the opening.

Alex himself only then looked towards the opening and saw a group of people sitting by the opening.

2 young men wore a white robe that seemed to be burnt at the edges. A young girl and a young man wore blue robes that looked like they had waves crashing in on them. Another young woman wore a robe that seemed to be fully doused in blood.

A young man wore gold and brown robes of the Glory's Edge sect. 2 women wore the black and red robe of the Heaven's Peak school. A man and a woman wore the green and pink robe of the Falling Lotus sect.

There were other people there too, and Alex recognized them all as members of the great clans and sects. Not a single one of these were the members of the elite group that was gathered at the mountain plateau yesterday.

"Fellow Daoist, are we not allowed to enter the mountain?" he asked.

The woman he asked the question turned her head towards him and answered, "You can, but you will have to pay a price at the gate and wait for your turn."

"Price?" Alex asked with a confused look.

"Yes," she said. "It's about 20 True Spirit stones. Not many are willing to pay at all since that's not a small price for most of us."

"You should sit here like us. They can't protect that place forever anyway," the woman said.

Alex couldn't help but see the disciples of the great clan in a more negative light.

Still, he wanted to try the cultivation room out, and 20 spirit stones were nothing for him. So, he walked to the front where a woman in a green robe was standing.

"I want a spot in there," Alex said. "When is the latest I can get?"

The girl looked at him carefully for a bit and looked into her talisman. "There will be a spot empty around tomorrow noon," she said.

Alex frowned a bit. 'A day and a half? I will have to wait that long?' he thought.

He shook his head and said, "Fine. I want it."

The woman's lips turned to a grin. "Great! Give me 20 True Spirit stones."

Alex took out some spirit stones and handed them to her. The girl took it and handed him a small piece of paper with "Stamp of the 7 colors" written at the top. Next to it was the number 155.

"Be sure to be here tomorrow when I call your number," she said.

Alex nodded and walked back. As he left, he heard someone walking out of the opening and looked back. Alex didn't recognize the person, but it was someone from the Shen clan.

The girl then called out the number 102.

'102?' Alex thought. 'That means there should be around 40 to 50 functioning rooms in there, right?' he thought.

When Alex saw the person who was walking in, he couldn't help but show a hint of surprise on his face.

It was the beast tamer from the first night in the secret realm.

"So he really did come back," Alex thought. His face turned into a smirk when he saw the anger flaring in the other guy's face when he saw him too.

'Good! I can properly kill you this time around,' Alex thought.

Once the man went into the mountain, Alex turned around, not giving him any thought anymore.

'Well, let's go check the 2nd mountain. I'm curious how it looks,' he thought.

As he walked away from the mountain, he found a few people following him. 'Surely they're not following me because I paid 20 spirit stones right?' he thought.

He slowed down his pace and let them catch up. When they did, as he had expected, they tried to rob him.

It took them exactly 3 seconds before they were on the ground with the newfound understanding that they had chosen the wrong target.

Alex left the few people grunting on the ground and continued thinking how stupid they were.

In the next 4 hours, he met 2 other groups of stupid people.

Alex looked at these people that were on the ground with wounds all over their bodies and thought, 'Are the rogues really that desperate that they are already stealing on the 4th day?'

He wondered if it had anything to do with not finding the chance to enter cultivation in the 3rd mountain.

Finally, after a few hours, he reached the 2nd mountain as he heard the shouting of many people who seemed to be training out in the open.

Towards the foot of the mountain, there was an open area where the trees seemed to have been cut recently.

There were a lot of different stones propped up all around the area, and while some were cracked and broken, most of them were still functioning.

From what Alex saw, almost all of them were occupied at the moment.

'Just how many people are in the realm at the moment?' he wondered. He walked over to one of the open spots and took out his sword to see how strong he was.

At the same time, Pearl propped up his head and meowed. He wanted to test too.

Chapter 654: Training and Forging mountain

Most people in the training grounds were focused on their training. They seemed to be practicing some of the new techniques that they had learned.

Alex wondered if there was a reason for that. 'Do techniques become easier to train here?' he wondered.

Unfortunately, in the last 2 years, he had trained every technique to a great level. Even his spiritual sword technique was decent enough for him.

So he only decided to check his strength at the stone wall in front of him.

Alex took out his refined sword from his ring and without any augmentation, attacked the stone.

As expected, True Lord 1st realm appeared on the stone slab. However, next to it were also the words 'Physical Damage'.

"Oh, does it tell me the difference in damage types too?" Alex thought. None of the puppets back in the Crimson empire did that. But then, that was the Crimson empire.

Next, he tried the same attack but with Sword Intent. When he struck, another reading popped up on the stone slab.

[True Lord 5th Realm - Total Damage]

[True Lord 1st Realm - Physical Damage]

[True Lord 4th Realm - Weapon Intent Damage]

"Woah!" Alex cried out in surprise.

Pearl jumped out of his robes and ran up to the stone wall to attack it. He used the White Tiger's Golden Claw technique so that when it landed, Alex got two separate values for the damage again.

[True Lord 8th Realm - Total Damage]

[True Lord 5th realm - Physical Damage]

[True Lord 7th realm - Elemental Damage]

"Oh wow, was that because of your Qi or because of your technique?" Alex asked curiously. He thought of ways to check, but Pearl didn't know any other techniques.

"Can you even learn other techniques aside from metal-related ones?" Alex wondered. "After we leave, I will find some projectile-based attacks for you so that you never have to reach close to the enemy."

"Meow!" Pearl said happily and attacked the wall multiple times, but each time the result was the same.

"Come on, get back. It's my turn next," Alex said and tested his attacks.

With normal Qi attacks from a distance, his damage reached True Lord 5th realm.

With metal and Yang Qi, his attacks from a distance yielded True Lord 6th realm in damage.

When mixed together and attacked with the sword, his damage yielded True Lord 6th realm for normal Qi and True lord 7th realm for metal Qi.

With the lack of Yang Qi skills for short-range, Alex couldn't test it at all, but he supposed it would be the same as the metal Qi.

Finally, Alex took out his sword which he couldn't pour Qi into, and attacked the stone. When it struck, Alex left a sword mark on the stone.

"Holy..." he looked at the wall in shock. He hadn't expected the sword to be so strong. Alex wondered if it could in fact cut through the rock, but Alex himself was too weak to make that happen.

'Just what sort of expert could have crafted this sword,' he wondered. 'Could I ever refine it? I will have to try.'

Alex shook his head and kept the sword back in his ring. Then, he turned around to leave.

Immediately after however, he stopped and turned back around to the stone slab.

"Hm... if it can find the difference between the 3 types of damages... can it also test the 4th type?" he wondered and strolled back towards it.

He got close to the stone and let out Heaven's Impact at it. When it hit, a few words appeared on the stone slab.

