

Alchemy 761

Chapter 761: Back in the Beast Realm

After coming back, Alex had done a few testing on himself.

After merging with the yin orb, he needed to know if his body was still capable of doing what it used to do before.

The first thing he tested was if he could create Yin and Yang separately now that they were coming out in a fused form.

Alex realized that he could easily pull out yang and quickly fill his whole body with it if required.

As for Yin, it wouldn't come out unless he started circulating the Winter Moon technique.

He found his yin to be much better than before, and his only Yin technique, the Flickering Shadows technique had a much wider range and accuracy.

As such, Alex was sure that his Yin root had improved much more than he could have hoped for. However, like his Metal Qi and Yang Qi, he couldn't freely control Yin Qi outside of his body.

This meant, unfortunately for him, his Yin Spiritual root hadn't reached the Supreme rank and was only stuck around what others called 'Superior.'

If anyone found out that he thought having a 'Superior Yin root' was an unfortunate event, they would call him ungrateful and try to rip it away from him.

Other tests Alex did involve trying to see if he was capable of surviving poison or not. Thankfully, that aspect of his body hadn't disappeared at all.

In fact, it might have gotten stronger as well.

Aside from that, he found his body cultivation to have improved, he found his ability to overcome many realms to have improved, and various other small bits here and there to have gotten better.

Now, Alex only wished his sword skills would get better as well.

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The way to open a formation that wasn't carved on metal was to spread one's Qi into an equal amount per stroke at every node.

Each formation usually had a medallion or similar object accompany the owner that did the task of splitting their Qi for them.

Alex however didn't do that. He simply pumped his yang Qi into the formation, and somehow it started on its own.

That was a test Alex had been meaning to do for a while now but didn't have any chance to.

The first time Alex had been here, he had noticed something similar happening, but he hadn't given it much thought.

However, after the demon realm, Alex was starting to know just what his Qi was capable of.

He had done a few more tests since then, which had been successful. However, nothing was as substantial as what he had done right now.

Blue light shined from the platform that soon grew white and before anyone knew it, they were all teleported away.

When the light disappeared, Alex found himself inside the cave with white walls all around the massive room with glowing crystal stalactite hanging from the ceiling.

This looked similar to the room he remembered, but something was different. The shape of the room wasn't the same as the one he had been in previously.

"Where are we? This is not the room I had been to before, is it?" Alex asked.

"This is the platform that connects to the Luminance empire," the jaguar said with an incredulous look in his eyes. "Young man, how did you bring us into the palace exactly?"

"I..." Alex didn't know what to answer. He realized he hadn't just done one thing but two.

He had not only activated the formation, but also bypassed a security aspect of the formation that always sent everyone to one of the outer formations, and instead brought them directly into the palace.

'How indeed?' Alex thought. 'I had done it last time too.'

"Isn't it obvious?" the leopard asked. "He has the blood essence right?"

"Ah, right," the Jaguar said. "That would make perfect sense."

"Senior? Can you explain to me?" he asked.

"Anyone with our lord's blood can directly enter the palace," the jaguar said.

'Ah!' Alex thought as he finally realized why it happened. 'So I came here because I had the White Tiger's blood in me,' he thought.

If not for that, he would have likely been teleported to the forest inside the realm. That didn't explain how his Qi could easily activate formations, but at least he got one answer.

"Alright, let's go," the jaguar said.

The jaguar took the path forward and showed them the way. Alex felt nostalgic as he walked through the glowing hallway.

Helen looked around curiously, wondering what crystals in the ceiling were.

Qin Shan however was way too shocked out of his mind to think of anything clearly.

He was here. The heart of the continent that over 10 years ago had taken the lives of the most gifted youths of the empire.

Due to that incident, the empire had canceled the competition last decade that was supposed to take place every 10 years.

Which was why this year's competition held so much weight and was going to be just that extravagant.

They were going to have 2 decades' worth of competition in a single year.

"It's fine," Alex calmed Qin Shan down. "Seniors might be beasts, but they aren't like the beasts you will see outside. Most of the beasts that grew up in this realm are intelligent and aren't much different from the humans."

"But... but... they killed so many talents from the last generation," Qin Shan said.

"That was a mistake on those youth's part. I was here when they came. Had they been discreet and not caused problems to the beasts, started fights, tried to steal children, and overall not been a menace, they would have still been alive," Alex said.

"We aren't savages," the jaguar said. "Our lord is the lord of this continent. Believe it or not, we are all subjects of our lord. Be it human or beast or even plant."

"Your... lord? Where is he?" Qin Shan asked.

Alex cringed a bit when he heard that. That was a touchy subject as their lord, the White Tiger that ruled this continent had died over 5 thousand years ago.

"Our Lord, he... he is not in this world anymore," the jaguar said, refusing to elaborate any further.

Alex softly explained that their lord wasn't there anymore and that Pearl was to be their new lord if he had the potential in him.

Qin Shan's mind couldn't comprehend the fact that Alex's beast had the opportunity to be the lord of the beasts that were stronger than most Saint realm cultivators of the empire.

After they walked for a while, Alex noticed that they had reached the hallway that had many guest rooms available.

"Rest here tonight, you can leave after the sun comes out," the jaguar said.

Alex and the rest nodded and went to the room to rest. The 3 humans got 3 separate rooms, but they all converged into one for most of the night to talk about various things.

In the end, the gathering became Alex mostly just answering Qin Shan's inquiries. Helen was curious about a few things too, but Alex had already told her nearly everything when they first reunited, so there wasn't much for them to talk about.

Late night, they returned to their own room and rested for a while.

Early morning, the jaguar came to take them. He took the three and Pearl through a series of the hallway before arriving at the cave with the formation platform from where they would go to the Crimson Empire.

"Eh? Are we leaving just like that? Without meeting Lady Ren?" Alex asked.

"Lady Ren can't speak to you right now. Otherwise, she would come here to see the young lord without question," the jaguar said.

"Is... is she still injured? I thought she was okay now," Alex asked.

"No, she's fine. but she can't come to you right now," the jaguar said.

"And your daughter? Where is sister Jia?" Alex asked.

"She's currently in closed cultivation and can't come to see you either. I will make sure to have her out while you return back, so don't worry," Jaguar said.

"I see... and senior Puma?" Alex asked.

"He's too embarrassed to come to see you," the jaguar said. "Alright, stop wasting time, and let's leave."

The 5 of them walked over to the formation platform. Alex realized the leopard wasn't there, but then he also understood that he wasn't necessary as they were all going to be in one place.

The jaguar brought out the medallion with which he activated the formation. Then, the 5 of them teleported away.

Chapter 762: I'm Back

Alex and the others arrived at the formation outside of the secret realm.

"Are we here?" Qin Shan asked.

"Yes," Alex said without even looking around. Looking around wasn't going to help a lot anyway given how much change the place had been through in the last 10 years.

"What do we do now, Al?" Helen asked.

Alex brought out a compass device and checked the direction. "The place where I'm to go Scarlet City is in that direction about half a day's worth of flight on our ships."

"Or we can go to the capital first, the Cardinal city that's just an hour away in that direction," Alex said.

"Let's go to the capital first. I want to start from the place where the Fu Ancestor established his own empire," Qin Shan said.

"Very well, let's fly to the capital then," Alex said.

Qin Shan brought out his ship which could house all 3 of them and the two beasts. Then, he launched towards the direction Alex pointed to.

Alex didn't directly take them to the capital but instead towards the east side of the capital.

He didn't want to be seen coming from the south as that would cause too many questions that he didn't want to give answers to.

"The Qi here is quite weak," Qin Shan casually mentioned as he flew.

"Yes, this place was most likely hit quite hard in the war that took place 5 thousand years ago," Alex said casually as well.

"Huh? War? 5 thousand years ago? What are you talking about?" Qin Shan asked curiously.

