

Alchemy 771

Chapter 771: Reason for Leaving

"From his father?" Alex asked. Now that he thought about it, he didn't know who Pearl's father was, and whether he was alive or not.

"Yes," the jaguar said. "We have no idea who his father was. Since it couldn't have possibly come from his mother's side, we are left to believe the little Wood spiritual root is from his father."

"Are you sure it couldn't have come from his mother's side? Isn't it possible that his mother had Wood spiritual root given that she wasn't a White Tiger?" Alex asked.

The jaguar shook his head. "When the young lady married over 5 thousand years ago, she had some blood of the White Tiger in her giving her only Metal roots. As such, we made sure that her partner also didn't have any other bloodline that would conflict with her just in case."

"Given that we were unable to have the same influence over his mother's marriage, we are left to believe that she got together with someone with a Wood spiritual root and that was passed along to her," the jaguar said.

"I see," Alex said. "I guess I would've known this much earlier had I bothered to check his spiritual roots. Not only that, but I also never really bothered finding techniques for him to properly learn."

When Alex really thought about it, he himself needed some Wood techniques that weren't just usable with swords.

"Thank you for telling me this," Alex said and the jaguar left.

Du Yuhan got up from his cultivation not long after and looked at him weirdly.

"What did you do to me?" he asked.

"Test it again," Alex pointed to the formation plate.

Du Yuhan suspected what was up, but he couldn't believe it at all. Even as he placed his palm on the formation plate and started testing it, there was really just a single hope that he wouldn't be disappointed.

All his life, he had been told that his spiritual roots were trash and therefore any techniques he learned would be trash too.

He had learned the sword because it didn't require one to have good spiritual roots, but he still got jealous of others when he saw them use colorful attacks at each other.

So, when the colorful fog rose up and the brown color in it was especially vibrant, he couldn't help but tear up a little.

"My Earth spiritual root got improved?" he asked softly.

"Yes, that was what the pill does. It's still not very good and can be improved a lot more I believe, but it—"

"No, this is more than amazing already," Du Yuhan said as he stood up from the formation plate.

"Thank you," he said.

"No problem," Alex said. He then put away the formation and turned to leave.

However, Du Yuhan stopped him. "Wait, I have a request," he said.

Alex turned around. "Yes?" he asked.

"Will you fight me?" Du Yuhan asked.

"Fight you?" Alex was surprised. Du Yuhan was barely in the True Lord realm so he was still far from being Alex's match, but since he had requested...

"Sure," Alex said.

Alex let Pearl go to the corner and got ready for the fight himself.

"Use your sword. I want to see your Sword Qi," Du Yuhan said.

"Okay," Alex said and brought out a random sword he had received from the various people as gift.

"You can start," Alex said.

Du Yuhan nodded and dashed towards Alex to slash at him with his sword. He made a vertical slash that came down upon Alex.

Alex swiftly moved his sword above him and parried the sword away.

Du Yuhan let the sword come at Alex horizontally, but Alex simply put his sword to the side and blocked.

Du Yuhan then took some steps back and his sword started glowing white. He cut in front of him and a white sword slash flew toward Alex.

Alex could feel the intent behind the sword attack, the will to cut anything in its path. It was extraordinary.

The power behind the sword was equivalent to that of a mid True Lord realm. Alex sent out his own Sword Qi slash that destroyed the incoming attack and even went ahead to attack Du Yuhan with its remaining power.

Du Yuhan had to dodge away to survive the attack.

"You held back?" Alex asked Du Yuhan.

Du Yuhan nodded.

"Why don't you bring out all of your power?" Alex asked.

"My body can't handle more than a few attacks if I do so," he said. "The backlash is always way too strong."

"I see," Alex said. "Still, I hope you will show it."

The fight continued for a while longer as Alex tested Du Yuhan's skills and power while attacking back with a power that he could barely handle.

During the battle, Du Yuhan revealed his true powers which came close to being around the early True King realm.

"Let's stop," Du Yuhan said as his right arm trembled from having to use that much force.

Alex felt like he understood what was happening. 'He's too powerful for his own good,' he thought.

Similar things happened to him with his explosion if he wasn't careful in regulating how much power he put into the explosion too.

"Alright, I will leave now," Alex said and called Pearl.

"Actually, I have one more question," Du Yuhan said.

"What is it?" Alex asked.

"Are you not going to meet with Luo Mei?" he asked.

"I am," Alex said. "I was planning on going to surprise her in a couple of days. I just have a few things I need to take care of here and in the Hong Wu sect. I will leave after that."

"When you do leave... umm... can I come with you?" he asked.

"With me? Sure, I don't mind," Alex asked.

"Thank you. I really need to meet with her," he said.

"I don't see why you had to go with me if you really needed to meet her," Alex said.

Du Yuhan shook his head with a self-mocking smile. "I don't think she would ever talk with me if I went there alone," he said.

"Oh, why not?" Alex asked.

Du Yuhan hesitated a bit before asking, "Do you know why she's not in the sect anymore?"

