

Alchemy 721

Chapter 721: Learning New Things

It was evening when Alex left the Alchemy room. During his 6 hours of Alchemy session, he managed to make about 25 high-grade healing pills.

Even without wanting to, he was starting to reach 70% with good recipes now.

'I should be able to do better if I manage to get my damn body under control,' he thought as he forced the little yang that leaked back into his body.

He walked outside and saw Shurin waiting at the side of the hall.

"Shurin? Why are you still here?" Alex asked.

"I'm waiting for you, brother Yu," she said.

"Oh, did you need something?" Alex asked.

"No, I'm just doing my job," She said.

"And waiting for me? You don't need to do that. I will let you know if I need something, but most of the time I won't need anything," Alex said.

"No, it's my job to go around with you," Shurin said. "That's the job her highness the princess gave me."

"I see," Alex said. Now that he thought about it, members of royal families went around with guards and the likes everywhere. Maybe this was a similar thing.

The two of them walked out of the guild and made their way back toward the palace.

"You're not a servant, are you?" Alex said.

"No," Shurin said. "Did you think I was?"

"Well, the princess said she would get me someone so I assumed it would be a servant," Alex said. "But then I heard what you said this afternoon about your mother being a princess, and I thought no one would make a princess a servant."

Shurin bowed her head a little in embarrassment. "I... I'm not a princess," she said.

"Eh? You are not? Then what was that about your mother being one?" Alex asked.

"My mother is a princess, but I am not one," Shurin said.

Alex was still confused, so she explained further. "Everyone that is more than 2 generations away from the main branch is not considered part of the royal family."

"My mother's grandfather was the brother of the Emperor at that time. Because of that my grandmother and my mother are considered part of the royal family, so they are princesses."

"But since I'm a third-generation, I get no such title," Shurin said. "In fact, if you see someone that wears these colors, you can consider them someone with royal bloodline, but not a royalty."

"So the guy from this afternoon, he was..."

"His great grandmother was a princess during the same era as my great grandfather," Shurin explained.

"I see, I didn't realize such a thing would happen. That would mean the royal family technically is huge," Alex said.

"You could say that," she said.

"And these robes, what are these for?" Alex asked.

"These are robes worn by disciples of the royal family," Shurin said.

"The Royal family has a sect?" Alex asked.

"No, it doesn't," Shurin said. "Well, technically it is a sect, but they don't call it that since they only accept members with the royal family's bloodline that aren't royalty anymore."

According to Shurin, there were at least a thousand different disciples in the royal family that trained every day.

The place where they trained was beyond the massive mountain behind the palace.

"Oh right," Alex said as he brought out something from his bag. "Here, I made this for you."

Shurin took what Alex gave her and looked at it. "A pill?" she asked as she opened the pill bottle. Inside was a bluish pill with a vaguely sweet smell.

"What is this?" she asked.

"It's a pill to help you easily enter the True realms," Alex said. "Just eat that before you are to break through and you will enter the True realm for sure."

"Woah, really? I've been thinking of getting something like this made," Shurin said. "How much do I need to pay you?"

"Pay me? That's a gift. You don't need to pay me," Alex said.

"A-are you sure? I can't have you give me something like this. The family will think I took advantage of being with you," Shurin said.

"Well, if you can't even get something out of an opportunity, what's the point of even getting that opportunity?" Alex asked.

Shurin thought for a moment before nodding. "Thank you," she said.

It didn't take them long to get to the palace and Shurin took off with the pills Alex had made for the others.

He was very happy with the result he got from those pills, but when he thought of the gruesome wounds those pills could heal, it felt like a huge waste letting someone with minor injuries eat those pills.

Those should be left alone for someone with more serious injuries. But what else could he do? He couldn't just cut a pill into parts and give those to people.

That would ruin a pill.

He needed to find other ways to heal a—

"That's right!" Alex thought. "I completely forgot about them."

Alex quickly returned to his room and locked the doors before throwing everything in one of his storage bags into the bed.

What came out of the bags were multiple vials and talismans. Alex quickly opened one of the vials and looked inside it.

There were medicinal pastes in there.

'It hasn't gone bad right?' he thought and started looking at the talismans that were full of recipes for the medicinal pastes.

Once he realized that he could easily gather the ingredients, he decided to venture out into the art of medicinal paste making.

'Well that alone might not help either,' Alex thought. He would have to do something concurrently to that to make it extra effective.

After a whole night of cultivation, early next morning, Alex went to find the princess.

The princess was out in the garden with another princess that Alex only saw today.

"Little brother Yu, meet my sister Xianzi," the princess said introducing the younger, but almost as pretty princess opposite to her.

"Greetings, princess Xianzi," Alex greeted her, who greeted him back.

After a few friendly conversations, Alex turned to princess Xumei and told her that he planned to stop making pills in the batch for now and wanted to try out medicinal pastes.

"What's medicinal pastes?" the princess asked.

"Oh, it's like this," Alex brought out a vial from his storage and quickly explained everything he knew about it until now.

"You don't need to eat expensive pills to heal yourself, and even the most talentless person can make them since the recipe is so simple," Alex said.

The princess was intrigued. "Anyone can make them?" she asked.

"Yes," Alex said.

"Can I make them?" she asked again.

"I would think so," Alex said with a confused look. "But you're a princess. Would you want to make this?"

"I make poisons all the time," the princess said. "These are nothing."

"Poisons? Ah, right. I forgot for a second there," Alex said as he remembered that the Royal Family Wei was known for the poison arts.

"So, can you teach me?" she asked.

"I will have to practice for myself first, but I don't see why I won't be able to teach you," he said.

"Great! Tell Shurin whatever you need. She will get it to you," the princess said.

"Thank you," Alex said. "Also, I wanted something else princess."

"What do you want? Just ask me," the princess said.

"I was wondering if there were books or journals regarding medical knowledge from a physician or doctor," Alex said.

"Um, there should be some in the royal archives. Have Shurin take you there this afternoon," the princess said.

"Thank you, princess," Alex said. "I will be off then."

Alex couldn't go very far away before he found Shurin waiting for him outside the garden. He told her what he needed, and after taking him to the Royal archives, she left to get his stuff.

Alex entered the massive room in the palace that was the royal archives. It was just a single room full of books, but it had so many books that he could likely not finish reading in even a hundred years.

There were already a few people inside who gave him a weird look for his lack of guard or royal outfit. Still, since he managed to get in, no one bothered him at all, and continued with their study.

Alex started searching for the books he wanted to read about. It didn't take him long to find one about general diseases and illnesses.

He took the book out and started reading it slowly. Most of the information in the book was something he had already read before. Still, he finished it all just in case there was more information.

Once he was done, he went to find another book and read them too.

After a few hours, Alex left the library with about 3 books worth of knowledge in his mind that he needed to process for a bit.

Shurin gave him the ingredients he needed after he left, and Alex made his way to the Alchemy guild.

Alex tried telling Shurin that she didn't need to follow him all the time, but she was adamant that she follow the orders of the princess.

'I will have to talk with the princess about this,' he thought and made a mental note.

Once at the Alchemy guild, Alex made a few pills to start off and then started making some more healing pills for a few hours.

Only after that did he finally take out the ingredients he had ordered as well as the mortar and pestle he needed.

It was time to make some medicinal pastes.

Chapter 722: Medicinal Pastes

"So, I just put it all here and start mixing it?" Alex thought for a moment as he read the talisman again and started crushing the ingredients in the mortar and pestle.

Most of the ingredients were plants, but there were some that were from beasts too. However, unlike Alchemy, very few of them were from beasts.

As Alex crushed the ingredients, he started noticing the flaw of the medicinal pastes. Even as he crushed it, energy left the ingredients and flew away.

Unlike a cauldron with a lid, mortar and pestle couldn't contain the energy. Still, it wasn't like he was burning the ingredients, so not much energy left the ingredients.