"Uh... I will explain later," he said. "Just know that this place doesn't have many Saint rank spirit veins."

"I see," Qin Shan said as he continued looking at the scenery.

The group soon reached the eastern wall of the capital city. They landed on top of one of the mountains and then flew down to the ground.

As they walked towards the city gates, Alex noticed some things hovering near them in the sky. It wasn't him that noticed them however, everyone did.

"Does your empire like showing off their ships or what?" Qin Shan asked after seeing the massive ships that hovered outside the capital.

"Those are most likely the ships belonging to the many sects. They put it out here to show the people that they are here. It's a pride thing I guess," Alex said.

"Your capital doesn't seem that big. Does it have that many sects?" Qin Shan asked curiously.

"No, these ships are from sects all around the empire. If I'm not mistaken, there should be an annual competition taking place inside, which is why so many sects are gathered in this place," Alex said.

"Oh, a competition huh? I'm curious to see just how your competition goes," Qin Shan said.

Alex turned around to the jaguar and asked, "Senior, are you coming in with us too?"

He wanted to tell the jaguar to stay outside, but he couldn't bring himself to be this rude.

"Don't worry, unless they are in the Saint realm, their perception will pass away from me," the jaguar said.

He then activated some sort of technique that made Alex unfocused and lazy when he looked toward him. Every time he tried to pay attention to him, his eyes would drift away and look at the ground beside him.

It wasn't until he used his spiritual sense that he managed to keep track of the jaguar.

"That's... such a weird skill," Alex said.

"It's nothing compared to yours that can completely hide your aura from anyone in your own rank," the jaguar said.

The group reached the gate and quickly paid their way in. On the way, Alex asked if there was a competition going on inside. When he found out there was, he asked what day of the competition it was.

According to the guards, today was the Top 64 competition, which was going to start anytime soon now.

'Top 64,' Alex thought. Which meant if the competitions hadn't changed in the 10 years, there would be the beast competitions and the maze competition this day.

Alex made his way through the city and arrived at the coliseum not long after. Since they had come from the eastern side of the city, it barely took them any time to get there.

Alex purchased 3 tickets for themselves and walked into the coliseum. The halls weaved and wove through the coliseum before popping them out to the audience stand.

Alex turned to look towards the sects, but no one was there yet. 'They must be getting registered,' Alex thought.

After waiting for a while, the sects started coming out one after another.

Blue robes, red robes, orange robes, green robes, and all sorts of robed figures walked out onto the stands.

"The contestants are here," Alex told them.

Qin Shan gave a quizzing look as he turned towards Alex. "Am I missing something? Why are there kids in the stands when they haven't even reached the True realm yet? They are asking to die," Qin Shan said.

Alex chuckled a bit. "People here are weak compared to the Luminance Empire. So Common realm is the equivalent of True realm over there," he explained. "Lower than 25 years and not in the true realm yet, that is the requirement for participating in the competition."

Alex looked at the stands waiting for his own sect's people to come out. He half expected to see Ma Rong walk out from inside with a bunch of disciples around here and a few elders including the First elder.

Of course, that was just wishful thinking on Alex's part.

As he was lost in his own thoughts, something brought him back to reality as he sensed something land on him.

His eyes shot upwards as he saw a group of people fly into the coliseum.

The Royal family was there. Alex saw the Emperor, the Empress, the two princes, and the princess, along with another female that was likely married to one of the princes.

"Saint Foundation realm," Qin Shan said with a bit of surprise. He hadn't expected someone this strong to come here.

"The Emperor," Alex said. "He's noticed us. I should go say something."

"You can talk later," the jaguar said. "I will go speak to him now."

The jaguar disappeared from their side and arrived high in the sky in front of the Emperor. However, even then no one noticed him being there.

The jaguar returned after a few minutes of talking.

"What happened?" Alex asked.

"I told him I'm not here to cause trouble but to look after you three. He asked us to come by the palace later," the jaguar said.

"I see. We can do that," Alex said and finally moved his eyes back to the stands on the other side.

Just as he did so, his eyes landed on a thin figure that slowly walked behind a group of disciples. His posture looked resolute, but his body said otherwise.

Someone else was the leader of this group of people and Alex quickly realized who it was.

'The First Elder huh?' he thought. The bald man led the disciples to the stands and they all seemed to follow him. Which meant he was likely the sect leader of the Tiger sect now.

Alex looked at the others and didn't recognize anyone else. None of the kids there were around when Alex was part of the sect.

"I will be back soon," Alex said and walked away from the group.

Alex took the round way around the coliseum and before he even reached the other side, the competition had already started.

Top 64 was underway and people were out to fight already.

Alex ignored the fight and made his way to the sect's seating area. When he arrived at the location, there was a guard that didn't let anyone other than sect members enter.

This would cause a bit of a problem to any other person, but to Alex, this was no trouble.

His cultivation was already concealed, so all he needed to do was hide his body. At a moment's notice, his body turned invisible.

Then he teleported directly into the seating area before making his way towards the Tiger sect's seating area.

He undid his invisibility when he reached there and stood behind the weak-looking figure.

"Master?" Alex called out uncertainly.

The weak figure turned around, letting Alex see a fake right arm along with a real left arm that was missing 3 fingers.

In his face was a shadow of confusion. However, that didn't last long as he saw who had just called him and what he had just called him.

His eyes went wide as he realized who was standing in front of him at the moment. It was his disciple.

"Yu Ming?" Wen Cheng asked, unbelieving of his own eyes.

In the nearly 70 years that Wen Cheng had been alive, Alex had been in his life for just a single year, in fact even less.

However, he would never forget the face of the disciple that meant so much to him. After all, no one had ever left an impression on Wen Cheng as Alex had.

"Yes master, it's me," Alex said, his voice breaking at parts.

"Yu Ming!" Wen Cheng's shock finally made its way to his voice and soon tears started forming in his eyes.

Using both his real and fake hands, Wen Cheng hugged Alex tightly. "You're back, my disciple. You're back!"

Alex started tearing up as well as he hugged his master even more tightly.

"I'm back, master."

Chapter 763: Giving the Pill

The disciples and elders all around them were surprised at the sudden drama. The First Elder turned to look at what was going on and saw Alex.

"Young man, is that you?" he asked. He had only seen this face of Alex for a week back over 10 years ago, so he wasn't quite sure he was looking at the same person.

Alex let go of Wen Cheng and bowed towards the first elder. "Greetings senior, it's good to see you," he said.

"It's good to see you too. Where have you been all this time?" the first elder asked.

"I was over on the other side of the Southern forest," Alex said. "In a place known as the Luminance Empire."

"You were there? You weren't captured by the beasts?" Wen Cheng asked.

"No, master. After I rescued Pearl, I managed to escape, but in doing so I ended up on the other side," Alex said. "I only now managed to improve my relations with them and returned."

"Its good that you returned," Wen Cheng said. "But weren't you missing an arm? What happened?"

Alex turned around and looked at his master once more. He couldn't stand to watch how his master looked at the moment and brought out the healing pill.

"Here, master. Eat this," he said.

"What's this?" Wen Cheng asked as he took the pill.

"It will help you," Alex said.

"Okay," Wen Cheng said and ate the pill without any more questions.

"You should sit down for this," Alex said and gently placed Wen Cheng on the seat. Then, in one swift motion, he undid the latches on Wen Cheng's fake arm and pulled it off.

"What are you doing?" Wen Cheng was surprised, and even a little suspicious.

"It will start to itch really soon. Don't scratch anything," Alex said.

At the same time, Wen Cheng felt the itch around the place where his arms and finger were cut off.

As everyone else, including the many sects around them, watched, bones started growing from Wen Cheng's right arm. Then muscles, ligaments, and skin followed right behind.