[True Emperor 9th realm - Mental Damage]

Instead of getting happy, Alex frowned. 'True Emperor 9th realm? That's the peak of the True realm,' he thought. 'Did I coincidentally happen to reach this damage amount? Or is the stone slab unable to quantify my damage? '

'Surely a Heaven's Impact would be weak against a Saint Realm who opened their own Spiritual sea and have a large amount of it, unlike me. At the same time, most True realm experts would be vulnerable to such an attack.'

'Is it trying to say that the damage I do with Heaven's Impact is enough to hurt everyone below the saint realm?' Alex thought.

Alex also tried the spiritual sword, and it gave the same result.

In the end, Alex was forced to leave with the understanding that his spiritual sense at the moment would be considered second only to those in the saint realm.

Even the ancient demons didn't have figures with a spiritual sense that could reach him if the stone slab was anything to go by.

Finally, Alex left the training ground and roamed in forging rooms in the mountain. Alex saw quite a few doors that were open and not a single hint of fire was inside.

On the ones that were closed, Alex saw two types of doors. One was with glowing runes, and another one was with closed runes.

Alex placed his palm on one of the rooms with dim runes and poured in his Qi. The door shuddered a bit and opened to reveal a person in the process of forging inside.

Alex frowned and hurriedly apologized before closing the door. 'What the hell? Why did the door open if there was someone inside?' he wondered.

"Are the dim ones supposed to represent the one with people inside?" Alex wondered and placed his palm on one with a glowing rune.

When the room opened, he realized that he was correct. He walked into the room and the door locked behind him.

There was a stone slab in the middle of the room and a heart in the corner of the room. Alex sighed, thinking that he couldn't make pills here, but when he noticed a small hole in the middle of the stone slab, he held his conclusions for now.

He looked inside and saw nothing, but there had to be something there. He sent his spiritual sense over the entire thing and noticed a small blockage that was stopping the fire from entering the stone slab.

After looking around for a bit, Alex noticed a rune to the side. He placed his palm and poured Qi into it.

Suddenly, the blockage hit away, and fire rushed into the stone slab.

"Hey! It works," he thought and brought out his cauldron.

Once he got himself comfortable, he started making some random pills to pass some time.

Over the course of the whole day, Alex did nothing but make pills in the room. As for what pill exactly, he didn't care.

His pills only came out to be around 45%, however. He needed to do extensive research with his spiritual sense to understand exactly how to improve the harmony of the pills he was making.

In the last 2 years, he had gathered the perfect recipe for about 20 or so pills. When he did make those pills, his results improved to about 65% for each pill.

Since there were many more such recipes for True pills that he had gathered through the sect, the corpse in the southern forest, and random purchases from shops he visited, there were still close to 30 pills he needed to research.

Alex wasn't worried, however since he knew how easy it would be as he continued doing this.

Somehow, Alex managed to make close to 70 pills with barely any mental fatigue.

Based on the time he wasted here, he was sure that morning would come very soon.

He sat down in the room for a few hours and cultivated to recollect his Qi. Once he was done, he left.

Sun had barely come out of the east, so Alex knew he still had some time before he had to be back in the 3rd mountain. Since it was less than 10 kilometers away, Alex could take his time.

He leisurely walked down the mountain as he watched the many others train down at the training field.

'Quite a lot of those from the elite sects and clans,' Alex thought as he saw the different robes. Those unique robes were quite easy to recognize.

Pearl walked by his side with no care in the world as the two of them made their way to the 3rd mountain.

He had his spiritual sense withdrawn out of fear of meeting those True Kings that did have spiritual sense.

As such, when he stumbled onto a crime scene, he was surprised. Two men and one woman seemed to be robbing a cultivator. However, Alex couldn't call it robbing at all. This was more of a murder scene.

The victim was so bloody, that Alex wouldn't be surprised if they were already dead.

Alex wanted to turn around and walk the other way, but the three of them had already seen him and were starting to make their way toward him while dragging their nearly dead victim.

'That robe looks familiar,' Alex thought for a moment before he saw the person's face.

And Jiang Zhilan saw his.

'I'm about to be implicated in this, aren't I?' he thought with a frown. But since they were already coming after him, maybe that didn't really matter.

"Junior brother!" Jiang Zhilan said with as much energy as she could muster.

'Here it comes,' Alex thought as he looked at the three robbers in front of him.

"RUN!" she shouted.

"Huh?" Alex froze.

"Run, quickly. They're st—" one of the men in pink robes punched her in the face mid-sentence, cutting her off.

The girl pointed a saber at him as she said, "Don't think of running away, or We will kill you."

Alex's face grew solemn as he truly hadn't expected Jiang Zhilan to be selfless when she was down.

"You know what? I was planning on running away. But... now I think I won't."

Chapter 655: Taking out Trash

"RWAMBH!" Zhilan's words came out muffled, but Alex could still understand what she was trying to say.

Run.

Even now she wanted him to run. Did she not get together with him in the first place so that she could use him when the situation got dire? Or was he wrong about that?

The girl with the saber wore a yellow robe and had a True Master 8th realm cultivation base.

The man in the pink robe that punched Zhilan had a cultivation base of True Lord 1st realm.

And finally, the other man with the sword and the most blood of them all had True Lord 3rd realm cultivation base.

They were all strong, and yet not a single one of them was a threat to him.

"Why are you doing this?" Alex asked seriously. "You guys are so strong. Is robbing the only way you guys can think of to earn in this realm?"

"This little shit has a tongue on him, doesn't he?" the girl said with a wicked grin.

"Of course, we have other ways of gaining what we want here," the man in the pink robe said.

"Then why are you—"

"What makes you think we're doing this for gaining treasures?" he asked.

"What? If not for treasures and cultivation resources, why would you rob anyone?" Alex asked.

The man grabbed Zhilan's hair and pulled her up to show her bloody face. "What part of this do you think is robbing?" he asked.

"Enough with that, let's just kill him. He's one-handed already and so weak. Torturing him won't be very fun," the man with the sword said.

Alex looked at the three in shock. "Are you doing this because you like to hurt people?" he asked.

"Exactly!" the young man said and let go of Zhilan, whose face hit the ground with a smack.

"I love when I can beat people up," he said as he kicked Zhilan in the face and sent her flying into a wall.

"Good," Alex said. "Then I won't have to feel bad about killing you."

The moment Alex said that he disappeared. The man with the sword and the woman reacted as they had been watching him, but the man in the pink robes had his head turned so he didn't see him.

When he heard the rustle behind him, he quickly turned his head around only to see a palm outstretched onto his head.

Alex enforced his body with the Jade Skin technique and a fire burned out from his palm as he grabbed the man's face.

'Explode!'

~BOOM!~

Both the man and the woman were pushed back by the force of the explosion.

When they got back up, they could only see Alex brush off chunks of red from his grayish-blue robes.