Having never done this before, it took a while before the paste came to be as smooth as he wanted it to be.

'That looks like it will work,' he thought and brought out the sword from his storage ring and cut a line along the back of his arm.

"Argh!" he winced a little from the surprise at how easily the sword cut his skin. It was almost like his True King realm physical body was nothing against this sword.

'Just what the hell are you?' Alex thought for a moment before bringing his attention back to the medicinal paste.

He made another cut next to that one and immediately went for the medicinal paste.

He scooped a bit with his 2 fingers and applied it to his new cut. Within seconds of applying, the wound completely vanished, while the older one was still squirming a little, trying to heal.

Alex let it be and it took him nearly 5 minutes to fully heal a simple cut. And that was only because he was a body cultivator. A normal cultivator would require nearly half an hour to heal that wound on his own.

"Well, this works perfectly," Alex thought and looked at the medicinal paste. There were still 20 or so more scoops of what he had applied still remaining in the mortar.

Alex scooped it all up and put it in a vial. Then, he looked at the list of ingredients and compared them. If he had used these ingredients to make a pill, it would have only helped a single person.

However, with medicinal paste, it would help many of them.

Alex shook his head when he realized how easy it was. 'I should have started years ago,' he thought. But he knew how busy he was with the 3 different guilds.

Fortunately, he didn't have artifact guild on his list as well. Otherwise, he wouldn't know what to spend his time on.

For the rest of the day, Alex spent his time on the same medicinal paste and made about 3 more batches of it that came out to be around 20 vials altogether.

'I should probably get bigger vials. These pill vials won't hold much,' he thought. He remembered the jar of acrid-smelling paste in his bag that nearly burned his nose from the smell.

He needed that type of jar.

"Yeah, I should ask them that too," Alex thought.

He walked out of the Alchemy guild with Shurin who had waited for him despite his insistence.

He gave her a vial for the troubles and told her it was a medicine that would heal her minor wounds.

"How do you use it?" she asked.

"You take a little bit and apply it to your wound," Alex said.

"Oh," Shurin said. "What if I have a lot of wounds, would this one vial be enough?"

"Well, no," Alex said. "But those are cases where you eat a pill."

"What if my wound is on the inside?" Shurin asked.

"That... I think you can eat it, but I don't know how to start testing that," Alex said. "I would need a volunteer."

"I can be one," Shurin said.

"You want to get cut on the inside?" Alex asked.

"Wait, does it have to be a cut? Won't a sprain be enough?" she asked.

"Ah, right," Alex said. "I should try with broken bones too, and if I can, maybe someone with some sort of sickness or disease. Although those might need other pastes."

"I will let the princess know what you need. For now, let's just try with the sprain," Shurin said.

"Give me your hand," Alex asked.

Shurin brought out her hand and Alex immediately grabbed it and pulled on it hard.

"Argh!" Shurin cried out in pain as some tears flooded her eyes.

"Sorry," Alex said and looked at her wrist. "Yeah, that looks sprained. Eat this quick."

He had her scoop out some medicine with the other hand and eat it.

"Ew," she made a weird face before swallowing the medicine. Once she was done, she looked at the wound in her hand.

"No... wait, a little," She said. "Let me eat some more."

Shurin ate 2 more scoops of the medicine before there was some noticeable difference in the wound.

"What if I apply it directly?" Alex asked and scooped some too before applying it from the outside.

"Same difference," she said. "Maybe it's because it is the hand? It is quite far away from the stomach."

"Well, try diverting your energy to the hand with your cultivation technique," Alex said.

"Right here?" Shurin looked around in the middle of the street.

"Right, let's go back to the palace first," Alex said and they went back. Without stopping anywhere, they sat down on the front lawn and tried it all out, including broken bones. Multiple locations at that.

The only thing they couldn't test the paste against was sickness or diseases as Shurin didn't have that.

Soon, Alex came up with a small hypothesis of his own.

For a medicinal paste to work, it needed to be close to the injury. In fact, touching the injury itself was always better.

If the wound was on the outside, applying it directly to the wound was the way to go.

If it was internal, one needed to eat 2 or 3 scoops and cultivate to move the energy from the paste to the wounded section.

The medicinal pastes worked on skins, muscles, and organs, but bones were hard to treat.

A fractured bone would need at least 5 scoops to heal properly. If the bone was broken, the medicinal paste wouldn't help at all. That being said, Alex only knew about the pastes from True rank ingredients.

He couldn't help but wonder how Saint Ranked ingredients would affect physiology.

There were also multiple other types of paste that did different things, but he could tell that their influence wouldn't be any better.

For the trouble, Alex gave 5 healing pills to Shurin that were some of the best he had prepared today.

She of course didn't want it as she had been doing what she was appointed to do, but Alex didn't take no for an answer.

After she left, Alex returned back to his room and sat down to cultivate. At the same time, he started processing all that he learned today at the library.

He hadn't learned very much, but he had started off small after all. Slowly, he would go for more difficult topics and subjects and learn more about the human body.

Alex chuckled as he wondered what his mother would think if her homeschooled son suddenly became a very talented doctor.

Chapter 723: Training with Shen Jing

1 month later. A few kilometers outside the capital to the west.

Pearl dashed from the left and used his White Tiger's Golden Claws. Alex dashed from the right and slashed with his poison sword.

Shen Jing simply put up a finger in each hand and diverted the attacks elsewhere.

Pearl used his golden threads to try and bind him. The threads wrapped around Shen Jing and it looked like it would stop him.

Shen Jing smiled and waited for Alex to attack.

Alex sent out a strong metal slash at Shen Jing with all of his power.

Shen Jing's body started shining golden all of a sudden and it spread out in a wave until it was a circular barrier around his body.

The golden threads that Pearl had wrapped him with broke apart like they were mere spiderwebs, and Alex's attack didn't even make a strong sound when it disappeared after hitting the barrier.

Even his Sword Qi which was supposed to keep attacking didn't remain for longer than a moment.

"Not bad," Shen Jing said. "You two have definitely grown better. Here's a little reward for you then."

Shen Jing put up his index finger and made a simple swipe. Suddenly, Alex had a feeling akin to the wind rustling his clothes.

He quickly looked down and saw part of his robe fall to the ground.

"What?" he exclaimed. "I didn't see your attack."

"That's because I didn't attack you," Shen Jing said. "The world did."

"Dao?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Shen Jing said. "I wanted to show you examples of some other Dao that you might want to learn about."

"Since you use a sword, you will learn it sooner or later, so I am showing you it here today."

Shen Jing swiped his fingers again and another part of Alex's robe was torn off. "This is the Dao of Sharpness. It's a Metal Dao that had its roots in Sword Dao as well."

"Since I'm not a swordsman, I can't put it into my attacks, but I can directly attack with it," Shen Jing said.

"You can't teach me that, right?" Alex asked.

Shen Jing shook his head. "That would defeat the whole purpose of learning Dao on your own, won't it?"
Shen Jing asked.

Alex nodded.

"Here's another one, although not very useful in battle," Shen Jing said. "Give me your sword."

Alex threw his poison sword at Shen Jing. Shen Jing then started pouring in his Qi as the world around him put Qi as well. Slowly, Alex saw the metal deform.

It wasn't much, but his sword started getting thinner and thinner. Shen Jing stopped once it was thinner by at least a third of its original thinness.

"Phew! That really takes a lot out of me even for a True grade sword," Shen Jing said and passed the sword back to Alex.

Alex looked at his sword and was surprised at just how sharp it was now.

"Dao of Malleability," Shen Jing said. "I can make metals thin without breaking them regardless if they would break under normal circumstances or not."

"Where did the rest of the metal go?" Alex asked. The sword was thinner now, but it wasn't longer or wider.

Shen Jing smiled. "Dao of compression. I compressed your sword so that while it is sharper, it is not any less weak. I wouldn't have dared to make your sword thinner if I hadn't learned this Dao before," Shen Jing said.