People watched in shock as Wen Cheng's arm slowly came to life. His left arm which had 2 fingers, now had 5.

Wen Cheng was perhaps the most shocked when he saw this. He could feel them, his new arm, his new fingers. Tears started flowing once more as he finally felt whole again.

"How did you...?" the First elder asked.

"I spent the last many years trying to figure out this exact pill. It was only about a year ago that I really managed to find all the ingredients and made it. After my arm grew back, I knew I had to come and help master."

"Now, a year later, I'm here," Alex said.

Wen Cheng brought up his new arm and placed it on Alex's shoulders. "My disciple, you've made me proud, and you've certainly made Ma Rong proud. She would be more than happy to see how you've turned out," Wen Cheng said.

"Thank you, master," Alex said.

The commotion had reached to the guards who came to take Alex back, but the First elder sent them away saying Alex was an elder of the sect.

"So, where's Pearl?" Wen Cheng asked.

"Oh, he's there with my mother," Alex said.

"Wait, what? Your mother?" Wen Cheng asked in surprise. Despite learning that Alex was a player and someone from another continent, he was still under the initial assumption that Alex was an orphan.

So, when he heard that Alex was here with his mother, he was surprised.

"You have a mother?" Wen Cheng asked.

"I was surprised too, master. Turned out she had come here too. I found her in the empire while trying to join their military," Alex said. "Look, she's over there."

Alex pointed across the coliseum towards Helen in her purple robe, who waved back at them.

"She's with her master. I think you'll have to wait until these matches are over before you meet," Alex said.

"Yeah, my disciple should be up soon," the first elder said.

"Are you the sect leader now, senior?" Alex asked.

"Yes," the First Elder said. "I've been one for a few years now."

"I see, congratulations," Alex said. He looked around the area and was a little disappointed.

"Is the Hong Wu sect not here?" he asked.

"They didn't have fighters that made it to the top 64, so they are taking a day off I believe," Wen Cheng said. "They should be in their hotel rooms."

"I see," Alex said. He made a mental note to go visit them later.

"Did brother and sister not come?" Alex asked.

"Your brother is in charge of the security, so he cannot just leave. As for your sister, she..." Wen Cheng sighed.

"What happened? Is she okay?" Alex felt a little panicked.

"No, no, she's fine. She's just not in the sect anymore," Wen Cheng said. "She reached the True realm about half a year after you left and became an elder."

"But after 5 years, her family needed her more so she left the sect and went back to her family," Wen Cheng said.

"I see," Alex said.

"We can message her and let her know you've come," Wen Cheng said.

"No, don't. I want to surprise her," Alex said.

"Sure, if that's what you want," Wen Cheng said. He then slowly drifted away from the conversation and continued checking his new arm.

Alex let him be and talked with the sect leader while assessing the junior next to him.

"These are some good disciples, aren't they?" the sect leader asked.

"They're not bad," Alex said. Most of the disciples were in the Mind Tempering realm, which was quite surprising to Alex as that was not the case for the year when he had joined the sect.

"You must be surprised. After we became a First-grade sect, our batch of disciples continued to improve over the years. Now, we're with these," he said.

"I see," Alex said. "The sect has improved a lot in my absence then. I'm happy."

"Yeah, it has," the sect leader said. Just then, the host announced the next set of fighters and Alex heard the words 'Tiger Sect' being called.

"Oh, it's my disciple's turn," the sect leader said.

Alex switched his focus to the fight as well. He saw a short-haired individual in yellow robes walk out to the stage with a sword hanging on his hips.

His opponent was a blue-robed individual with cloud-shaped patches all over his robes. 'Cloud Valley sect?' Alex wondered and was immediately proven right as the woman brought out two different Mind Tempering 5th realm beasts.

"He's a swordsman?" Alex asked.

"Just like his elder brother," the sect leader said.

The match started and the two beasts attacked him. The young man brought out his sword and suddenly a white outline appeared on it.

"Oh, he has sword intent. Not bad," Alex said as he watched the fight. The young man's cultivation base was Mind Tempering 6th realm. Along with Sword Intent, he easily beat the fighter on the stage down below.

"You've got yourself a good disciple, senior," Alex said.

"Yeah, I'm proud of him," the sect leader said.

Chapter 764: Meeting Old Friends

Alex watched the young man walk back to the Tiger sect's seating area and everyone jumped to congratulate him.

Seeing that Alex was the only one with a different set of clothes from the rest, the young man couldn't help but wonder who he was.

"This is my disciple, Dong Duxin," the sect leader introduced.

"Hello," Alex said.

"Hello," the young man returned his greeting with a curious look.

"This is your senior. He graduated over 10 years ago," the sect leader explained. "He's the one people bring up when wanting to be part of 2 sects at once."

"Oh," the young finally realized who he was speaking to. "It's good to meet you, senior."

"Congratulations on the win," Alex said. "Brother Yuhan must be teaching you quite well."

"He's a great teacher when it comes to Sword Intent," the young man said.

"I know. He taught me how to use Sword intent too," Alex said. "Where is he, sect master?"

"He's back in the sect. He's one of the elders now," the first elder said.

"And sister Su Min? What about brother Yang Ma?" Alex asked.

"They both left the sect after graduation," the sect leader said. "Su Min is here in the capital. She's part of the formation guild, while Yang Ma returned back to his clan."

"Sigh, this really brings me back to 10 years ago," the sect leader said while shaking his head.

"You look so young, senior brother," Dong Duxin said. "How old are you?"

"Me? I am... uhh... 26 I believe," Alex said.

"26? No way," Wen Cheng and the sect leader said at the same time.

"That would make you 15 when you graduated away. That's not right, you should be more like 29," the sect leader said.

"I know I should be 29, but due to some things I went through on the other side, I'm missing 3 years of my life," Alex said. "So physically, I'm 26. That's what the formations will tell you too."

"26?" the young man couldn't help but be surprised. "You're only 2 years older than me?" he asked.

"You're 24? Then I guess yeah," Alex said.

"Right, what's your cultivation base now?" the sect leader asked.

"I..." Alex decided to remove his concealment as there was no point in hiding it at all. As the veil lifted, Wen Cheng, the sect leader, and various other people around him couldn't help but gasp.

The disciples didn't know what was going on, but the elders did.

"Tr-True King!" Wen Cheng was completely blown away by the revelation. "You already reached the True King realm?"

"Yes," Alex said. "I did so about 3 years ago."

"Your cultivation isn't that bad either, master. You're already on the verge of entering the True Emperor realm," Alex said.

Wen Cheng shook his head. "I entered the True King realm when you hadn't even begun cultivating yet. A dozen or so years later, I finally managed to reach its end. This is really slow in comparison to you," Wen Cheng said.

"Don't worry, master. I have pills that will help speed up your cultivation. If used properly, you should be able to get close to entering the Saint realm within a decade or two," Alex said.

"I... I can enter Saint realm?" Wen Cheng asked.

"I'm absolutely sure," Alex said.

The group soon forgot about the matches down below and continued talking with Alex.

Alex openly answered any question they had about his life and the life of people on the other side of the forest.

They were surprised to learn how many Saint realms there were and how True Realm cultivators were known as the younger generation.

Alex explained the reasons too. The Luminance empire had a higher concentration of Qi, not to mention they also had a lot of Spirit veins of various grades improving the cultivation process of many.

Not to mention, most of the items in the Meteor shower had dropped on that side of the map, so they were more advanced than the rest.

Had the western continent not been looted 5 thousand years ago, they would be some of the greatest powerhouses of the entire world.

After talking for over half a day, Alex decided to leave them. "I will go check up on the Hong Wu sect. Do you know what building they are staying in?" Alex asked.

"It's the same one as ours," Wen Cheng said and gave directions to the hotel.

Alex nodded. "I'll see you later, master," he said and walked back to his mother.