Next to him was the headless and half a torso missing corpse of their previous companion.

"Don't worry," Alex's voice rang in the silence as he brought out his blood essence refined sword.
"Unlike you trash, I don't like torturing people."

As he said that, his cultivation base flared to show that he was in the True Master 9th realm.

The man's eyes narrowed in fear and confusion when another aura flared a little further away.

The small cat that they hadn't noticed had gotten big and now showed a cultivation base of True Lord 5th realm.

The man lost hope.

Before he could say anything, the girl from the other side immediately got up and ran away.

"Take care of her," Alex said softly.

"Meow!" Pearl said and ran after all. Not 3 seconds later, the man heard the terrifying scream of the woman as she was killed.

His eyes darted towards the side to see if the beast would return.

"He's not your opponent, I am," Alex said. Then, he slowly strode forward towards the man.

When the man realized that the beast wasn't returning, he gained unfounded courage to fight Alex as his cultivation wasn't strong enough to fight with him.

In his fear of Pearl, the man forgot what the young man in front of him had just done to his own companion.

With a glowing blue sword, the man slashed, sending out chunks of sharp ice toward him.

Alex still had his defensive technique running, so he ran through the ice shards and directly appeared in front of the man.

The man slashed down in a hurry, but Alex's golden sword easily parried it. Immediately in the next moment, he slashed at the man and cleanly separated his head from his neck.

The man didn't even realize what had happened as his head struck the ground. He could only stare at the sideways image of Alex who turned around and walked towards Zhilan.

Then, his vision slowly vanished and he died.

Alex quickly arrived next to near-dead Zhilan and force-fed a healing pill to her.

He waited for a few seconds as the healing pill started doing its work.

Pearl arrived next to her in his small form and nudged her a little. "Meow?" he called.

Zhilan slowly opened her eyes and looked at Alex. "Wha-What happened?" she asked.

"Nothing, I just gave you a healing pill," Alex said.

Zhilan slowly got up and tried to circulate the healing pill to make it work faster. She could feel the broken bones and cut flesh slowly fixing themselves as her pain disappeared.

With a flick of his finger, Alex got rid of all the blood that was on her. He then handed her a pill to restore the lost blood which she ate a moment later.

5 minutes later, Zhilan was perfectly healthy. Aside from the tears in her robe, it was impossible to tell that she was near death just moments ago.

Finally, she looked at the dead bodies around her and hesitatingly asked, "Did... did you do this?"

Alex nodded without hesitation.

"Then... you must be very strong," she said.

"So-so," Alex said.

"I see," she said as she lowered her eyes. Alex couldn't tell what she was thinking of at all.

After thinking for a while, he brought out a pill and handed it to her.

Zhilan thoughtlessly grabbed the pill and was about to eat it when Alex grabbed her hand. Only then did she look up with confusion.

"That's the pill to help you break through. Do you want to eat it here?" he asked.

Zhilan's eyes immediately went wide. "What?" she cried out. "Wait let me pay you." She started searching around her robes for some spirit stones.

"I don't need anything, sister Zhilan," Alex said. At the same time, Pearl returned from gathering the storage bags of the three people. In total, there were 5 of them.

Alex sent his spiritual sense through them and checked. He noticed a few alchemy ingredients, and techniques books but aside from that, he saw nothing of value to him.

He kept what he wanted and handed the rest to Zhilan. "You can take these," he said.

"I cannot accept this!" Zhilan immediately said.

"Is that so?" Alex asked. "Since I don't need them, you can throw them away."

Of course, Zhilan wasn't stupid enough to throw it away, so she helplessly kept the storage bags.

"I will take my leave now sister. You can go to the 2nd mountain and enter one of the forging rooms to cultivate to True Master 5th realm. Although the Qi there is thin compared to the 3rd and the 4th mountains, you should be able to breakthrough with the pill," Alex said.

"Junior brother, thank you," she said.

"Don't mind it, sister Zhilan. I'll leave, for now. Take care," Alex said and stood up to walk.

"Meow!" Pearl said goodbye and walked next to him.

"Wait Junior brother, what's your name?" she asked hurriedly.

Alex stopped. "Oh, have I not introduced myself yet?" he asked. "My name is Yu Ming. Goodbye, sister."

With that, he left.

Zhilan sat in a daze as she watched the pill in her hand before standing up to leave.

She grabbed the sword from the man's corpse and made her way to the 2nd mountain where she would spend her remaining time trying to breakthrough.

With the month-long cultivation in the 3rd mountain, she had nearly broken through. But now with this pill, it was practically guaranteed.

* * * *

Alex arrived at the 3rd mountain a little before noon and walked up to the midsection and waited for his name to be called out.

The number now was 149, so his turn wasn't very far away. As more and more started getting called in, Alex felt someone's gaze on him.

He didn't know how he could tell, but he was sure he was feeling something. So, he looked in the general direction of where the feeling came from and saw a man staring at him.

'This guy again. Is he so ready to die?' Alex thought as he stared back at the beast tamer. It seemed he had already left the cultivation and was now waiting for Alex.

Soon, Alex's number was called and he walked forward. After showing the paper slip, he was let inside. Alex went through the hall and just like the 2nd mountain, tried searching for a room with a glowing rune.

When he found it, he entered. As soon as the door closed behind him, a rune on the floor of the room started glowing all of a sudden, scaring Alex.

He worried that it was something dangerous, but soon felt a lot of Qi gathering in the area.

'Oh!' he thought. It was preparing the room.

So, without hesitation, Alex sat down on the floor and placed Pearl on his lap.

At his command, the both of them then started their closed cultivation that would last exactly an entire month.

Chapter 656: Obstacles

As Alex started moving his Qi around his body, Pearl started cultivating as well.

At first, Alex felt nothing. However, slowly he started feeling the familiar feeling of skin splitting from the body cultivation that happened with Pearl.

He hadn't felt this feeling for over 2 years, so he started to forget the worry he was feeling about cultivating for a whole month in one go.

He wasn't worried so much as he was anxious, after all this was the first time he was going to cultivate for so long without any alchemy or training breaks in between.

Even that was gone now that he was starting to feel the slight, tingling pain around his skin which was starting to extend to his muscles.

As his muscles started tearing up, his bones started to show signs of fractures while the cut on his skin started to grow to be longer and wider.

Next were his organs, then his meridians, and finally mind. Alex had wished that tempering his mind made him have better spiritual sense but that was expecting too much of a technique that was shared with him.

Tempering his mind during body cultivation did just that. It made his brain physically stronger.

By the time the small cuts had reached his mind, the cuts on his skin were getting so wide that drops of blood were starting to ooze out of it.

'That has never happened before,' he thought but continued with his cultivation. Anytime now, he wanted to break through and stabilize his foundation in the True Lord 1st realm.

However, even as he thought of beginning that, the cut on his skin, and his muscles started to widen even more.