"Woah, what other Dao do you know, brother Shen?" Alex asked.

"Well, there's the Dao of Ductility, Dao of Conduction, Dao of Shine, Dao of Rust, and some minor Daos that aren't very useful on their own," Shen Jing said.

"Dao of Conduction, I think I've learned that too," Alex said.

"You did? When?" Shen Jing asked.

"About a week ago," Alex said. "I was making some pills when I realized that I understood how heat went from one body to another. So, I wondered if it could go in the opposite direction too."

"After a bit of thinking, I learned a new Dao and now I can transfer heat from cold body to hot body too," Alex said.

"Great!" Shen Jing said. "That's a really good Dao, but it's not Dao of Conductivity. It's the Dao of heat Conductivity."

"To truly learn the Dao of Conductivity, you need to learn the Dao of lightning Conductivity too and mix those two Daos to learn the higher one," Shen Jing explained.

"Ah, I see," Alex said. "Lightning... where was he supposed to learn about those from?"

'Maybe I can use the electricity back in the Central continent. That might work,' Alex thought.

"Will Pearl ever learn some Dao?" Alex asked.

Shen Jing made a weird, hesitating face. "Yeah, I'm worried he might reach the peak of Saint realm too quickly and not learn any Dao. So when the Tribulation lightning does come eventually, he will definitely fail and remain as a false Immortal."

"What? He will fail?" Alex asked in surprise.

"If he doesn't learn a Dao. He's too young for that. Which is why I am not pushing you to get him to evolve, even though it would be faster."

"Being fast would only hurt him in this scenario. He needs to mature before grasping Daos," Shen Jing said.

"I see," Alex said. "That does make sense."

"Alright, come. Attack me some more," Shen Jing said and the three of them got to fighting again.

After an hour or so of fighting, Shen Jing finally left and Alex returned back to the Capital and went to the Palace.

In the last month, he had already made a lot of pills and medicinal pastes for the royal family. He was sure that he didn't need to do anything for them for the next 3 months or so.

He had also already learned a lot of the things he wanted to learn regarding sickness and diseases. Of course, there was a lot more to learn, but he had managed to learn most of the books in the Royal archives.

If he wanted to learn more, he would have to go out and find books of his own.

Alex checked the twenty thousand true spirit stones in his storage bag and thought to do something with them.

He had so many of those medicinal pastes, and yet they were being wasted by simply sitting in a storage bag when there were so many out there that needed its help.

The royal family, especially the princess only cared for the Lightsworns and cared that they were never hurt or injured from their missions.

If they were, they would get their treatment. Other than that, she may care for her family. She had a duty to her family and people.

However, Alex didn't. His only duty here was providing aid in their transition. Which, he had done for the next 3 months.

So, for 3 months, he was free to help those he wanted to. Thus, Alex decided to go make the medicinal pastes for those that would require them.

The common folks.

For that, he would need to become a well-known doctor. Which meant Alex needed to open up a clinic of his own.

Fortunately, he had plenty of money for that.

Chapter 724: Yu Ming's Medicinal Clinic

Alex opened up a shop on the Northern side of the city. As it was further away from the palace, the buildings there didn't cost as much and Alex got a single room on the 2nd floor of the building for about 100 True spirit stones for a month.

At first glance, it looked like a bargain, but the location wasn't as visited by the normal visitors from everywhere, so it was actually a proper price.

Still, Alex decided to bet the popularity on his product that wasn't available anywhere.

He was sure that many of the sects and families knew about medicinal pastes, and maybe even have a few from the Demon realm. However, none of them had gotten recipes for it.

If they had, it wasn't public at all.

Today was the opening day, so Alex put up a board that simply said 'Yu Ming's Medicinal Clinic'.

As a subtitle, he wrote 'Sells medicinal pastes for all types of wounds, sickness, and diseases.'

Once that was up, he went upstairs to his empty clinic.

Inside the clinic were two rooms. One was a waiting room, while the other was the checking room.

Alex placed a sound and spiritual sense dampening formation plate on the ground and used it.

He wanted to simply carve the formation onto the wooden floor, but there was no energy source to connect it to.

Once he was inside, Alex walked up to a seat at the end of the room and sat on it. Then, since he had nothing else to do, he brought out Pearl to let him roam free.

At the same time, he took out a book on formations and started reading it.

This was an interesting topic on formations that he had been reading on. This book explained how sect running formations worked and how one could create them.

According to the book, the sect running formation was actually multiple different formations all linked together by one linking formation that took the energy from the source.

It was the communication between the formations that aided them in running without a power source.

There was more for Alex to learn there, so he simply kept on reading.

He did feel a little bad that no one came to the shop, but being a new shop and being at a weird location, he couldn't fault anyone but himself.

Still, about an hour later, a man walked through the door with a confused look on his face.

"Is... is this the clinic?" he asked after seeing the empty room with a kid and a kitten.

"Yes, it is," Alex said as he closed the book.

"Oh, I need to speak to the phy— ah, the physician," the man said, holding his stomach as he grunted in pain.

"I am the physician," Alex said. "What troubles you?"

"Uhh... are you really the physician? Aren't you a little too young for that?" he asked.

Despite his age reaching mid-20s, Alex still had the face of a teen as that was when he reached the True realm. Since then, his growth had been rather slow.

Usually, people wouldn't be surprised as the people he was around were people that were used to people looking young despite his age.

However, currently, Alex was with a person that barely had a cultivation base in the Muscle Tempering realm, and he himself had completely hidden his cultivation base so as to not scare away any customers.

Even Pearl was hiding his cultivation base using the Immortal Concealment technique that he taught him after writing it down for his mother.

"Don't judge my skills by my age," Alex said with a smile. "Tell me what is the problem?"

"I... I'm just feeling a little pain on my left side," he said. "I thought it was because of what I ate, but it doesn't seem to go away."

That did sound like food poisoning to Alex, but he needed to be sure it wasn't something else like parasites in his stomach or something else.

So, he called the man and scanned him with his spiritual sense. He then sent his Qi inside the man's body to check and didn't find anything either.

"It does seem to be a simple stomach ache from food poisoning," he told the man. Alex then brought out a simple thyme-like plant and gave it to him.

"Here, chew on this for 5 minutes and swallow the juices. If the pain still persists, tell me," Alex said.

"Ok," the man looked weirdly at the plant and wondered if he was being fooled here.

"You can sit on the bench and chew. You can pay me after you are healed," Alex said.

The man finally nodded and sat down to chew the plant. At first, he nearly gave up due to how bitter the plant was, but he forced himself to continue.

Slowly, he felt the pain in his stomach lessen bit by bit. By 5 minutes, the pain was completely gone, and the man felt like he was reborn.

"Woah, that was amazing," the man said. "It totally worked. How much do I need to pay you."

Alex smiled and said, "3 Spirit stones."

"3?" the man asked in surprise.

"Yeah, it costs that much because I have to diagnose and give you a plant," Alex explained.

"No, no, no," the man shook his hands. "I was just surprised how cheap it was. Usually, I would have to pay 10 to 20 spirit stones for a pill that would do the same thing."

"No worries," Alex said with a smile.

The man brought out the 3 spirit stones and winched a little when he was about to hand them to Alex.

"What's wrong?" Alex asked.

"Oh, nothing. It's just some back pain," the man explained. "I might have pulled a muscle or two back there while sword fighting in the arena."

"You want me to help you with that?" Alex asked.

"Uh... no?" the man said. "I don't have that kind of money. Well, I do, but I have other things I need to spend it on."

"It will only cost you 5 spirit stones at best," Alex explained.

"What? No, that can't be right. I've talked to the Alchemy guild and they said a minor healing pill would cost me about 40 spirit stones when including the ingredients," the man said.

"Well, that's because those are pills, these are not," Alex said and brought out a medicinal paste jar.