"When are you going to introduce us?" his mother asked.

"Soon," Alex said. "I need to go find my other sect. Apparently, they took the day off. If I don't return by the time this whole thing ends, you can follow them and reach the hotel where I'm going."

"Either that or just go to the royal palace along with senior. I will go by there later as well," Alex said.

"Alright, go do what you want to," Helen said.

"I'm coming too," Pearl said, but Alex didn't let him. If Pearl left with Alex, no one would be here to look after his mother.

While he wasn't worried about her getting hurt, he was worried about her getting lost in this new place.

Finding her then would be quite troublesome.

So, Alex left the coliseum alone and made his way west towards the hotel where the Hong Wu Sect was staying at.

The path to the hotel somehow felt familiar while also completely new at the same time. He felt like he had walked through this exact same street 10 years ago too, but most of the shops weren't the same, so he couldn't be sure.

After 20 minutes, he made his way to the hotel and requested the staff to send a message to the people from the Hong Wu sect.

Alex waited for nearly 10 minutes before someone walked down the stairs.

Alex saw the woman that walked down and was surprised to see how much she'd changed. Her childish looks no longer remained as she had a sophisticated attitude now.

Alex was surprised to see her in elder robes, but that shouldn't have been a surprise when he really thought about it.

Her eyes turned from confusion to surprise back to confusion again.

"It's good to see you, Fanfan," Alex said.

"Mingming?" Fan Ruogang asked skeptically.

"Yes, that is me," Alex said.

"Mingming! What? How?" she couldn't form proper sentences as one thought after another kept bombarding her mind.

"Greetings to you to—" before he could finish speaking, Fan Ruogang jumped onto him and gave him a tight hug. The childish happy-go-lucky girl had apparently still not disappeared.

"You're finally back, the 5th elder will be happy to see you," she said. "Wait, I need to tell Wanwan and Meimei."

"Is brother Wan Li and sister Zhou Mei here too?" Alex asked.

"No, they're back in the sect, but I'll send them a message," Fan Ruogang said.

"Brother Yu, is that you?" someone came down too.

Alex turned to look at the big and buff man that seemed to be an elder too. "Brother Kong?" Alex asked.

"So it's really you," Kong Yuhan said.

"Brother Kong, you seem to be doing quite well for yourself," Alex said after noticing his cultivation base in the True Master's realm.

"I don't doubt you are doing quite good too," Kong Yuhan said. "Way better than me, no doubt."

"I'm doing fine," Alex said.

"Come on up. Let's talk in our quarters," Kong Yuhan said and the three of them walked up the hotel floors.

Alex asked about the current situation of the sect. Apparently, the sect went through a small downfall after what had happened 10 years ago, but that only lasted a year or two before more disciples joined the sect.

Now the sect flourished as any First-grade sect would.

The current sect leader was called Song Wushen, who was previously the 8th elder during Alex's time. The 4th elder had taken over the position for a while before they decided to choose a leader for real and Song Wushen had gotten the majority of the vote.

Alex talked with Kong Yuhan and Fan Ruogong for a while as no one else he knew had come on this trip to the competition.

The conversations lasted for nearly 3 hours before Alex decided to leave, not before promising to return back to the Scarlet City along with them.

Chapter 765: Introducing the Pastes

Helen had gone along with Qin Shan and the jaguar to the palace, while Alex decided to stay back in the hotel.

Not only were the Hong Wu sect's people there, but even the Tiger Sect's folks were also there as well.

He wanted to talk with his master a bit, so that entire night he stayed there.

He told Wen Cheng almost everything regarding what he had gone through. Hearing that his disciple had gone through over two years of training as soon as he left them had surprised Wen Cheng.

Not to mention learning that his disciple basically skipped 3 years was that much more shocking.

The next day was the final competition, so they all went to watch. Unfortunately for the tiger sect, their number 1 disciple, Dong Duxin reached the top 8, but lost to the person that later came second.

Still, that was a great achievement for them so everyone was more or less happy.

The Hong Wu sect had also done quite well during the production competitions, so they were happy too.

Wen Cheng was starting to look better in just a day. He no longer seemed weak and fragile, but was now starting to gain the confidence and impact he had 10 years ago.

Now that he had received the various pills from Alex, he was sure to get back on track with his cultivation.

"I will see you guys tomorrow," Alex said as he waved goodbye to both the sect and went to the palace.

The moment he arrived, the guards welcomed him without a single delay and took him to the guest rooms where his mother and Qin Shan were staying at.

"I thought I was going to meet them today," Helen said.

"Sorry, its hard when there's so much security," Alex said. "But worry not, you will meet them tomorrow."

"Fine," Helen said.

There was a knock on the door and Alex was invited to the Emperor's study room.

"I will see you guys later," Alex said and left.

When he arrived at the Emperor's study room, he found the princes and the princess waiting for them as well.

"Greetings, your highnesses," Alex said.

"Young man, you've improved quite a lot in the years I haven't seen you. You are a whole different person now," the Emperor said.

"Thank you for the compliment, your majesty," Alex said.

"I had a few questions, I was hoping you would answer," the Emperor said.

"Sure, I can do that," Alex said.

Alex was expecting questions about the empire, how it ran, and other things, but surprisingly the emperor wanted to know about his brother and sister-in-law that had left for the other empire.

"I'm sorry, your highness. I haven't met them," Alex said. "However, given that they helped bring back one of the current strongest young generation members, their status in the clan shouldn't be low."

"I see," the Emperor said. "Also, I remember you lost your arm before, and I heard you helped bring back your master's arm recently. Are you capable of making those pills?"

"Yes, I am," Alex said. "It's a True pill so anyone below the Saint realm can get back their limbs if they've lost it."

"Are you willing to sell the recipe? We can pay a hefty sum for it," the Emperor said.

Alex shook his head. "It's a special recipe so I don't want it to fall in the hands of just about anybody. I will pass it along to my sect and the elders can decide what to do with it themselves."

"Oh, okay, that works too. As long as the pill is available in the empire, I'm fine with that," the Emperor said.

"I do have something else I want to inform everyone about, so after tomorrow's ceremony, can you help gather some alchemists or doctors somewhere?" Alex asked.

"Sure," The Emperor said.

He then asked about various things relating to the beast realm and Alex's experience in the other empire.

Alex told them what he thought was okay and kept the rest for himself.

Once they were done, the Emperor left with the princess, while the princess remained behind to speak with him.

"You don't seem to have aged a day," she said.

"Neither did you, princess Wuying," Alex said.

"I will be 36 this year. If you think I haven't changed, then you should get some special eyes skills and look again," she said jokingly.

Alex simply scratched his head, not knowing what to say.

"Anyway, welcome back," she said. "Are you returning for good?"

Alex shook his head. "Just a few months. I will need to be back before long," he said.

"I see," the princess said. "I hope you enjoy what little time you have here."

Alex went back to his room and early the next morning, the three of them went to the award ceremony for the competition.

There Alex introduced his mother to his master, elders, and friends.

"Thank you all for taking care of my son while he was all alone. He didn't really have much knowledge outside of his house, so it must have been quite hard for you all," Helen said.

"No... well, yes. It was hard to take care of him as common sense didn't apply to him, but he's a quick learner," Wen Cheng said.

"Master!" Pearl spoke up, surprising everyone in the surroundings as he jumped onto Wen Cheng.

"Pearl? You can speak?" Wen Cheng was surprised. "You've grown so much."

"Uh-huh," Pearl said.

Alex ignored them and looked towards the stage as the Emperor arrived and made a special announcement now that the ceremony for the award had ended.

"We have a special guest that had something to say to you all," the Emperor said as he looked toward Alex.

Alex nodded and jumped onto the stage, surprising his mother as he hadn't told her what he was doing.