Blood poured out of him like he was sweating on a particularly hot day. They gathered upon his skin and rolled down together.

Soon, there were lines of blood all over his skin from head to toe, and they kept flowing down.

Worst of all, the wound on his kept on getting bigger and bigger. As Pearl gets more comfortable in his cultivation, the worse the wound on Alex's body got.

At one point, he started thinking that this was the most pain he had ever felt in his entire life.

This was not true at all, but at the moment, Alex had a hard time thinking of a pain that was worse than this. Even when he lost his arm, that pain felt like a light tap compared to this.

Fortunately, unlike the first few times when he cultivated with Pearl, he did not lose consciousness.

Even though the pain hurt a lot, he endured it with gritted teeth and even moved his own Qi around his body to cultivate.

As the pain stopped increasing, Alex could finally be relieved, even though he had to keep gritting his teeth with the pain.

On the inside, he was only starting to realize what his mistake was.

Never in his entire life had there been a time when Pearl's cultivation base was ahead of him. Even in the time when Pearl had a cultivation base, and he had a normal body, he still had a Qi cultivation that far surpassed him.

Now that Pearl was both ahead of him on body and Qi, the real power of his Golden Tiger's Dominating body technique was starting to show itself to Alex.

Now, his body was trying to rapidly catch up to Pearl, and in the process, it was wrecking itself.

It wasn't long before Alex understood that he couldn't cultivate for quite a while until his body cultivation had grown enough to handle the wound without bleeding out.

Alex took out a pill to restore the blood he had lost and ate it. After circulating the energy of the pill throughout his body to replenish his blood, he left his body so that he wouldn't have to worry about the pain and went into his spiritual mind.

Even in there, he could feel the pain from before, but it was more muffled and so it was slightly easier for Alex now.

Alex looked at the silver threads from the silver mountain that floated throughout his spiritual world.

He looked at the spiritual sea below him and somehow none of the silver threads fell into it.

Since he hadn't been here in almost a month, the silver strings had flown far and wide. Collecting them was going to take some time.

Fortunately, Alex had many.

He leisurely flew through the sky and grabbed the silver threads as they disappeared into him.

From time to time, he kept an eye on his body outside to see if there was something wrong that happened to it from him not being there.

However, from what he could see, he was fine. Judging from the speed of blood loss he was suffering, the blood replenishing pill he had eaten should do him good for an entire day, if not more.

With that in mind, Alex went back to gathering the silver threads.

Godslayer remained quiet as he watched Alex gather the silver thread, and Alex knew it was seeing him do so.

One of the times during his 2-year training, it had, in cryptic words, told him how fortunate someone would be if they managed to find something like this, let alone manage to get it into their spiritual sea.

It didn't say anything more than that, but that was enough for Alex to continuously absorb the thread without questioning everything.

After all, Godslayer was a spirit that dealt with the gods. If it said something was good, Alex was absolutely sure that it was good.

The black goo-covered spirit didn't even say anything as Alex destroyed the black goo around him.

Alex wasn't sure if the black goo was what brought on the power of its temptation, but he wasn't going to let it grow too much and start tempting him again.

He was sure he could defy it this time, but he wasn't confident enough to test that theory. Especially not now when he wanted so many things for himself.

Alex wasn't sure if he would be able to stop himself if the spirit was strong and it promised him to go back home.

It took him many hours to collect all of the silver thread as he went in and out of his body on multiple occasions to look at what was happening outside.

When he was finally done, he left the spiritual sea.

Alex was either getting used to the pain, or his body cultivation was increasing. He couldn't tell if he had grown or not, but just getting numb to the pain, for now, was a win in his heart.

With this, he could get ready for breaking through to the next realm.

He finally started using his cultivation technique and he got his body ready for a clean breakthrough.

After some time, he started pushing his Qi through the pain as he moved it around his tattered body.

As he was doing so, Alex heard someone speaking.

He immediately stopped. He looked around and even sent out his spiritual sense to see if someone had come inside.

However, aside from him and Pearl, there was no one in the room. 'What was that?' he thought. After noticing nothing wrong, he continued with his breakthrough.

However, once again, as he was getting close to it, he heard a voice saying something incoherent.

Alex stopped once more and even checked to see if that Godslayer was doing anything. In the end, he found nothing.

So, when he started breaking through for the third time and still heard something, he ignored it and continued with his breakthrough.

After a couple of minutes, his Qi circulation reached the peak and he broke through to True Lord 1st realm.

Now that he was slightly stronger, the pain from Pearl felt less and less. So, he continued cultivating to stabilize his foundation and at the same time, improve his body cultivation.

* * * * *

The Saint realm experts on the outside were still around, waiting for their disciples to come out.

They were in meditation as there was nothing else to do.

Shen Jing simply waited around on top of a rock. He had gone back to check on the people he had left behind and came back after making sure everything was fine.

Now, it had been half a day since he came back.

Since there were still 5 more days, he wondered if he should leave and come back sometime later. However, it was only 5 days. He didn't need to do that.

As he thought that, he sensed something and looked towards the sky as his eyes narrowed.

A few seconds later, some of the stronger Saint realm elders also noticed something.

It was a dark aura that undulated above the sky, flickering for a few seconds.

It looked as if it was hesitating whether it should descend fully or not.

Shen Jing frowned. He looked around but he couldn't see a single saint realm elder missing.

"Did a Saint enter the realm while I was away?" he asked softly, but every single person there heard him.

"No, senior," the saint elders told him.

Shen Jing didn't see any reason to doubt them since their number was the same.

'Then... could it be him?' he thought. Alex was the only non-saint realm cultivator to go inside the realm who could have learned a Dao for himself.

Since he now held authority over something fundamental in the world, the world would start to slowly give him obstacles in his cultivation journey.

Sometimes, they would be mental, sometimes physical.

From the looks of the sky, Shen Jing was sure this was a mental obstacle that never fully descended. If it fully did, it would be unnoticeable. Meaning...

"That kid nearly developed an Inner Demon, huh?"

Chapter 657: Followed

The door to the cultivation room opened and Alex walked out with Pearl in his robes.

He looked warily outside, wondering if he really had stayed in that room for an entire month.

The light at the end of the hallway shined with people outside, so Alex was more sure that the 10 days had not passed.

'So it really has been only a single day huh?' he thought and slowly walked outside.

When he reached outside, he saw a massive group of people simply watching him.

"192!" the lady next to him shouted out and someone walked past Alex after showing his paper.

"What are you doing here? Leave," the lady shouted at Alex. Alex turned and looked at her. She was so weak and yet she was giving orders to everyone.

'That's the power of backing, huh?' he thought and left. In the back of his mind, he wondered if he should find a powerful organization to back him when he left this realm.