"I will just need to apply it to you, and you will be fine. Although, if the pain still persists, I might need to apply a second one too, which will cost you another 5 spirit stones. Are you okay with that?" Alex asked.

"Okay? Are you kidding me? I would be mad if I didn't say that was okay. But are you sure I will heal?" the man asked.

"Same thing as before," Alex said. "Pay me if you get healed."

"Well, if you say so," the man said and started pulling off his robes when Alex stopped him and pointed to the room.

"Ah sorry," the man said and went into the room.

"Let me know if anyone comes," Alex whispered to Pearl who was still roaming around the room, looking at every nook and corner.

Once inside the room, Alex activated the formation and waited for the man to take off his upper robes.

"urgh," Alex made a cringing sound. "That's quite bad."

The man's right shoulder blade area was blue and black, and quite sore. "I think you did more than just pull a muscle back there."

Alex quickly scanned his back and said, "Your shoulder is a little dislocated as well. While you won't notice any problems on the outside, there are problems on the inside."

"What? Can that be healed too?" the man asked.

"Yeah, don't worry," Alex said and pulled out a scoop of the paste. He placed it on the man's back and gently rubbed it all around the wounded area.

The man's body sucked in the medicinal paste-like water on a dry sponge. Alex waited for a bit and saw the bruised shoulder go back to being skin-colored.

Still, there was more healing needed there, so he applied another scoop of the medicine.

After 2 minutes, the man's back was finally healed of the wound, but there was one more thing remaining to do.

Without telling the man anything, he grabbed his shoulder and popped it up a bit back into place.

"Argh!" the man cried out in a sudden jolt of pain, but after a few seconds, he realized how relieved he felt.

"Wow, I feel like I was never injured," the man said.

"Yes, that's what my medicine does," Alex said.

"How much is it again? 10 Spirit stones?" the man asked.

Alex nodded. "5 spirit stones per scoop of medicine," he said.

"So cheap too," the man quickly took out 10 spirit stones and stopped. "What about the last part? With the shoulder?" he asked.

"That one is one the house," Alex said with a smile and took the spirit stones.

"Thanks," the man said moving his shoulders a little. "Damn man, this place is so cheap for what it does. I would never go to the Alchemy guild if I knew this place was here before."

"Anyway, I will be sure to come by again if I need you. Thanks again," the man said and left.

Alex returned back to the empty room and was about to open up his book again when he closed it and thought.

"Right, I should put up the prices too to show how cheap this place is," he said to himself. "Only that way will more people come around."

Chapter 725: Little Trouble in Little Clinic

A week into opening the clinic, Alex's days got busy.

The first two or three days were mostly free as not many people noticed his clinic, or it hadn't gone through enough ears to be recognizable.

However, once he had treated enough cultivators, that too with comparatively very cheap medicine, his clinic got lined up from day's start to day's end.

It got so ridiculous that Alex had to decide to take a dedicated day off on the weekend or else he would be overworked.

Shurin came to help out in the clinic as well, mostly just to make sure people were staying in line.

Alex used her Royal disciple robes to gain some more popularity as well. After all, anyone who could employ a Royal disciple had to be someone notable.

And yet, when the people tried to figure out his identity, they didn't find anything notable about him.

He never learned anywhere, had not appeared in any auction, had not been part of any school, sect, or family.

The Alchemy guild didn't openly give away their alchemist's private information, and the princess made sure everything about Alex was under wraps in the palace, so no information about him could ever reach the public.

As such, Alex became an enigma that came out of nowhere and took the capital's lower-end citizens and cultivators by storm.

The rich ones would still look for pills, and the strong cultivators never trusted a mere doctor to take care of their issues.

As such, Alex was stuck to selling healing pastes made from common rank ingredients, while his True rank pastes never saw the light of day.

Shurin played around with Pearl as they waited for Alex to be done in the room inside.

This was the last customer of the day and they would leave after this.

The man who went in with a limping leg, came out all straight with a happy smile on his face.

"Thank you so much, doctor," the man said. "I can't tell you how long this leg has troubled me."

"It's my pleasure," Alex said and waved the man away.

"Phew! That's it right?" he asked.

"Yes, brother Yu," Shurin said.

"Alright, let's leave," Alex said and left with the two.

The next day was a day off for Alex, so he spent the day making pills as a way to cool off. He didn't really know what else he could do aside from that.

He wanted to fight, but then without Shen Jing, he just couldn't. Alex sighed and returned to making more pills and pastes.

A set of ingredients for a normal paste usually cost him about 20 to 30 spirit stones, whether it was Common rank or True rank.

Each paste made with these ingredients would give about 20 to 25 scoops worth of paste, meaning if Alex sold each scoop for 5 spirit stones, he would earn about 100 spirit stones, giving him nearly 4 times the profit on his investment.

He started wondering if he should lower the cost even further, but then he decided not to. At least, not right now.

The next day, Alex returned back to shop with Shurin and saw a long line of customers.

"Physician, please hurry up."

"I needed you yesterday."

"Do you still have enough pastes to sell? I want to buy some."

"Sir, I am from the Snowhill merchant group. Do you have time to talk with me?"

People spoke one after another, but Alex walked without acknowledging them. Only after he was in the front of the room did he turn around and spoke.

"I will immediately start treating you all. Don't worry about the pastes, I have plenty, but you cannot buy more than a jar each. As for merchants, I have no intention of doing any business with you all," he said and called the first person on the line before entering.

Alex treated one after another as well as sold pastes at the same time. 'Sigh, I need to get someone else to do the selling part,' he thought. He wanted to employ Shurin for that job, but she was already handling the line outside and making sure people were orderly.

'I will think about it later,' he thought.

He continued treating for half a day when an incident took place. Shurin knocked on the door while he was treating to let him know there was some problem outside that she couldn't handle.

Alex told her he would be out right away and looked at the naked lady in front of him.

The first few times he had to ask a woman to undress, he had felt bashful and couldn't help but show a bright red face. However, slowly, he started getting somewhat more used to it and could now treat them without any hesitation in his hands or mind.

He applied a scoop on his medicine around the rashes that had appeared under the lady's breasts. In a matter of seconds, the rashes disappeared and Alex breathed a sigh of relief.

He continued treating the woman in front of him for a while longer as there were more areas with rashes. Only after fully treating her did he leave.

He took a deep breath to make sure his face wasn't red yet and walked to Shurin.

"What's wrong? What is the problem?" Alex asked.

"These men cut their lines, and they won't listen to me," she said.

'Someone who wouldn't listen to a disciple of the royal family?' Alex turned with a curious look and saw a group of young men and women who were in the early True realms.

Unlike Shurin who had broken through just half a month ago, these people had been in the True realms for a few years now, so it was obvious they would be hard for her to handle.

The one that took his attention was someone that looked like he was the leader of this small group. The man looked young like he was in his teens, but given his cultivation base, he was likely as old as Alex himself, perhaps even more.

The man would've normally never grabbed Alex's attention. Neither with the True Disciple 6th realm nor with the True Earth alchemist badge.

However, what did catch his attention was the white robe with burnt edges.

'A member of the Zhou Family,' Alex realized. The Zhou family were the people with White Fire and were known to be great alchemists.

The fact that this young man already reached True-Earth as a mere True Disciple realm cultivator was perhaps one of the best performances anyone could pull off on this continent.

However, that didn't impress Alex at all. After all, the robe had only grabbed Alex's attention, not his interest.

Alex walked up to them and stood before them. Alex was shorter than the man by a couple of centimeters but he started directly at the man.

"Are you here to cause trouble?" he asked.

"Who are you?" one of the men asked.

"Hey, that's the doctor I think," one of the girls replied.

Alex quickly glanced over them and they were all alchemists too, mostly in the True Mortal rank.

If Alex was to make a bet, he would bet that these alchemists were mostly just responsible for making Common pills, as True rank ingredients would be a waste in their hands.

"Did you guys cut the line?" Alex asked.