Alex looked at the crowd and didn't know how to address them exactly, so he ignored the number and started explaining what he was going to talk about as if there were a single person in front of him.

"What I am going to talk to you, and subsequently show you is known as a medicinal paste. Medicinal pastes are..." Alex started explaining everything about medicinal pastes to them.

The Emperor wasn't sure what was going to be announced but when he did hear what medicinal pastes were and how cheap they were compared to pills, and sometimes even more effective, he was flabbergasted.

Pills that regenerated one's arm were useful, but not many people needed them. Normal pills that cured minor injuries, however, were necessary every single day and would destroy so many ingredients because of the shoddy work.

Now that the medicinal pastes were a thing, the Emperor could only imagine how much improvement there would be in the health sector for his empire.

What was even more impressive was that just about anyone could make this. He could only imagine the impact this would have once it spread throughout the empire.

Alex explained in detail and promised to spread talisman with this exact information soon enough.

When he was off, he gave the talisman with the information about the pastes from how they worked to what the recipes were to the Emperor.

"I'm sorry about the pills, but I can give you this. I hope you are alright with that," Alex said.

"Alright? I'm more than happy," the Emperor said. "You could've asked me for something in return for this, but you just gave it to me for free."

"Thank you, young man," the Emperor said.

"It's fine, your majesty," Alex said. He did think of asking some sort of payment for this, but he couldn't think of anything the emperor could have that he would want.

Spirit stones weren't very useful to him and there wouldn't be many treasures here he could want.

He did have the hope of obtaining the secret technique that could read someone else's mind, but that would mean revealing the fact that he did know about that technique.

Also, the technique stemmed from the Fu clan of the luminance empire, so getting the technique from there was a much better choice.

After everything was said and done, there wasn't anything Alex needed, so he didn't ask for anything.

Once the ceremony was done, the sects started to leave one by one.

The Tiger sect and the Hong Wu sect left as well, and along with them left Alex and Helen.

Chapter 766: Returning to the Hong Wu sect

Qin Shan was here to explore the empire, so he decided to stay behind in the capital and then go visit the various other cities.

Alex and Helen on the other hand went along with the two sects back to Scarlet city.

Liu Xun looked a few years older than he did before as he stood outside where the ship landed.

Alex gave a bright smile from atop when he saw him. As soon as he disembarked, he immediately went up to Liu Xun and opened his arms for a hug.

Liu Xun gave Alex a big hug before slapping him on the back, telling him how proud he was of his little brother.

"You've already beat me in cultivation, haven't you?" Liu Xin asked.

"What are you saying, brother? I could never beat you," Alex said.

"Don't try to suck up to me. Master told me how strong you are now," Liu Xin said.

Alex's elder brother was now at True Lord 9th realm. 10 years ago when Alex left them, he was in the early realms of True Master. So he hadn't improved by much when compared normally.

Alex then met up with Du Yuhan who was an elder. Their conversation consisted of just a simple greeting followed by a look of understanding of each other's strengths.

Du Yuhan was now in the early True Lord realm, so in a few years, he would reach the True King realm too.

After they were done talking, Alex took his mother over to the Hong Wu sect.

Alex stood in front of the sect gate and looked at it with a face full of nostalgia.

Having been informed of his arrival, Lang Shun came flying over to the gate. Even after seeing him, he couldn't believe that Alex was back.

"Martial Nephew? You really are back," he said.

"Martial Uncle, I hope you're doing well," Alex said.

"So-so," Lang Shun said. "This is?"

"This is my mother, Hei Lin. Mother, this is my master's disciple brother, Lang Shun," Alex introduced them.

"Thank you for taking care of my son," Helen spoke.

"It was our pleasure, miss," Lang Shun said. He was internally surprised at how strong his mother was.

Lang Shun had by now entered the True King realm, but he had done it after a long time and had only done so a few months ago.

So, he was surprised that Alex's mother was stronger than him by a realm. 'Like son like mother,' he thought.

"Please come in," Lang Shun said and took them inside.

Alex walked through the outer disciple mountain and arrived at the sect valley. However, he was surprised at how packed it was.

"The sect really grew a lot in my absence, didn't it?" he asked.

"This is nothing," Lang Shun said. "After we started taking in normal non-alchemy disciples, the mountains weren't enough to keep them."

"Now, two of the mountains are for the outer sect, and one is for the inner sect," Lang Shun explained.

"Where are the core disciples?" Alex asked.

"We call it the Core region of the sect, but it's the Forbidden Fields. Now that Qi has returned, that area has become exceptionally amazing for the main parts of the sect," Lang Shun said.

Alex came to understand quite a bit about the changes. Similar to the Tiger sect, the sect valley had multiple stages and training grounds for normal disciples to train.

Outside of the main halls, every other location in the valley was stripped away as it was unnecessary.

Alex saw the many disciples fight and couldn't help but wonder if he would have ever joined the Tiger sect had the Hong Wu sect had this as well.

"So the new disciples aren't that great yet?" Alex asked.

"No, but they're improving. In a year or two, they should be able to prove themselves in the competitions," Lang Shun said.

The disciples greeted Lang Shun as he was one of the more important elders now. "Where's Grandmaster?" Alex asked. "I was hoping to meet him too."

"Master won't be able to see you now," Lang Shun said. "He's entered his final closed cultivation."

"Final... closed cultivation?" Alex asked with shock.

Lang Shun nodded. "After sister died, and then you left, Master forced himself to work very hard. As such, he ended up overworking himself very soon and went through Qi deviation."

"He tried to recover but there was nothing he could do as his longevity was already ending."

"As such, exactly 6 years ago, he entered his final closed cultivation to try and break through to the True Emperor realm."

"If he succeeds, he can live for just that much longer. If he doesn't... well, let's just hope he does," Lang Shun said.

"Can you visit him?" Alex asked.

"Um, we aren't allowed to unless there is an emergency," Lang Shun said.

"What if I had a pill that would help him breakthrough to the True Emperor realm? Would you take it to him?" Alex asked.

"I don't know how much that would help. He's tried every type of pills he could find," Lang Shun said.

"Mine is a little special. It has better harmony than most of the pills he most likely ate," Alex said. "I am sure it will improve his chances by a lot."

"Well... if you say so," Lang Shun said.

Alex quickly brought out a few pills and handed them over to Lang Shun. "If grandmaster eats these 4 pills he will have a much higher chance of breaking through," Alex said.

"What about this 5th pill?" Lang Shun asked as he picked it up.

"That's for you," Alex said. "It's to regrow your leg."

"Regrow my leg?" Lang Shun looked confused. "That's not possible."

"Is it not?" Alex asked while showing his left arm.

Lang Shun didn't realize what he was doing until he remembered what he was looking at.

"Your arm! It's back?" he asked in surprise.

"Yes, thanks to that pill," Alex said. "You should eat it quickly."

"Do you have more? There are so many more elders that will need it," Lang Shun said.

"Yes, I have many," Alex said.

"Good, we should start distributing it to everyone. How much do you take for it? I will speak with the sect leader to open up the treasury," Lang Shun said.

"Martial uncle, do you really expect me to take compensation for helping you?" Alex asked. "I brought it all just for you. Take it."

"A-are you sure? Pills that can regrow limbs should be very rare," Lang Shun said.

"Don't worry. I have a recipe with me that I will share with you. Then you too will be able to make these pills," Alex said.

"I can't wait to eat this then. Come on, let's hurry," Lang Shun said and took Alex over to the Elder's hall.

Helen on the other hand walked around the sect, looking at the various things.

After entering the hall, Lang Shun quickly went to an empty room and took off his fake leg. Then, without waiting, he ate the pill.

5 minutes later, he was full of tears and had 1 more leg than he did before.

"Thank you, martial nephew," Lang Shun said. "I would have never imagined I would be able to get my leg back at all."