But when he thought about it, he already had the Alchemy guild. If as he had thought, he went to the formation guild and got entered there as well, he would likely improve as well.

After that, he planned on learning the runes too, which would give him extra knowledge to go around in the future.

As he left the entrance and walked back to the crowd, he couldn't help but wonder what day it was. He had spent too much time feeling nothing but pain back in that room.

Alex's mind was in so much disarray that he had to ask someone how many days it had been since the realm opened.

'Ah, it's been 6 days already huh?' he thought. Then he thought about the 3rd day. 'Wasn't that door supposed to open sometime soon? Sometime between tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, right?'

Alex needed to go back to the 'House of the Undying' and wait around for it to open up. After that... he would likely have to think about that after it was open.

He could likely open up the door right now if he had help from others, but he didn't want to show off his ability to anyone else.

So, he would just have to wait out the days.

'I wonder what I should do after the door is open?' he wondered, there didn't seem to be anything interesting going on after that in the realm.

'Well, if people start leaving early because of boredom, then I can enter the various rooms and find some treasures for myself,' he thought.

That was assuming this place even had treasures anymore.

'I hope it does,' he thought and walked down the mountain.

Pearl really wanted to go to the small lake that healed them to clean themselves.

It seemed Pearl cared more about being clean than being wet now. He still remembered the time when he hated getting into the pond with him.

'Ah~ he's growing by the day,' Alex thought.

As he walked along, with not a care in the world, he suddenly sensed something. It was a feeling that was hard to explain.

It was something negative for sure, but it more so felt like someone's gaze was on him.

Alex didn't turn around and slowly spread out his spiritual sense to see if he could find anyone with it.

'Ah, it's this guy,' he thought as memories came back to him and his eyes grew colder.

He acted like he didn't see the man, or his 2 friends that he had brought along and went deeper into the forest, away from where he needed to be going.

After nearly 20 minutes of walking, Alex thought he was far away that no one else would see him fight.

"You guys must be quite interested in me to even follow me to such an obscure location," Alex said as he turned around. "Are you not afraid something bad will happen while you aren't around people?"

The man from a few days ago, or a month ago for everyone here, showed up in front of him from behind a tree.

"You really are quite strong to have sensed us coming," he said. "However, that doesn't mean anything. Now that I have help, I will be sure to kill you and take your beast for myself."

"Let's not get hasty now," the short-haired man next to him said as he brought out a metal bowl. "If I like it, I might keep it for myself too."

"Hehe, you jest quite a lot, senior brother," the other man with a thick mustache said. "You already have 4 beasts. Any more and you will have trouble breaking through, you know?"

"You don't have to worry about my spirit, younger brother. I ate a spirit enhancing pill some time ago and I can handle 5 beasts easily," the man with the short hair said.

"Senior brother, Junior brother, I was the one who gave you the information. You can take his items, but you can't take away the beast from me," the man said.

"Hehe, how about the one with the least beasts gets that... what was it? A Cat? Right, that cat," the youngest one said.

Alex looked in surprise. 'Did he forget how close to death he was? Or is he relying on this older man with True Lord 7th realm cultivation base?' Alex wondered.

The man had improved to True Lord 6th realm, and the youngest one was still at True Lord 5th realm.

'I wonder if their beasts improved as well?' Alex thought. Even though their cultivation bases were slightly hard to quantify against his own, he knew for sure that Pearl's cultivation base in the 6th realm could easily deal 9th realm damage.

So, he saw no reason to fear.

Still, he decided not to let Pearl fight this battle. He wanted to find out how much his own ability had grown.

"Alright, stop wasting time. I don't have all day," Alex said.

"Why? You going somewhere?" the youngest one asked.

"As a matter of fact, yes. So please hurry up. I need to test my newfound strength," Alex said.

All 3 of the men immediately narrowed their eyes. "You want to test your strength against us? Keep wishing," the oldest one said.

"Junior brother, send out your beast and beat him. Make sure not to kill him. We need to wait until he brings out that cat," the old man said.

"Sure!" the youngest one said and brought out a True Lord 6th realm Steelbeaked Hawk.

The young man checked Alex's right arm to make sure there was no tattoo, and said, "Go tear off his right arm."

The hawk screeched as it flew up to the sky and came down at a very fast speed.

Just when it was about to reach him, Alex swung his empty hand above him. Even as the Hawk swooped down, an illusory sword only Alex could see passed through it.

The Hawk's body froze up, no longer as elegant, and crashed onto Alex.

After getting cut with the spiritual sword, the Hawk could no longer produce the same amount of defense as it previously could. Still, its speed never fails.

So, when it slammed onto the stone-solid Alex, its head caved in and within seconds, the beast died.

Alex swiped off the bits of blood from his robes and looked back at the men. "Are you going to die without having your beasts out?" he asked as his sword appeared in his hand.

The youngest of them cried out and brought out a yellow snake.

The oldest of them frowned and brought out a Green Bull, a Purple Pheasant, a Black Snake, and an Emerald Wolf.

Finally, the one that Alex was after brought out his Ape, Spider, and Lizard.

Each and every one of the beasts was strong, but not a single one of them was over True Lord 7th realm.

"Finally," Alex said and dashed forward.

The Ape and the Bull ran in front of all the other beasts. Alex jumped to the right of the Bull and used the Ape's incoming arm to spin himself on top of it and slashed at the same arm.

He wasn't able to cut it in two, but his sword did go in deep.

When the Pheasant sent out fire projectiles towards him that themselves were in the shape of Pheasants, Alex dashed backward and sent his own water slashes to destroy them.

Water Slash was a Mortal grade technique, but that was enough to destroy these attacks.

The ground vibrated as spikes appeared from below it. Alex could see that it was the job of the Black Snake.

Alex spun in mid-air to dodge the incoming fang-shaped metal attack of the yellow snake and created a small explosion next to him to destroy the spider's webs.

At the same time, he cut the vines that were creeping behind him and spun mid-air to kick the bull back.

Alex let the spit of the lizard land on him as the poison did nothing to him and in one fell sweep cut the wolf that was trying to swing at him.

After the wolf was cut, Alex turned around and gave the 3 men a wide grin.

The fight had only lasted a couple of seconds at best, but they understood that Alex was very strong.

Just then, they heard a groan

Even Alex was surprised as he looked in the direction of the groan.

The Ape was now down on the ground and was holding its cut arm as it fidgeted around.

'What's up with that?' Alex thought.

Chapter 658: Poison

Watching the Ape scream and roll on the ground, Alex couldn't help but be surprised.

Sure, a cut to the arm was painful, but... not that painful, right?

As he watched, suddenly he noticed something. White fizz appeared around the corner of the Ape's lips.

'What?' Alex was a little surprised.

"It's been poisoned," the oldest man of the group said with a hit of fear in his eyes.

"What?" the Ape's master looked at it and then towards Alex. A hammer appeared on his arm and he rushed forward.