"You must be the one in charge here," the man from the Zhou Family gave a smile. "I am Zhou Guyang. I have come upon a rare problem in my butt area, would you be willing to look at it?"

"Did you cut the line?" Alex asked again.

"What? No," the man said and turned to look at everyone else in the line who didn't dare speak up as they realized who he was.

Alex turned around to Shurin and asked, "Where did they cut the line from?"

"That man in yellow robes. They are supposed to be behind him," Shurin explained.

"So, who is next?" Alex asked.

"This woman in blue," Shurin pointed.

Alex nodded and looked at the woman. "Please come in," he said and walked towards the door.

However, when he reached the door, he realized that the woman didn't dare move at all.

'Of course,' he thought. The woman was afraid of disrespecting the alchemists and Alex couldn't blame her for that.

'It seems I will have to take care of them first then,' he thought.

Chapter 726: Demonstration

Alex looked at Zhou Guyang and sighed. "Look, I don't have time for your little games. Go back in line if you are really here for treatment or say what you have to say if you are not," Alex said.

"Hey! What's that supposed to mean?" one of the others asked.

"Brother, he's rude, let's beat him up," another one suggested.

Zhou Guyang didn't show any other emotion in his eyes and remained neutral for the most part.

Still, he couldn't avoid the engagement that Alex had forced him into, so he answered, "Very well, I am here for the people."

Alex gave him a weird look and waited for him to continue.

"You are selling something fake and claiming that you've treated people," the man said. "You sent around fake testimonies to capture the heart of these poor and oblivious citizens that have barely saved up a little money."

"Do you not feel a shred of shame at that?" the man said. "Stop this farce at once or I will destroy it myself and take you to the Lightsworns."

The man puffed his chest and waited for the civilians in the line to get doubtful of Alex. That was when he would tell them to stop bothering with pastes.

"You say my treatments are fake?" Alex asked. "Very well, why don't I prove it to all of you."

Alex flicked his finger and a sword Qi flew straight at Zhou Guyang. A long, thin line of red appeared at the center of the man's forehead.

"Argh!" Guyang shouted and clutched his bleeding forehead.

At the same time, Alex grabbed him by the hair and pulled his hands away to show the line of blood on his forehead.

"Look," he shouted. "Normally, he would have to wait a week or so before it fully settled and healed. However, with my paste, he doesn't have to wait at all."

Alex brought out a jar and brought out a single scoop of his medicine and applied it across the man's forehead.

Even as they all watched, the bleeding on the man's forehead stopped and there was no scar remaining as well.

Gasps of surprise rang around the room, some originating from the alchemists too.

Once Alex was sure that his customers had seen it clearly, he let go of Guyang's hair and finally released his aura from around him.

Finally, the man could move.

"I know why you guys are here," Alex said. "You think that because I suddenly arrived, I have taken away your customers."

"And the answer is yes. Yes, I did take away your customers, but that is only because of how terrible the rest of you are at alchemy."

"Instead of looking to blame someone for your incompetence, go and try to improve. That way, you will get jobs regardless of what I do here," Alex said.

"Now leave! I don't have time to bother with any of you," Alex said.

Guyang was the first to leave. The fear of God that Alex had put on him by basically making him immobile and being in control of his life and death was basically enough to make him run away from the room.

After he left, the others soon followed suit, and soon peace returned back in the clinic.

Alex went back to treating the rest of the patients and returned around the evening after he was done.

Back at the palace, he decided to look for people to help him sell the medicinal pastes while he was treating people.

Unfortunately, it was late and everyone had retreated back to their room, so Alex was left with nobody to talk with.

So, he decided to wait for tomorrow.

'Sigh, I should have made some friends,' Alex thought and started cultivating.

The next day, he left the palace with Shurin and went to his clinic again.

The line at the clinic was already long, especially after the stunt he had pulled yesterday. Many people, including the ones in the True realms, had come this time and the clinic was becoming quite cramped.

'No way. Do I have to search for a new location just two weeks in?' he thought.

Alex called one of the patients and entered the room. He quickly cured the person and called another one in.

The next one was here to buy the medicinal paste for True realm cultivators.

"You can get this vial with 10 scoops for 50 True spirit stones, or this Jar with 50 scoops for 250 True spirit stones," Alex said.

"I will take the jar," the man said and bought the jar. Alex was giving him two options because he didn't want to sell more than a single piece of item each time.

If he was to sell multiple vials, people would start buying in droves. Instead, selling it in a single jar was much easier.

He treated the people for the rest of the day when late afternoon, Shurin called him again saying the man from yesterday was here.

Alex sighed and left the room after finishing treating the patient.

When he walked out, he saw Zhou Guyang from yesterday. However, next to him was another man wearing the same white robe with burnt edges, but there was an air of authority about him that the other man could not carry at all.

The man had long black hair and was about as tall as the other man. As for his cultivation base, he was one step away from entering the True Emperor realm.

'It's this guy,' Alex thought when he saw him.

The man in front of him was Zhou Ren. Zhou Ren was someone he saw back in the group of elites outside the House of the Undying when he was in the Demon Realm.

This was one of the more chatting fellows in the group. He remembered another man saying that he hated him.

Alex got a little solemn when he saw him. He did not want to go against one of the strongest younger generation members, that too someone from one of the big families.

Alex was sure the princess or the Emperor could intervene on his behalf if this argument went anywhere physical, but he had hurt Guyang yesterday, so he wasn't sure if they were considered to have already crossed it.

"That's him," Guyang pointed to Alex.

Zhou Ren nodded and walked toward Alex. "Yu Ming's Medicinal Clinic, it says outside. Is brother's name Yu Ming?" the man asked.

"Yes," Alex said.

"Greetings, brother Yu," Zhou Ren cupped his hands. "I am Zhou Ren."

Alex felt a little uncomfortable, but he cupped his hands and greeted back. "Why is brother Zhou here?" Alex asked.

"My little brother here says you beat him yesterday and made a joke out of him. Is that true?" Zhou Ren asked.

"I am afraid he did try to ruin my business. Also, all I did was give him a minor cut on his forehead which I healed immediately," Alex said. "Are you perhaps here to take revenge for your brother?"

Zhou Ren chuckled. "Haha, no," he said. "Instead I'm here to apologize on my brother's behalf and thank you for giving him a lesson he desperately needed."

"Huh?"

Chapter 727: Overwhelmed

"Brother? What are you saying?" Guyang asked hurriedly. He had thought that his brother was here to help him take revenge, but instead, Zhou Ren had said that he needed that lesson.

"Shut up! You've already embarrassed me enough," Zhou Ren said. "Did you think that just because you are my brother that I will side with you when you are in the wrong?"

Alex looked at the two brothers with a confused expression. "So, are you not here for the revenge?"

"No," Zhou Ren said. "I'm just here to apologize for my brother's behavior."

Zhou Ren looked to the side to see Guyang's surprised look and suddenly hit him on the back of his head.

"Ow!" Guyang cried in pain. "Why did you hit me?"

"Was I the one that did the wrong thing or was it you?" Zhou Ren asked.

"I... it was me," Guyang said.

"Then why aren't you apologizing yet?" Zhou Ren shouted at his brother.

Guyang got scared and apologized to Alex for fear of being reprimanded by his brother. Alex looked at the two, unsure what he was to say.

"It's fine," Alex said. "He was already punished yesterday."

"No, he is not nearly punished," Zhou Ren said in response to Alex as a hateful look appeared on his face.

"This bastard has been using our family name all the time to force his way through places or to bully the weak. As his older brother, I can't watch him ruin himself," Zhou Ren said.

"As such, I hope to punish him even more." Zhou Ren then turned to Alex and asked, "Would you be willing to have him work in the clinic? You won't have to pay him at all and he will be like your servant."

"Brother!" Guyang tried to speak.

"Shut up! You've embarrassed us enough. You will accept this punishment," Zhou Ren said.

"I don't think that's necessary, brother Zhou," Alex said. "I don't think there is any more punishment I can give him."