Chapter 767: Changes in the Hong Wu sect

Wan Li walked around with a single leg and two supports. He was in charge of teaching the disciples about the various aspects of alchemy, so today too he was giving a lecture to the core disciples in the meadow.

Zhou Mei sat close by as her lecture would start not long after Wan Li's ended.

Alex arrived at the location and sat down at the end of the open area. His grayish blue robes somehow helped him not be noticeable in the sea of green.

Still, both Zhou Mei and Wan Li looked at him with surprise.

Wan Li tried to teach the disciples, but his eyes kept darting over to Alex, and was unable to continue for much longer.

"What the hell?" Wan Li shouted as he walked over to Alex. "Am I seeing this correctly? Zhou Mei, are you seeing this?"

"It seems the sect's best disciple has returned," Zhou Mei said.

Wan Li was now much older and seemed to have lost his timid persona, while Zhou Mei now looked like a girl in her mid-20s that had just blossomed to be an adult.

"What do you mean by 'the best disciple'?" Alex asked.

"That's what most people call you after learning about the number you pulled in the competition that year," Wan Li said.

"60%? The disciples think that is amazing huh?" Alex asked.

"Are you trying to show off?" Zhou Mei asked.

"Not in the slightest," Alex said. "It's good to see you two are doing well. I mean, at least one of you is."

Alex gestured towards Wan Li's missing leg.

"Yeah, don't mind it. I'll find a puppet leg soon," he said.

"I don't remember you losing a leg the last time I left you. What happened?" Alex asked.

"Some things I don't want to talk about," Wan Li said.

Alex's eyes narrowed. "You got your revenge?" he asked.

Wan Li's eyes flashed. "Absolutely," he said.

"Doesn't help much, does it?" Alex asked.

Wan Li gritted his teeth and shook his head.

Alex shook his head too. "Revenge brings justice to the dead and only more pain to the living," he said.

He then brought out a pill and tossed it over to Wan Li. "For your leg," he said.

Wan Li caught the pill and looked confused. Alex quickly explained what it was.

"Are you serious?" Wan Li asked.

"At least you can be happy now that you didn't lose yourself in your revenge," Alex said.

"How did you find this?" Wan Li asked.

"Find? I made it myself," Alex said. "I will teach you how to make it later. Just eat it for now."

Wan Li nodded and ate the pill. A while later, he was standing on both feet without the need for the two support.

Zhou Mei was surprised and started asking Alex for the recipe, but Alex promised to give it to them altogether.

Fan Ruogang arrived there too and started telling them and bunch of things. A few other young elders came too and they introduced Alex to them.

When they realized who exactly he was, they became quite talkative. These elders had been students around the time when Ma Rong was alive, so they knew who Alex was.

They talked for a while before Zhou Mei had to go teach. At that time, Alex decided to leave and go roam the sect.

He walked through the forbidden fields that were no longer such a hard spot. There were houses carved into the side of the cliff with the fruits growing near them.

The grass field was left intact but with less grass overall. Alex went up to the river and saw that the desert had changed quite a bit.

For one, it was no longer a desert, but just a place with some grass growing here and there. In a few years, what remained of the desert would disappear and soon this too would be a massive open field just like any other place in the empire.

Alex wondered who owned this place at that time. Would it be the Hong Wu sect or perhaps the empire?

After roaming around, he met up with his mother who was with his Martial Uncle, talking about Alex's life.

"Are we leaving?" she asked.

"No, I have one more thing to do," Alex said. "Martial Uncle, can you help me get into the garden."

"Yes, let me take you there," Lang Shun said and walked on his own two feet.

"I'll be back in a bit," Alex said to his mother and walked away with Lang Shun. When they reached the Alchemy garden on the right side, Alex instantly noticed the thick Yin in the air.

Of course, this was nowhere as thick as the icy hell, but for a place that was originally concentrated with Yang, this was almost a miracle.

"It might be a little uncomfortable now that the Yin Gathering tree had grown so much, but bear with it," Lang Shun said.

"I'm fine," Alex said. He didn't even feel anything really. It was only his closeness with Yin now that he even noticed it.

As he walked through, he was surprised to see some core disciples walking through the mountain. Almost all of them were females too.

"Are they the ones picking up the ingredients now?" Alex asked.

"Oh no, they just take care of it in exchange for being allowed to cultivate here. Given that this is a haven for most girls with even the slightest bit of Yin root, they go to great length at being here," Lang Shun said.

Alex looked around. "It doesn't look like they're taking really good care of the plants though," he said. "You should get rid of that Green Serpent's thorn vine before it messes with the Frost Bellflower. That Firemoss should be cleaned off or the Morning's Dew plant should be moved away. They will destroy each other soon."

As he went along, Alex told Lang Shun the mistakes that he saw along the way that completely shocked him.

"You know so much already?" Lang Shun asked.

"I learned it from an expert gardener in the Royal palace," Alex said. "Royal palace of the other empire I mean."

"You already got in touch with the royal family of the other empire too?" Lang Shun asked.

"Not of my own merit," Alex said. "I just got lucky."

They reached the top of the mountain where a considerably small tree stood resolute. It was maybe 5 meters tall at best, so it still had a lot of growing to do.

Still, it was something alright. Alex ignored the tree and looked next to it on the headstone that was properly cleaned and could thus read it well.

His master rested here.

"Sister, look who's back," Lang Shun spoke up first. "Your disciple has returned after over 10 years, and he's managed to beat the both of us in terms of how far he's gone."

He then turned to Alex. "I'm sure you have a lot to say, so I'll leave you alone," he said and lightly slapped Alex's back before walking away.

Alex watched Lang Shun walk away and finally sat down in front of his master's grave.

"Hey, master," he spoke. "I hope you're doing well."

Chapter 768: Revisiting the Library

Alex couldn't stop his tears from forming in his eyes as he spoke to his master.

The one-sided conversation included Alex talking about the various experiences and the knowledge Alex had gained throughout the years.

There was no one to speak back to him, but he continued talking for nearly 15 minutes.

He felt like a weight had been lifted off of him. Like he did something to help himself connect back to his roots, instead of forgetting it.

He wasn't sure why, but he felt like this would improve his chances of a breakthrough now that he had come here.

Alex sent out his spiritual sense around the grave and sensed a weak life force on the other side of the tree.

His master's beast companion, the snake was resting calmly behind the tree.

Alex smiled and stood up to leave. However, before he did so, he thought he should do something for the tree, for his master's sake.

He stood next to the tree and placed his hand on it. Then, he closed his eyes and started cultivating the Winter Moon technique.

Deep and cold Yin Qi flowed out of his naval area, nearly turning his skin blue. As it flower around his body, little by little, he poured some of it into the tree to help it.

The tree graciously accepted the Yin and Alex increased his input a bit more.

After a certain amount of time, the tree's third for Qi ended, and Alex slowed down his input until completely stopped his Qi circulation.

After that, he left the garden and arrived outside to see Lang Shun waiting for him.

"Come, the sect leader wants to meet you," he said.

Alex went to the sect leader's mountain, walking through the familiar yet different sceneries.

He saw his old house to the side, now occupied by someone based on his Spiritual sense.

He wanted to visit that house, but that was no longer his. He only just realized how much he had moved on from this place.

But that was what he was taught since childhood. To not be held back by something as fickle as emotions. No matter what, he had to keep moving forward.

Alex reached the sect master's house. This house looked completely different from what his master used to live in. After its destruction, it seemed they had decided to make some improvements.

Alex went into the house and met with the dark-haired, middle-aged man that was the new sect leader.

Alex remembered seeing this man, but he had never interacted with him, so this was in a way his first encounter.

"Greetings, fellow Daoist," the man said.