"I will kill you myself," he shouted.

The other two looked at him in confusion and then terror. "Idiot! Come back, you'll die," the older one shouted, but the man didn't hear him at all.

"Good," Alex said and dashed forward.

Just as he was about to reach Alex, the man's eyes suddenly lost all hint of anger, and instead a calm but serious look took its place.

Then, the man suddenly changed his direction.

'Going towards your beast huh?' Alex thought. He inwardly commended him on putting on such an act. Alex had surely been fooled.

But, that wasn't going to stop him from defeating the man.

Instantly, he teleported next to the man and swung his sword. However, the target wasn't there at all.

"Shit!" Alex cried out. His Yang Qi was once again disrupting his ability to use the teleportation technique.

Fortunately, he wasn't more than a couple of steps away from the man, so he stepped down on the ground and took off again.

The man had noticed him already and turned his hammer around to attack him. At the same time, a lion's roar sounded from the hammer as an illusory head of a lion appeared on it.

Alex flipped his sword and caught it in an underhanded position as golden light clumped upon his hand to make up a golden claw.

~BOOM~

The Tiger influenced claw met a Lion's head and a destructive shockwave sent both of them flying in either direction.

Alex slammed onto a tree and caught himself as he fell down. At the same time, vines appeared around him to wrap him again.

Alex swung his sword twice and all the vines disappeared. Then, seeing that the man was far away, he jumped towards the other beasts.

If he wanted to protect one beast, then he should be ready to lose two.

Alex appeared in front of the spider who could only cower in fear. In a single motion, he cut 4 of the spider's legs before it could even do something and then dug his sword onto its head.

Next, he moved towards the bull. It had been trying to wrap him around with vines. As he approached, the green's body shined green and suddenly, there were 4 clones of the bull, making a total of 5.

Alex suddenly used the Penta Sword technique and controlled each one of the metal Qi to go flying towards the 5 beasts.

4 beasts were hit, and 1 of them dodged. Alex knew which to attack now. So, with a sword that nearly shone fully white, he sent out a golden slash at the bull that was too fast for it to dodge.

The bull was cleanly cut in half.

"No," the older one thought. "Come back," he suddenly ordered his two remaining beasts.

This fight had been a mistake. They were going to lose more than they could ever gain. Each of them had already lost a beast, and now he lost another one.

"No way you are going anywhere," Alex said and dashed towards him. The older man startled and quickly hefted the sword in his hand.

When their two swords clashed, a barrier suddenly appeared on the older man's body.

'So strong,' he thought, and then the feeling of horror came as the teleportation energy of the talisman that had just activated started to take him away.

"No, I haven't take—"

Before he could speak, he vanished.

"Tsk!" Alex didn't like that his enemies kept escaping from where they stood because of some goddamn talisman.

He casually used his stump to block the spearhead of the youngest one and got close to drive his own sword through his stomach.

Another barrier appeared as the young man was teleported away.

"Fuck!" Alex cried out. He hated letting them get away. However, he couldn't do anything.

When he turned around, he noticed something missing from the area. The yellow snake was gone too. That guy just now must have taken it back into its beast space.

Alex's eyes saw nothing but hateful faces of the remaining beasts and the single man who had already turned around to run away, leaving his beast behind.

Something white flashed in front of Alex as a small cat appeared. "Go after him, I will fight with them," Pearl said.

Alex nodded and ran after the man. Alex felt that it was a joke how fast he caught up to the man.

As he did, he slashed his sword at him. The man tried to dodge, but he wasn't fast enough and cut on the back.

The man then pulled up his hammer and got ready to fight. A lion's shout appeared on it again, but Alex dodged it this time. Blocking would only give the man time to run away.

At the same time, he sent out a slash back at the man, who barely used his defensive technique to block it.

Alex sent out, even more, slashes at him, but he was barely hanging on with his defense. Seeing this, Alex decided to add his sword intent to the attack as well.

As he was about to do that, the man's eyes began to shake.

Then, he fell onto one knee as his whole body started shaking. "Da-Damn you... poison... use..." the man tried to force out his words, but his throat was already closing.

He tried to look at his storage bag with shaky hands, but Alex wasn't going to let him.

In a single dash, he appeared right in front of the man. Then, in a smooth motion, expecting a barrier to appear anytime, he swung his sword.

~SWISH~

To his surprise, Alex's sword easily went through the man's neck and came out the other side.

"What?" he thought with nothing but the surprise on his face. 'Why did his talisman not activate? Did he forget to bring one back?' Alex thought.

Since he hadn't done that, he was now dead. 'That's what you get for not preparing,' Alex said as he scanned his body with his spiritual sense.

He stole away the storage bag and looked back towards Pearl to see him having an easy time with the beasts.

He could see the pheasant and the black snake wrapped up in something golden, while Pearl fought the venomous lizard from a distance.

'Good,' Alex thought after seeing Pearl's intelligence in fighting a beast that could beat him. Shen Jing had taught him better than he could have hoped for.

Then, he turned around to check on the wound the man. As expected, he was telling the truth.

'I poisoned him,' Alex thought and looked at his sword. He hadn't checked it in the time when he trained, but now that he did, he could see that his entire sword had actually been coated in the poison and venom of many different beasts and plants from the poison valley.

He couldn't tell how the poisons and venoms interacted with each other now that they had fully mixed on his blade, but whatever it was, he could kill True Lord cultivators with that poison.

"I got something good out of that fight, I see," he said to himself. "I wonder if I should make sure not to put the sword in water."

Alex returned back to Pearl, only to find that he had managed to kill the lizard by putting it on the same sort of binding the other two beasts were at.

Alex went up to them and saw that they were golden ropes forged by metal Qi. "How did you learn this?" he asked.

"Old man," Pearl said.

"Old man?" Alex looked confused. "Shen Jing?"

"Yes," Pearl nodded.

"Well, he's not really— wait, I guess he is very old," Alex thought. Sometimes, he forgot how old Shen Jing was from just seeing his young face.

"Alright, let's take care of this and leave," Alex said.

Pearl nodded and without hesitation killed the other two beasts before taking their cores to Alex.

Alex got out what body parts he could from the beasts and left with Pearl in his robes.

Pearl insisted on visiting the healing pool again, so Alex was forced to take him there.

Alex had time to waste so he didn't mind.

Once night fell, they left the pool and slowly made their way towards the 5th mountain.

With their speed, it was nearly sunrise when they reached there.

Even before reaching the plateau, Alex could tell that there were a lot of people already gathered there.

Climbing to the top of the mountain only helped to confirm this. 'So many,' Alex thought as he looked at the near 500 people in that location.

Given that it was actually supposed to be opening tomorrow, Alex was sure there would be more people coming soon.

As the sound of attacks rung throughout the mountain like a giant bell hung in the sky, Alex was relieved that the door had in fact not yet been broken through.