"No, I insist," Zhou Ren said. "Since he dared do something so unbecoming of someone from our family, he deserves this punishment."

Alex was about to refuse as he didn't like the thought of having someone unknown working in his clinic, but he did need a worker.

So, he decided to accept the offer. "Very well, he can work as a guard in my clinic," Alex said.

"Thank you, brother Yu," Zhou Ren said. He then turned around to his brother and said, "remember, act well."

After that, Zhou Ren left the clinic, leaving his brother back with Alex.

"Shurin, I think your job will be changing from tomorrow on," Alex said. "Teach him how to do what you are doing."

Alex went on to treat the rest of the patients there while Shurin made Guyang look after the people so that they didn't cut in line as he did.

That day, the incident that took place in the clinic reached the entire capital and even more as people learned that a young elite talent like Zhou Ren had visited the clinic and even bowed his head to Alex.

That only made Alex's clinic even more popular and even more, eyes fell on him.

The next morning, as Alex and Shurin reached the clinic, they found the people in an orderly line, with Guyang making sure no one went out of line.

"Oh, he's here already," Alex said with a bit of surprise.

"Hello, brother. What do you need me to do?" Guyang asked respectfully.

"Uh... nothing really. Do what you've been doing," Alex said. He then brought out a storage bag and handed it to Shurin. "You're in charge of selling these. Do what I told you."

"Yes, brother Yu," Shurin nodded.

Alex turned around to the group of people that were lined up and shouted, "Who is here to buy the medicinal paste and want nothing to do with being treated?"

A bunch of voices rung out and hands were raised.

"Please step to your right," Alex said. Most of the people stepped away from the line, but a few of them were suspicious that they were going to be turned away, so they sat in their line.

"Please line up here in a different file. You will be buying your pastes from her and I will only be treating patients from now on," Alex said.

The people who had left the original line immediately got onto a new queue. While the one that remained regretfully went to the back of the new line.

Alex started treating the patients soon while Shurin helped sell the pastes. After that, the day went smoothly.

Guyang, despite being punished to be here, didn't shy away from the work he did and did it as well as he could. Being from a big family, he was a proud man and would masterfully do what he was made to do.

A few days passed and the clinic got more popular. Fortunately for Alex, once the people who had been walking around with their wounds for ages were healed, there were not many new patients despite the vastness of the capital.

Even if there were a good number of injured or sick that appeared every day, they would simply buy the paste instead of going to get treatment.

As such, Alex got a bit more free time during the day. During such free time, he started making more and more pastes to reach the demand of the customers.

Spirit stones gushed in like water from an open dam, but so did the stress. Every day, Alex focused his time on either treating the wounded or creating pastes.

At night, he once again used his free time to make more pastes. Soon, that became his daily routine.

His only relief came when the weekend arrived and he was finally free to do whatever he wanted.

During those days, Alex simply went to libraries and read up on new things, or stayed in his room and cultivated.

Perhaps it was because of the stress, or perhaps he was simply not getting enough time to deal with it, Alex's yang body flared once more and was getting hotter and hotter.

He needed some yin treasures to deal with it, but he had none right now. Since Yin treasures were quite rare, to begin with, he would need to send someone to an auction.

Fortunately, the Royal palace always had people go in place of others to buy items from the auction house, so Alex had the princess buy something for him too.

The next week went fine for Alex, but the stress one increasing on him.

One of these days, Shen Jing showed up for training, but Alex had no time at all.

"You became a healer, huh? Suits you quite a bit," Shen Jing said.

"Brother Shen, can we move our schedule to the week's end? I don't have the time to train at all," Alex said.

"I'm afraid I can't do that," Shen Jing said. "I'm on quite a tight schedule too. I only have today as a free day to train you for the next few weeks."

"But I can't..." Alex was a little saddened.

"No worries, I will just take Pearl. Besides, you won't make any real progress until you break through," Shen Jing said.

"Right," Alex said. "He needed to do that too."

"Well, don't kill yourself trying to take care of others. You need to take care of yourself too," Shen Jing said.

After that, he left with Pearl to train and didn't return until it was late evening.

The next few weeks went by the same, but slowly Alex started to feel more and more overwhelmed with all the work.

On one of the free days, he sat down to relax in the garden when Princess Xumei arrived by his side and sat down.

"You're a busy man, little brother," she said. "It is getting hard to get a hold of you."

"I'm sorry, I've been really busy," Alex said. "Did you want something?"

"Actually, yes," the princess said. "Have you kept any track of time at all? How long you've been here?"

Alex thought for a moment and he shook his head. The days were bleeding into each other.

"It's been over 3 months," the princess said. "You know what that means right?"

Alex thought for a second and lost the color on his face again. "You are running out of the pills and pastes, aren't you?"

Chapter 728: Get The Recipes

The princess nodded. "Yes, I am running out of it. Due to not having the healing crystal anymore, we have to make a slight adjustment to our policies so that we healed the Lightsworns every time they were injured."

"Because of how simple the pastes were, everyone started coming by to get pastes for even the simplest of cuts."

"As such, we quickly ran out of it," the princess said.

"I'm sorry," Alex said. "I should have known. I started this clinic and there were so many customers that I got overwhelmed and didn't know what to do."

"Well, if you don't have the time, you can teach me too," the princess said. "I remember someone telling me they would be willing to teach me about the pastes once they learned it."

Alex sighed and gave a small smile. "I did, didn't I?" he asked.

He thought for a moment and brought out a mortar and pestle before bringing out more ingredients to show the princess.

* * * * *

Guyang walked out of his weekly alchemy session. Due to having been sent to work for Alex, his daily alchemy session had been reduced to weekly.

In the past month, he had been with Alex, he had only had 4 such sessions. As such, there was almost 0 improvement in his Alchemy. His cultivation base was in an even worse situation.

As he was about to walk away, he saw his brother walk out of the room next to his.

"Good morning, brother," Guyang greeted his brother.

"Hey, I haven't seen you in a while," Zhou Ren said. "How is your work at the clinic going? Any progress?"

"Yes brother, I've learned to become humble now. I won't use my name or my family's name to bully the others," Guyang said with a serious face.

Zhou Ren's face went blank with surprise and confusion. "What the hell are you talking about?" he asked.

"Uhh... my progress? You wanted to know how I was doing with my punishment, right?" he asked.

"You idiot," Zhou Ren cried out so loud that the nearby house servants ran away in fear.

"Who the hell cares if you bully people or not? Who the hell cares about your punishment? I'm asking have you made any progress on getting the recipes for the pastes? How they are made?" Zhou Ren asked.

It was Guyang's turn to be confused now. "You didn't send me there to be punished?" he asked.

"Of course not, you dumbass. What do I care about how you go about your day? Do you think I would have shown up and bowed to a goddamn nobody if I didn't want something out of it?" Zhou Ren asked.

"Uhh..."

"If you don't get those recipes by tomorrow, I will break your goddamn legs myself," Zhou Ren said.
"Now, leave!"

Guyang swallowed heavily and nodded before rushing away.

Zhou Ren walked away and was soon called by his father, the head of the Zhou family.

"Any information on the pastes?" Zhou Tianqiu asked. Tianqiu was a man with thin hair and short height. He didn't even reach the shoulder of his tall son.

However, the fiery demeanor he carried made everyone look up to him even when he was below them.

"I put idiot Guyang up to the task, but it seems me being subtle about it didn't help at all, father," Zhou Ren said. "I've told him that I will break his leg if he doesn't bring the paste recipe by tomorrow, so we should be seeing it soon."

"Hmm," Tianqiu said nothing for a while as Ren waited for him to speak again.

"Son, you know how important this paste is, don't you? For years, we have had pastes come out again and again from the Demon Realm, and yet not once has a recipe come out."

"Now there's someone with a recipe and we absolutely need it," Tianqiu said.