Alex greeted him back. It felt weird being greeted as equal rather than a junior. While Alex had been giving off some of his True King cultivation base's aura, he still expected to be treated like a disciple.

Seeing the sect leader refer to him as a 'fellow' took him aback a bit.

The man remembered Alex being talented, so he wanted to know how far he had come.

Alex didn't hide much, but he also didn't bother showing off much. So he simply told the man that he was a True Heaven alchemist and nothing more.

The sect leader was mostly interested in learning if Alex had new recipes and knowledge from the other empire he had gone to and wanted to know if he was willing to sell it to the sect.

Alex thought for a bit and said yes. He would sell a few of the new pill recipes he had, but instead of spirit stones, he wanted a book from the library.

"From our library? Sure," the sect leader said. No matter what book Alex got, it would never be as expensive as the recipes he would get, so he was totally up for it.

"I will pass along the recipe through some teachings I want to do for the disciples if you are okay with it," Alex said.

"Sure," the sect leader was more than happy to accept Alex's knowledge.

Once they finished talking, they walked out of the sect leader's house and walked down the mountain.

"Why did you give up so much for practically nothing?" Lang Shun asked.

Alex shook his head. "I care too much about the sect to care about giving things away for free," he said. "I was already planning to spread a few recipes here and there. Now I will get a technique in return," he said.

"What technique could possibly be worth so many new recipes?" Lang Shun asked.

"Well, there is one," Alex said as he walked towards the library. Along the way, he met up with his mother and took her along as well.

Once they reached the library, Alex was allowed free entry throughout the many floors of the library, but Alex didn't need much of it.

He quickly went to the place where they kept the Earth rank technique books and found the Mortal ranked book he was looking for.

"Here, mother. This is for you," he said.

"For me?" Helen was surprised. "What is it?"

She took hold of the old, rugged book and flipped to the first page before reading its name. "Flame Mastery Scripture? I think I've heard of this name before, haven't I?" she asked.

"It's the fire skill book I told you about that helps so much with handling flame during Alchemy," Alex said.

He poured a little Yang Qi into the book to test and as he had expected, the seal on it came undone.

Helen sat down right there and started reading it. Lang Shun was shocked to see the seal gone, but he simply assumed that Alex had learned some special techniques that worked on seals.

"She doesn't have to read it here," Lang Shun said. "She can take it back."

"No need, Martial Uncle. It won't take long," Alex said.

Helen closed the book not even a few seconds later and closed her eyes to read through her memories.

About 5 minutes later, she opened her eyes, completely learning the Flame Mastery Scripture. Or so Alex thought.

"I don't think I know the last bit of the language," she said.

"Sorry?" Alex said and took the book before reading through it himself.

The first level of the technique helped control the shape and temperature of the fire.

The second level gave more control over how fluid the shape and temperature were while allowing one to create fire on their own. This level of the technique made it an Earth rank technique, which was why this book was kept amidst the Earth rank techniques.

Looking at only the descriptions that would pop up on the screen, Alex would've never known this when he was a player.

Finally, the third and last level of the technique gave the user control over Fire Qi itself and could even help them wrestle control of it from someone else so long as their Qi was strong enough.

Furthermore, to Alex's surprise, there was a flame technique in there that slowly improved one's Fire spirit root if used for a long time. Granted, it seemed one needed to find fire treasures to do so.

The better the fire treasure was, the better it would improve one's roots.

This came as a big surprise to Alex as he had never expected something like that to be possible. However, when he thought about it, using elemental treasures was the way to improve one's spiritual roots.

Alex tried to recall the technique he just read, but he couldn't at all. It was like there was a part of his mind that was locked away from the rest of it.

'Is the technique stopping me from learning how to use it?' Alex thought. He read the book again to see what it wrote and only now did he realize that it was written in the Human language, rather than the demon language everyone was used to.

"No wonder you couldn't read the third part," Alex said. "I think there's a way to read this. I will try and ask sister Yao Jia for the language books. She should be able to help us."

"Still, you can only use the first two parts, for now, so you're not really missing anything," Alex said.

"Yes, I think I did understand the first two techniques," Helen said.

Alex looked through the book one last time before keeping it back on the shelf and walking out.

"Let us return now."

Chapter 769: Guest Elders

Alex and his mother left the Hong Wu sect and returned back to the Tiger sect.

After going in, Alex was immediately taken away to the Sect Leader's mansion where his master and the sect leader were waiting for him to arrive.

"You're finally here," Wen Cheng said, his original pride and attitude returning back to him.

"What is it, master?" Alex asked.

"I wanted to ask you something," Wen Cheng said. "You aren't back forever right?"

"No, just a month or two," Alex said. "3 at best."

"Sigh, I guessed so," Wen Cheng said. "I assume you will be staying here in the meantime, or do you want to stay in the Hong Wu sect?"

"I will be staying here," Alex said. "I will go there to teach a few things about Alchemy from time to time, but aside from that, I don't see myself spending too much time there,"

"So, here's what we were thinking," Wen Cheng said. "Since you are going to stay here, why don't you become a guest elder?"

Alex thought for a bit and said, "I can do that. Also, why don't you make my mother a guest elder at the same time?"

"Your mother? She won't have to worry about where she is staying with you being a guest elder," Wen Cheng said.

"No," Alex chuckled a bit. "I was thinking you could make her a guest elder so she can do something. Maybe give her a job in the market outside. She is a True Immortal Talisman expert, you know."

"What?" both Wen Cheng and the sect leader showed incredulous faces when they heard that.

"True Immortal? Is that even true?" Wen Cheng asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Did I not mention it to you already?"

"You only told us that she was a Talisman maker," Wen Cheng said. "If she's truly as good as you say then it would be our honor to have her be our guest elder."

"Yes, yes," the sect leader added.

Alex smiled and quickly brought his mother to speak about the various things.

"I don't mind it," she said. "In fact I was worried I would be a little bored."

"Alright, that settles it then. Starting today, Sister Hei, and Young Yu will become the Tiger Sect's guest elders," the sect leader called.

The sect leader sent a message and soon Du Yuhan came to see him. He was informed on what had happened and was then sent to show them their new place of stay.

"Come with me," he said and walked out of the mansion before going behind the mountain to jump off of the cliff towards the elder's living area.

Alex remembered this place on the back of the mountain where the elders lived. This was also where the treasury was where he got the Five Yang Divine Path, the Yang clone skill, and the silver stone that later became a silver mountain in his mind.

"This will be your living quarters from now on," Du Yuhan said as he pointed to two houses there.

"You can rest if you want to. The sun is already going down so you can start tomorrow," Du Yuhan said.

"Okay," Helen said.

"Go rest, mother. I want to see a bit more of the sect for now," Alex said and left with Du Yuhan.

As the last rays of the sun left, the lanterns around the sect crater started glowing giving a familiar and nostalgic look to the entire area.

Alex heard sounds of shouting and fighting in the stage all over the sect crater.

"How's your cultivation going?" Du Yuhan made casual conversation.

"It's going fine," Alex said. "What about you?"

"Not bad I suppose," Du Yuhan said. "How's your sword Intent?"

"Great, I got Sword Qi now. Although I haven't improved upon it in a while now," Alex said.

"You have Sword Qi?" Du Yuhan asked with surprise.

"Yes," Alex said as he flicked his finger, sending out a Sword Qi into the sky.

"You really are gifted in the way of sword," Du Yuhan said.

Alex didn't say anything and soon silence fell between them.

"Oh right, what should I do if I want to become a referee for these fights?" Alex asked.

"You don't have to, but if you want to, you can come around early next morning to the Elder's Hall and register yourself," Du Yuhan said.

"I will," Alex said.

Alex continued walking around the crater, going through the different place, until he came upon the stone stele again.

Alex wanted to read it, but there was no point in reading it anymore now that he knew the content. Not only that, he didn't want the backlash he got every time he read it.