Now that he was here, all he had to do now was wait around.

Chapter 659: Chaos

Alex stood in a corner of the crowd, quietly watching the elites in front of them hammer away at the house.

Some of the elites turned around to look at them and showed a dissatisfied expressions.

"While we slave away here trying to weaken the barrier, they are simply waiting to get a part of the prize," He Liwei said with a frowned expression on his face.

"Why don't you invite them all to hit it then? That should solve your problem right?" a low, ghastly voice escaped from the thin and emotionless Guo Chaing.

He was the disciple from the Broken River sect that had decided to leave once he learned that attacking the door wasn't worth it.

However, after learning about Tian Ye's assessment on the matter, he seemed to have returned to get some sort of prize for himself as well.

"That's... not a bad idea," Zhou Ren said from the side, making Guo Chiang make a 'tsk' sound. Zhou Ren heard it, but he didn't comment on it.

"Stop talking and continue attacking!" Liang Qiu shouted at them, leading the three to go back to attacking.

The only ones who stayed to the side without attacking were the prince and the green-robed Lu Yan that Alex recognized.

The attacks continued for a while longer. However, with each attack, Alex could see the barrier flickering more and more unstably.

'It's any time now,' he thought and slowly stepped back from the crowd until he was behind a tree and couldn't be seen by anyone.

Then, he concealed his cultivation and went invisible. As far as he could tell, this was the best way to sneak in there and get away with stealing under supervision.

Surely Alex would be seen through the spiritual sense of the 5 or so people that were here, but that was fine. There were simply too many people here for someone to keep track of just him using their spiritual sense.

After all, despite seeing everything at once, it took them quite the mental power to perfectly keep track of everything at once.

Now fully concealed, Alex waited in silence.

The group kept on attacking one after another, and after two hours, the barrier flickered for the last time.

~BANG~

One of Han Daiyu's attacks broke a part of the house's wall and everyone looked in shock.

"Go!" someone from the crowd shouted and everyone ran forward.

Not even the elites dared to stop nearly 800 people trying to enter the house. All they could do was get in first and get what they could.

Alex was in the middle group when he walked through the door. He sensed multiple spiritual senses all around him that were slowly moving further and further away.

They were too bothered with finding treasures, so Alex was fine for now.

Books, artifacts, weapons, furniture, paintings, jewelry, metal works. The group of people that entered didn't leave a single thing behind at all.

Some even started fighting in the crowd, trying to steal each other's treasures.

Alex frowned. The scene was too chaotic and the House of the Undying was way too large for him to go around leisurely searching.

So, in an act of desperation, he opened up his spiritual sense and sent it out in every direction.

He could see the people already reaching the far corners of the house that was nearly 300 meters wide.

At the same time, Alex saw something that surprised him.

'There is an underground,' he realized. Before his spiritual sense brought attention to him, he took it back and directly teleported to the lower floor.

Alex appeared half a foot above the ground and lightly tapped on the wooden floor underneath. He could already hear people coming down, so he had to hurry.

Alex rushed towards one of the rooms to the right and saw vials lined up on a shelf. He immediately walked in and emptied the shelf.

Then, he walked out and went to another room. Even as he did, Alex could sense someone's spiritual sense upon him.

'Dammit, I'm isolated, so I'm easy to find,' he thought. He sent out his own spiritual sense, not worrying about getting caught for now, and checked the room ahead of him.

There were weapons in that room, but Alex didn't need one at the moment. 'Should I still take it?' he thought.

However, just then, he noticed another floor below him. "Let's go," he thought and teleported down to that floor.

The person that had followed him frowned when they saw that he had gone downstairs, but stayed behind to get the weapons while still keeping tabs on Alex.

Alex had already sensed the person by now and saw that it was a woman in the True Lord 9th realm cultivation base.

It would be a little hard if he were to fight her, but he could certainly escape from her. The thing that worried him more than her cultivation base was the robe she was wearing.

A crimson red robe that was hard to stare at. That girl was from the Fu family.

'Fu Tao is at the 8th True King realm. While I may be friendly to him, I can't tell if he will suddenly ask me to give him all of my belongings,' Alex thought.

So, quickly, he went around the underground, looking for anything he could find.

From what he could sense, this was the last floor, and beneath him was just dirt. He could also sense that most of the room was empty, aside from one.

At the same time, Alex heard a lot of footsteps coming down the stairs again. He needed to hurry.

He dashed towards the door and slammed through it instead of opening it. Then, he grabbed the single thing that was in this room, a storage bag, and turned to walk out not before looking at the horrifyingly black floor.

If his guess was not wrong, then all the black down there, was blood. 'How many demons and beasts had to be killed here for there to be such a carpet-like layer of blood,' he thought with horror on his face.

However, he couldn't think for long with the people coming. So, he immediately teleported to the upper floor.

When he did, a spiritual sense landed on him from not far away from him. As such, he got face to face with the lady in crimson who looked at him with gleaming eyes like a predator that had found its prey.

She ran towards him but Alex teleported again, going one floor higher.

"I see you, boy," a voice drifted into his head from the lady down below.

'Dammit!' Alex thought. He really wanted to find some more treasures but from the look of it, most of them had already been taken away by others.

Alex gave one last look with his spiritual sense and ran before another one of the spiritual sense users could find him.

"Shit! That's why I didn't want to use my spiritual sense," he thought as he ran down the mountain. "No, it wasn't the spiritual sense that got me caught. It was the teleporting ahead of everyone."

Isolating himself from the group of people had really been a bad choice, but that was what had allowed him to raid that room with a lot of vials.

Alex took out the vials and opened them to see what was inside. At first, he saw some sort of gooey substance inside and wondered if the pills that were supposed to be inside had already melted.

However, he then remembered that the demons didn't know how to make pills.

"Oh, that means these are medicinal pastes," he thought. When he checked through the many vials, he saw that there were maybe only 5 different pastes together.

'Well, that's not bad, I guess,' he thought as he walked through the forest towards the 6th mountain.

He wasn't planning to go to the 6th mountain, but rather stay away from the woman as far as he could for now.

Since it was already the 7th day's afternoon, there were only 3 more days to stay in this place. After that, he would be in the protection of Shen Jing, and he would be fine.

After coming relatively far away, Alex sat on top of a tree and took out the storage bag to see what was inside.

He slowly sent his spiritual sense inside and couldn't help but be both shocked and confused at what he saw.

Chapter 660: Spiritual Attack

"The hell?" Alex said as he saw the only thing that was inside the storage bag.

An egg.

Alex took out the egg and carefully looked at it. The surface of the egg was the same rough texture as any chicken's egg he had handled back at home.

The size was a bit bigger than a normal chicken's egg, and that confused Alex as to what it could be.

His spiritual sense didn't enter the eggshell either.