"Why aren't we just going and getting it from the man, father? He is quite young and not very strong. I could just go and beat him up to get the recipes you need," Zhou Ren said.

Tianqiu took a deep breath and asked, "Why do you think I haven't done that already?"

Zhou Ren thought for a moment. "That kid has backing?" he asked.

"That kid is a personal guest of the Emperor and is directly working under princess Xumei. Our people have noticed him going in and out of the palace. He practically lives there," Tianqiu said.

"What? Is this information public?" Zhou Ren asked.

"It's public to those that are willing to look," Tianqiu said. "The kid hasn't tried hiding it or anything."

"So force is not going to work on him," Zhou Ren said. "I understand father. We must be first before everyone else. I will make sure that little brother gets the recipes within in week without mistake."

"Good," Tianqiu said and smiled. "I know I can always depend on your son."

Zhou Ren smiled and walked away.

* * * * *

Alex returned back to the clinic the next day with a new sense of purpose.

After having a little talk with the princess the other day, he had come to a small revelation for himself that he didn't think he would so soon.

Shurin was confused at his happy mood but didn't say anything as Alex hadn't been in this mood for nearly a month now.

The patients were already lined up at about 10 different people, but the ones that were here to buy the pastes were over hundreds of people.

That was understandable. After all, Pastes were far superior to pills for most the injuries.

Guyang was already in the store and was thinking of how to approach Alex for the recipes. When he saw Alex walk in, he jumped and tried to say something, but nothing came out.

How did one ask for someone's secret that made them rich and famous?

Guyang racked his brain but the only way for him to get those recipes were either to sneak into the room and watch Alex make those pastes, or try and steal the recipes from him.

Neither of those ideas was any good in his mind. However, when he remembered that his leg would be broken today if he didn't bring back the pastes recipes, he would start having the same bad ideas again.

He felt tortured the whole day.

He watch Shurin sell the pastes in vials and jars one after another and even asked her if she knew how they were made.

However, he got no straight answer.

In the end, he was left with no choice. He had to do what he could to get those recipes.

So, when the time came for the clinic to close, and Alex walked out of the room, Guyang confronted him.

Alex looked at him weirdly. "Do you need something?" he asked.

"Yes," Guyang said. "I was wondering if you could teach me how to make those pastes as well. I really want to learn it."

"I'm sorry, I don't have the time," Alex said. "I—"

"No please, I beg you. Here, I will get on my knees," Guyang said as he really did fall on his knees. "Please teach me! I will call you my master if I have to."

Alex sighed. "I told you, I don't have the time," he said.

"Please—"

"But," Alex continued. "You don't really need me to teach you anything."

Guyang felt something touch his head, so he looked up and saw a talisman in front of him.

"Here! These are the recipes for the different pastes to heal and cure illnesses, disease, and poisons," Alex gave them to Guyang.

Guyang looked shocked, even a little bit skeptical.

"This... this is your recipe?" he asked with an untrusting voice.

"Yes," Alex said.

Guyang quickly read through the recipe, and while he couldn't tell if they were real or not, he could tell that most of these ingredients were indeed ingredients necessary for healing.

The truth matched up.

"Thank you," Guyang said and bowed again before taking off.

He didn't wait to see a single person on the street as he ran all the way to his massive house on the southern side of the capital.

He quickly entered and found his brother.

"Brother, I did it!" Guyang said proudly as he handed the talisman to his brother.

Zhou Ren quickly checked the talisman and his eyes went wide as well.

"Come on. Let us go show father this," Zhou Ren said. "He will be proud of you."

Chapter 729: Stop Making Pastes

"Father," Zhou Ren walked into the room where his father was staying.

"What's wrong?" Tainqiu asked after seeing both of his sons come together.

"I've brought it, father," Zhou Ren quickly handed over the talisman with the recipe.

"What have you brought?" Tianqiu asked, not getting his hopes up.

"The recipes, father. For the pastes," Zhou Ren said.

"Are you telling the truth?" Tianqiu asked while checking the talisman. From what he could see, it really was the recipe.

"Good job, son. I knew you could do it," Tianqiu said to Zhou Ren. Guyang looked dumbfounded that Zhou Ren was getting the reward for what he had done.

He wanted his father to be proud of him too. But if he spoke now, he was afraid his brother would get angry and may even beat him for speaking out of turn.

So, he kept quiet and watched his father and brother continue to speak.

"Have you tried and found out if this recipe is true?" Tianqiu asked.

"I just got this recipe father. I came to show you the moment I got it," Zhou Ren said. "Worry not. I've already sent someone to get the ingredients. We will find soon enough."

Not a minute later, a servant returned with Zhou Ren's ingredients and handed it over to him.

Zhou Ren didn't have a mortar and pestle, so he simply handed the ingredient over to his father who crushed them in his hands.

As a Saint realm cultivator, these mere common rank ingredients were crushed as easily as if they were made up of sand.

Soon, the familiar scent of the medicinal pastes formed and without even looking at the final product, everyone in the room could tell that this was the real stuff.

"Great!" Tianqiu should. "Now we can branch off from just pills and make pastes too."

"Yes, father," Zhou Ren. "Given how early we've gotten here, we can quickly have a monopoly on the pastes too."

"Yes," Tianqiu said. "As for that kid who you got the pastes from, we will have to make sure he isn't around in the picture anymore."

Zhou Ren's face got serious. "We're going to kill him?" he asked. He was ready to do it, but it seemed a little too extreme in his eyes.

"No. He's the Emperor's guest. If we do anything directly to him, we will surely be in trouble," Tianqiu said. "No matter how strong my position in the family is, if I get on the emperor's bad side, everyone will join together to get rid of me as the family head. Then that bastard Zirong will take over."

"Then what do you suggest father?" Zhou Ren asked.

"Buy him off," Tianqiu said. "Promise him you'll teach him how to make pills. Getting a lesson from our family, he should be more than happy."

"Yes, father," Zhou Ren said. "I will go right away."

"No, I will go with you too. Where is he now?" Tianqiu asked.

Zhou Ren turned around and looked at his brother with a questioning look.

"He should be returning back to the palace right about now," Guyang said.

"Yes, let's go," Zhou Ren said and the father-son duo left without their youngest son. Guyang felt saddened and returned to his room feeling like the black sheep of his family.

Zhou Tianqiu and Zhou Ren reached a street near the palace and hoped Alex hadn't returned to the palace already.

Fortunately for them, Alex was running a little late today and only returned five minutes later than when they had arrived.

"Father, it's him," Zhou Ren pointed to Alex who was walking over with Shurin beside him.

Tianqiu nodded and walked ahead to stand in front of Alex.

"Excuse me," Alex said and tried to move away but Zhou Ren appeared and stood in front of him.

Alex finally noticed that they were blocking him purposefully and stopped.

He looked at Zhou Ren and the at the old man who was definitely in the Saint realm.

"Greetings senior, brother Zhou," Alex greeted the both of them.

"You can call me Ren," Zhou Ren said.

"I believe we haven't been introduced yet. I am Zhou Tianqiu, Zhou Ren's father," the man said.

'Zhou Tainqiu? The clan head of the Zhou family?' he thought to himself.

"I am Yu Ming. It's my pleasure to meet you, Clan head Zhou. May I ask what you want from this weak me?" Alex asked.

"Weak? You are younger than my younger son and already on the verge of entering the True King realm. No one is going to call you weak," Tianqiu said.

Zhou Ren gave a look of surprise. Due to Alex's concealment technique, he hadn't been able to tell how strong Alex was, but he would have never guessed he was this strong.

"You are the one with the pastes recipes, aren't you?" Tianqiu asked. "I have a proposition for you."

"What proposition would that be?" Alex asked.

"From today on, you will stop making pastes for the people," Tianqiu said. "We, the people of the Zhou Family will take over that process."

Alex was about to speak up, but Tianqiu cut him.