Although, it did remind him that he hadn't been training in this technique for quite a while now. 'I will not only need to train in this, but I also need to learn the language from sister Jia and translate this for my mother and the rest,' he thought.

After it truly became dark, Du Yuhan left to train his junior brother, while Alex roamed the sect on his own until he met up with his elder brother.

The two of them talked for a while and returned back to the elder's are together.

Alex returned back to his room and lay on his bed. It felt weird coming back to the sect. Over 10 years had passed, and he was but a blink in the eyes of many here.

Still, he was surprised how much they remembered him. He really had made an impact on many of the people here.

After thinking so for a while, Alex stood back up and brought out some pill bottles.

He checked the pills inside and there were exactly 7 of those.

Alex frowned a little. He needed to now make decisions on who to give the pill and who not to.

Anyone who got the pill would advance quite a lot further than those who didn't. After all, this was the pill that would massively improve their Earth Spiritual roots.

Alex started making a mental note of who he absolutely had to give the pill to.

His master, his senior brother and sister, and his Martial uncle.

After those four came the tricky part. There was Zhou Mei, Fan Ruogang, Du Yuhan, Kong Yuhan, Zhou Mi, Luo Xing, and others.

Alex didn't plan to give it to Wan Li for two reasons. One, he was already had a superior Earth Spiritual root. He was the owner of Earth and Fire spiritual roots after all.

Even if he didn't, Wan Li had now destroyed his cultivation base by reaching True Emperor too soon, and the pill didn't work on those that were in the True Emperor.

It did seem like Wan Li had started stabilizing his cultivation base now that he had gotten his revenge over the Huo family that killed his parents, so there was a chance he could still reach the Saint realm if he went on steadily.

'I should maybe check their Spiritual roots and see if they have any need for it,' Alex thought. 'Yes, that is what I should do.'

"For now, let's breakthrough."

Chapter 770: Testing Spiritual Roots again

Alex woke up early in the morning, completely revitalized after breaking through.

Pearl was still cultivating and there were cuts all over his body, but they didn't hurt him at all. After all, his body cultivation had already exceeded Pearl's own cultivation thanks to the clash of yang and yin.

"True King 7th realm," he thought to himself. "3 more breakthroughs and I enter the True Emperor realm as well."

When that happened, Alex wondered if he would be the strongest under the Saint realm.

'Probably not,' he thought. There was too much of a gap between the True Emperor realms themselves due to the existence of Saint Qi.

Alex woke Pearl up from the cultivation and went over to the Elder's hall to register himself as a referee.

He got the 9 to 3 schedule for Stage 12 and was handed a talisman that was used to keep track of the fighters.

Once it was time, disciples came in one by one to fight.

Alex called out the first fighters and watched them come aboard the stage. He then took their two badges, 332 and 1432.

That was quite a bit of a gap in numbers, but their cultivation was about equal so Alex watched the fight carefully.

As the fight started, he watched carefully so that he could intervene whenever needed. However, there wasn't any need to.

The person with the 332 badge won easily to his surprise and only then did Alex realize that the challenger had most likely increased his cultivation base too fast.

Once the match was over, he handed back the badges and commenced the next match.

Half a day went by before Alex realized how boring this task was. Watching Organ tempering realm cultivators fight didn't bring him the same excitement as when he himself was in that realm.

After his time was over, Alex promised himself to never go through that again.

As he walked away from the location, he saw Du Yuhan walk out too.

"Brother Du, wait up," he said, catching his attention and arriving next to him.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

"Do you have some time? I need you for something," Alex said.

"I... I have about an hour free right now. What do you need?" he asked.

"Is there any empty location we can go to? A place where people won't disturb us?" he asked.

"Uhh... we can go to my master's training hall," Du Yuhan said.

"Yes, that will work. Let's go there," Alex said.

The two of them went to the Training Hall and Alex pulled out a formation plate from his storage bag.

"What's that?" Du Yuhan asked.

"It's... you'll see," Alex said as he set up the formation.

When the formation activated, a white fog streamed out of the plate.

"What's this?" Du Yuhan asked.

"It's a formation to test your spiritual roots," Alex said. "It's much better than the ones you will find here."

"Is that so?" Du Yuhan said. "And... do you want me to test here?"

"Yes," Alex said. "Just place your palm on the plate and take in the Qi it gives you before sending it back out."

"I... I have trash roots, you know," Du Yuhan said. That was the main reason why he became a swordsman in the first place. With bad roots, there was no other option for him.

"I know," Alex said. "I'm actually kinda hoping you are correct. Let's test it just to be sure. This will show more."

"Sigh, fine," Du Yuhan said and placed his palm on the plate. Half a minute later, he finished the test.

As soon as he released the Qi he had taken in, the white fog suddenly changed color.

Red, green, blue, gold, and brown. The five colors flew about, but none were vibrant at all.

"You really do have inferior five roots," Alex said as he looked at the colors.

"I know," Du Yuhan got dejected.

"No, that's a good thing," Alex said. "That means you have a chance to improve them and gain Dao of those 5 elements."

"Dao? Improve? What do you mean?" Du Yuhan asked.

Alex brought out a pill bottle as he was certain now that Du Yuhan needed one. "Eat this pill and cultivate," he said. "I will explain everything later."

Du Yuhan hesitated for a bit, but accepted the pill in the end and ate it.

As he sat down to cultivate, Alex placed his own palm on the formation plate and closed his eyes to circulate.

Pearl's head popped up from Alex's robes as he watched the white fog curiously.

After Alex finished circulating the Qi, he sent it back to the formation plate and the fog changed colors.

Red, Green, Blue, Gold, and Brown were obviously there, but Yellow and black floated along as well.

Gold and Yellow were so vibrant that they were easily distinguishable. The Black was the most vibrant after those two, but could never reach their level.

Red and Brown were of the same vibrancy coming after the Black.

Blue and Green on the other hand were weak, almost the same as Du Yuhan's own Spiritual roots.

'I need ways to improve my Water and Wood roots,' Alex thought. He placed a hand on his chin as he started thinking about what he could do.

Could he make an all Water, or all Wood element pill and eat it? Would that work?

Or would he have to go find the Blood Essence of the legendary beasts and eat those like he did with the White Tiger's Blood Essence?

Or maybe there were some techniques like he received yesterday for the Fire roots?

Whatever it was, Alex wanted to get those soon enough.

Just as he was thinking that he noticed something golden out of the corner of his eyes. His focus wavered from his thought as he was pulled back to reality.

"What are you doing?" Alex asked Pearl who had his paw on the formation.

"Same thing as you," Pearl said.

"Are you checking your spiritual roots?" Alex asked with a bit of a chuckle in his voice.

"Yes," Pearl said.

"You don't need to," Alex explained. "You have the White Tiger's bloodline, meaning you will only have Metal—"

Alex's words stopped in his mouth as he saw something in the fog down below.

The golden fog moved around as he had expected, but out from it also moved some green. While the gold overshadowed it, the green was still very visible to Alex.

"What the hell?" Alex couldn't help but shout in surprise. "How do you have Wood spiritual roots?"

"Is that bad?" Pearl asked.

"No, no, that's great... but I can't understand why you would have it," Alex said. "All White Tigers are supposed to only have Metal roots. That's what Lady Ren told me."

Alex suddenly sent out his spiritual sense and noticed the Jaguar's senses on them. A few seconds later, the Jaguar was in the room.

"You know about this?" he asked the jaguar.

"We indeed learned about his roots back when you were gone," the jaguar said.

"How is this possible?" Alex asked. "This is different from what I was led to believe."

"We believed what you believed too. We had to see to find out as well," the jaguar said. "But we believe there is a simple explanation for this."

"What explanation?" Alex asked.

"We think he got the Wood root from his father."