'Could it be a bird?' he thought. 'Am I going to have to raise a bird now?'

'No wait, reptiles lay egg too. So do fishes, but that's not what a fish egg looks like,' he thought.

"So it can be some sort of bird, or snakes, or lizards and such huh," he thought.

"Also, what do I do to get it to hatch? Is this egg even fertilized? Should I heat it under low-temperature flames?"

Many questions ran across Alex's mind, but not a single answer came to him.

In the end, he could only put the egg back into his ring and wait until he left and found more information about how beast eggs.

Just then, Alex heard something and turned around, only to see a woman standing not far away from him with a grin on her face.

Alex's heart skipped a beat when he saw this woman. It was the same crimson-robed girl he thought he had escaped.

Alex jumped down from the tree and stood in front of her. He then sent out his spiritual sense all around her and checked if there were more people with her.

"So strong," the girl said with genuine shock. "How did you get your spiritual sense to become this wide?"

Alex didn't notice anyone around her at all. 'Are they far away?' he wondered. Judging by the girl's cultivation base, Pearl would definitely have a hard time.

Not only Pearl, Alex himself would have a relatively hard time against her. 'Should I hide Pearl? Or should I use his help?' Alex thought.

In the end, he decided to protect Pearl for now. If he needed help, Pearl could come out whenever required.

In a flash of white light, Pearl went back to the beast space on Alex's body.

The girl in front of him frowned when she saw that. "Are you not going to answer me?" she asked with a tone that said her feelings were hurt.

"Why are you after me?" he asked.

"Because you are special," she said. "Cultivation hiding technique, invisibility technique, teleportation technique, and such a large spiritual sense."

"If I had to guess, you have a lot of treasures on you right now, don't you?" she asked.

Alex frowned. 'I can't waste any more time,' he thought and sent out Heaven's Impact at the woman.

As the fist-shaped spiritual energy was about to reach her, an illusory barrier only visible to his spiritual sense appeared in front of her that blocked Heaven's impact.

Alex frowned. 'I can't win this,' he thought. If someone with a higher cultivation base than him had ways of protecting themselves from his spiritual sense, then the only thing Alex could do was run.

And so he ran. Using every skill aside from the Earth devouring technique, Alex ran as far as he could and left the woman behind.

He ran for nearly half an hour and almost reached the edge of the realm.

He stopped after a while and panted for a few seconds. Then, he jumped up to a tree to gather the Qi he had lost.

It didn't take him very long to get back to top shape and jumped down to go somewhere else instead of staying in the corner of the world.

Just as he was thinking that he saw the woman walking through the thicket in the forest with a casual pace and a smile on her face.

"You left without answering me, so I had to come to find you," she said.

By this time, Alex was more than shocked. 'How is this woman finding me?' he thought. He had clearly run in random directions to arrive where he had, and somehow she had come directly to him.

Judging by her pace, she must've taken the most straight route as well.

'Is she tracking me somehow?' he thought. Using his spiritual sense, he tried to find out what she was using to find him, but there was nothing on his body.

No talisman or any Qi.

"How are you finding me?" Alex asked with a serious face.

"Do you think I will reveal my skills to you?" she asked with a giggle. "You know what? Maybe I will if you just tell me how to increase my spiritual sense to the same level as you?"

Alex tried probing her spiritual sense to see how strong it was, but clearly, it wasn't very strong.

The girl frowned a little. "Don't think you can win against me just because your spiritual sense is stronger than me," she said. "My treasure helps block any mental attack that did not originate from a Saint expert themselves," she said.

"Also, I doubt you would want your measly True Lord 1st realm cultivation base to use against me, right?" she asked.

Alex's heart lost another beat. 'How does she know?' he thought. He had been hiding his cultivation base as much as he could, and yet the woman had found it somehow.

"Can we leave our separate ways?" Alex asked. He didn't want to do this, but it seemed he would have to use the one way he had to escape this situation.

"I'm on good terms with brother Fu Tao. Can you let me go on that account?" Alex asked as he looked at her face for changes.

And changes he found. The initially haughty and curious face turned into surprise.

"You know Fu Tao?" she asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I was the one that helped him return to this empire from the other side of the Northern forest."

The woman's face changed once again. This time, it went from surprised to angry and raged.

'What?' Alex thought as he looked at the face.

"You were the one who helped Fu Tao return?" she asked. "You were the one who destroyed my future as the best disciple of the family?"

'Holy shit, she's crazy,' Alex thought. It seemed he had somehow managed to find the only fuel he had and dumped it all on her silently burning anger.

Now she was raging.

Suddenly, to Alex's senses, waves like spiritual energy crashed onto him, threatening to devour his mind.

Alex sent out his own spiritual sense to counter it but despite being stronger than her spiritual sense in general, Alex had a hard time fighting it.

He felt like he was using normal Qi in his body to fight a power that was born out of a technique.

Brute force could only help him as much.

Alex sent out a Heaven's Impact, and as he expected, it quickly broke through the wave and struck the girl. However, another spiritual barrier appeared to protect her.

'I'm not going to get through to her like this,' Alex thought. He needed to do something quickly.

The poisoned sword appeared in his hands and he rushed forward. At the same time, a sword appeared in the girl's hands as well.

Fu Xiran's main expertise was in mental attacks. Given that her family's signature skills were all spiritual attacks.

From a young age, she had been trained in the arts of mental attacks and when she was able to prove herself to the family, they finally handed her a Spirit Cleansing Lily when she entered the True Realm.

This year, she was already 30 years old. A 30-year-old at True Lord 9th realm would be considered a top-class talent anywhere.

However, to the Fu Family, who had Fu Tao, a 26-year-old talent that entered the True King realm, she was nothing.

The only time in her entire life when she had heard news about Fu Tao, which was also good news for her, was when she learned of his death.

However, not a few months later, that too was destroyed by another news about his return.

She had never felt more anger and despair in her whole life. She wanted to beat him, and become the strongest in the family.

She wanted more than what she had right now. And just as she wished for it, in came a young man with a spiritual sense that dwarfed anyone in the entire group of the young generation.

After placing a spiritual mark on him, she had also come to find out about his cultivation base as well.

'Hmph, I will have to carefully disable him without activating the teleportation talisman he too may have,' she thought.

So, when the fight began, she met his sword with her own.

And then, her eyes went wide.

"What the hell is this strength?" she shouted out loud at him. The mark was clearly telling her that he was in True Lord 1st realm, and yet the strength... it was close to True Lord 7th realm.

Alex's sword glowed with golden light as well as a white light that tried to cover his sword but ended up being nothing more than an outline.

'Sword Intent as well?' the girl looked in shock. When she took that attack, she felt the strength of True Lord 8th realm.

'I need to do something quick, or I won't be able to defeat him without using my strong attacks she thought.

So, she brought out some things from her storage bag and got to work