"I know what you are going to ask. You want to know how we got the recipe," Zhou Tianqiu said. "The truth is it doesn't matter. My son here managed to get his hands on your recipe."

"If he can do it, anyone else can too. So, I say that you stop making pastes and let us take over the business," Tianqiu said.

Alex tried to speak again, but Tianqiu didn't let him. "I'm not finished. I won't ask you to leave this business for nothing. In exchange for stopping, we will help you become an Alchemist."

"I promise you, with our resources, we can make you a True Earth Alchemist in no time," Zhou Tianqiu said with a smile.

With the lure of being an Alchemist, that too from a world-renowned family like the Zhou Family, Zhou Tianqiu was sure Alex would be surprised and excited.

However, Alex showed no such expression as the ample smile remained on his face.

Alex wanted to speak, but he waited just in case he was interrupted again. Since this was the third time he was trying to speak, he was already annoyed on the inside and decided to not say what he was going to say the first two times.

Instead, he said, "I do not need an Alchemy lesson, clan head Zhou. I am fine as I am. As for the pastes, I had already planned on not making any more pastes to sell from tomorrow on."

"Really?" Zhou Ren asked from the side, but Zhou Tianqiu cut him off.

"Nephew Yu is wise," Zhou Tianqiu said. "In case you change your mind and want to become an Alchemist, you may find my son."

After saying that, he left.

In Tianqiu's mind, what Alex had said was a roundabout way of agreeing to his demands while not asking for anything in return. Tianqiu thought Alex respected him a lot and was feeling happy with the successful venture he had set out for today.

"See? That's how you do it. From now on, our family will be the only one that sells pastes in the entire capital. No, the entire world."

Tianqiu's smile was wider than the northern half of the Luminance empire while his head was held so high he was nearly taller than his son.

Zhou Ren too was surprised at how well his father did today. "Although, I hadn't taken him for a coward," he said.

"What coward? He's a young man with a brilliant mind. He knew not to go against us and—" Zhou Tianqiu's words got lost in his mouth when something else called for his attention.

He saw a massive group of people crowding the outside of the Alchemy guild and wondered what was happening here.

"What's going on? Did they put out information about the Guild Competition already?" Zhou Ren asked excitedly. He couldn't wait to embarrass Xue Meirong in front of the entire world.

When the two walked inside, the group parted to let them in. However, along the way, they started hearing about pastes this and pastes that.

"What's going on?" Tianqiu demanded of the receptionist to explain everything.

"Senior," the receptionist bowed hurriedly. "The physician Yu Ming just came by the guild 15 minutes ago and gave away a whole bunch of paste recipes for free. He distributed it to everyone in the guild and now the recipe is spreading around the Empire like wildfire."

Tianqiu's eyes went wide with shock and anger. "He did what?"

Chapter 730: King

With the trouble of having to make pastes all the time gone from his mind, Alex was finally able to focus on what was important.

Over the course of the month, he once more made the necessary pills for the princess. With the recipe for the pastes out in the world, she didn't ask him to make them.

After all, making pastes was very easy for just about anyone.

In his free time, Alex went back to learning and training more and even made time for his practice fights with Shen Jing.

A month later, Alex felt like he was ready to break through to the next realm.

So, on one auspicious day, he locked himself into the cultivation room in the room he was living in and started cultivating.

He thoroughly examined himself as he prepared for his breakthrough.

The Yang energy in his body had flared up once more. The Yin treasure the princess found for him barely helped at all. In just a matter of weeks, their powers disappeared and his Yang energy flared up once again.

Fortunately, one thing the yang energy never did was cause problems for his cultivation.

The reason Alex was so against it was that it caused problems in Alchemy. If it weren't for Alchemy, Alex would've already taken advantage of it and tried to find out how it worked and what else he could do with it.

Since it affected his Alchemy, however, he needed to get it under control.

Alex continued checking through everything and then started thinking about the things that were causing him mental problems.

'Thank god I stopped overworking myself for the last month, or this breakthrough would've gone to trash before I even started,' he thought to himself.

After making sure every little thing was in order, Alex started his breakthrough.

At first, nothing happened. But slowly, as time progressed, Alex started hearing the voice again.

"Are you really trusting Shen Jing for all of this?" the voice asked him. "Are you going to believe whatever he tells you?"

And his inner demon got right to the point. To Alex, it felt so real, but somewhere in the back of his head, a logical brain kept saying this wasn't real and that he shouldn't be affected.

However, the logical brain was far too quiet when facing something that was formed by heaven.

"It's fine, I trust him," Alex said.

"What if just like the third elder's father, he too wants your body. You know how much people would love to get your body?" the voice asked.

"He's known about my constitution for years. If he wanted it, he would've taken it already," Alex said.

"What if he wants Pearl then? He spends an awful lot of time with him," the voice said again.

"If he wanted to take Pearl, he would have taken him already," Alex said calmly.

"Do you really trust him that much already?" the voice asked.

"No," Alex said. "There are still so many things about him that are a mystery that I worry about. However, in the last 7 years, not once has he done something that would be harmful to me."

"He even teaches me so many things that I would otherwise not find out for ages," Alex said. He realized just how much he respected Shen Jing.

"He's a wolf, fattening up the little sheep before he's ready to devour it," the voice said.

"And since there is not a single thing I can do if he decides on that, so there is no point in thinking about it," Alex said.

Alex felt something change, but he was too out of it to realize what had happened.

"Your father is most likely dead," the voice said.

"Father is a tough man. He's more hardworking and resourceful than I could ever hope to be."

"If he fell into a forest, he will make a farm out of it. If he fell into a cave, he will break the rocks until he can walk out of it."

"If he fell into a desert, I'm sure father will dig a river through the sands and make his way out."

The voice stayed quiet for a bit while Alex continued his breakthrough.

"You are stifling Pearl's cultivation," the voice said.

"I'm not," Alex said in a calm voice. "Even if I was, it doesn't matter. He will still be the Pearl I know and love."

"No, you will abandon him, as you've always done," the voice said.

"I don't abandon people," Alex said.

"What about leaving behind everyone you've know—"

"That is not me abandoning people," Alex said. "I left there to go find Pearl. I never abandoned them. One day, I will find my way back there, that I can promise."

He waited for the voice to speak again, but nothing happened. Slowly, Alex came back to being fully conscious and realized that he had been talking with his Inner Demon.

"Does that mean I passed?" Alex thought. That was when he realized that he was on the last leg of the breakthrough.

He quickly got hold of himself and continued his breakthrough. After a couple of minutes, he had successfully broken through to the True King realm.

Now, he was in the same cultivation realm his master was when she died.

"Look at how far I've reached, master," he spoke softly. "And I don't plan on stopping any time soon."

He called his mother to let her know that he had successfully broken through. His mother was perhaps happier at the fact that he even sent her a message.

After all, due to the workload, he hadn't had the time before. Once he was done talking with his mother, he put away the talisman and brought out Pearl.

After a little talk, he went on to cultivate with him in hopes that Pearl would breakthrough soon as well. After all, he was watching just 2 realms below him once again.

Alex spent the next few weeks making as many pills as he could right in the palace. They had prepared a top-grade Alchemy room for him and he was going to use it as much as he could.

In those few weeks, he made all the pills that could be required by the Lightsworn for the next few months and then some more.

Once that was done, Alex returned his focus to two different things.

Perfecting the recipes in his mind that he had yet to do, and learning the process of downgrading a True rank ingredient to a common rank.

Once he was done with the second part, he would then move on to downgrading a Saint rank ingredient to a True rank. That would be the most difficult part for him.

But that was still some time away. Alex's days barely consisted of visiting the clinic. After all, with the widespread of pastes, rarely anyone needed him anymore.

His name now only came up when they talked about the source of the pastes.

Alex made his way to the garden in hopes of finding the princess. Now that he had some free time, he wanted to give learning about poisons a go too.

Since the Royal Wei family was known for their poison arts, that would be the perfect place to start from.