Alex gave a curious look and said, "Isn't it because she wants to help her parents and their business? That's what master told me."

"That's what she tells everyone," Du Yuhan said.

"Oh, what's the truth then?" Alex asked.

"The truth is... she left because of me," Du Yuhan said.

"Because of you?" Alex asked. "What did you do?"

"I... I asked her to marry me," Du Yuhan said.

Alex felt his mind go blank for a second before everything came back to him. "You asked her to marry you? Wait, are you guys a couple?"

Du Yuhan gave a scoff as he said, "we were until I did that. Then she just packed up and left."

"Did... did she give any reason?" Alex asked.

"She did," he said. "She said her parents wouldn't approve of this since I was an orphan."

"Well that's bullshit," Alex said.

"Exactly. Which is why I want to learn the real reason, but she won't talk to me, even when I went to meet her," Du Yuhan said. "I... I just wish she would just tell me why she left."

"Whether it was because she was already promised to someone, or if someone else caught her eyes. I am willing to not bother her if she had any valid reasons, but she never gave me a single one. Even after we were in together for nearly 3 years," Du Yuhan said.

Alex thought for a bit and said, "yes, you deserve an answer. With me along, she can't ignore you. At the very least, if she has lost her love for you, you can find some semblance of closure from this."

"Thank you," Du Yuhan said.

"Now, tell me all about how this happened. I'm curious to learn of it," Alex asked.

As it turned out, Du Yuhan had always been in love with Luo Mei since they were mere Inner sect disciples. While he was focused on his own thing, he also worked towards her love.

Once Alex was taken away to the beast's realm, Luo Mei had asked Du Yuhan for his help and since then he had managed to form a bond with her, which slowly improved into a close friendship that ended up with both of them falling in love.

Alex was surprised that he was somewhat responsible for these two finding love.

Chapter 772: Alchemy Lesson

The next day, Alex had decided to go to the Hong Wu sect to teach about Alchemy and Medicinal pastes, but he was called to the City Lord's mansion.

So, he had to take a detour before going over to the sect.

Fu Wen was curious about his parents as any child would be after not seeing them for over 10 years, but Alex had no information on them so he was a little disappointed.

He now had a 3-year-old child and desperately wanted them to meet their granddaughter.

"Are you going back?" Fu Wen asked.

"In a few months, yes," Alex said.

"Can you take us too?" Fu Wen asked.

"Um, what about the city?" Alex asked.

"My uncle will manage it. There are way too many of our family members out there for us to worry about this part," Fu Wen said.

"Uhh, sure then. You can come with us," Alex said.

"Thank you," Fu Wen said. He asked a bit more about the Empire on the other side and was happy to know that it wasn't some barbaric land his parents had gone to.

Once he was done there, Alex finally went over to the sect where everyone was already gathered as per his request.

It wasn't just the Core disciples and elders, but also the Inner disciples as well as Outer disciples, so in total there were nearly 6 thousand people gathered in the Forbidden Fields grassland.

Once Alex recognized that it was time, he started off by teaching about medicinal pastes.

The elders had already come to hear about the pastes and were curious as to what it was. So, when Alex started teaching them they were more than eager to learn about it.

In just a few minutes, Alex managed to teach them exactly what the pastes were. As for the more minute details, he had it written on a talisman for the sect to distribute on its own time.

After that, he moved on to Alchemy and started teaching them what he had learned.

Without spiritual sense, many of the concepts he taught would go over the head of almost everyone here. But if they could understand even the tiniest bit and keep it with them until they managed to acquire spiritual sense somehow, they would immediately find themselves much better than they were before.

Concepts like Combination and Structure could be hard to understand for them, but concepts, like not wasting time in between ingredients or using the proper amount of ingredient for each pill, was something they understood.

Alex continued teaching for half an hour, at the end of which he handed out a bunch of recipes, claiming they were better than the ones that were in the sect.

The sect leader accepted them and would then replicate them for the disciples.

As for the pill to heal one's missing body parts, Alex decided to teach that to only a few select groups of people.

As such, once the lecture ended, he found Lang Shun, Wan Li, Zhou Mei, Zhou Mi, Kong Yuhan and Fan Ruogang, and brought them to a secluded location.

"Can you guys first test your Spiritual roots here?" Alex asked of them all.

"Okay," they said and one by one started testing their Spiritual roots.

Alex watched carefully as he needed to select 2 more people aside from his Martial uncle.

However, to his surprise, his martial uncle didn't have an Earth spiritual root at all.

'That's a problem,' Alex thought and looked at the rest. As he had expected, Wan Li's Earth spiritual root was really vibrant, perhaps even more so than Alex's own.

Zhou Mei and Zhou Mi had weak Earth spiritual roots themselves, while Fan Ruogang had slightly better ones.

Kong Yuhan too had a strong Earth spiritual root. So, in the end, Alex gave the pills to the 3 girls and was done with it.

He explained what the pill was and why he didn't give it to the rest of them. Once that was done, the girls ate the pill and sat down to cultivate.

In the meantime, Alex answered any questions about Alchemy that the other 3 had from today's lecture.

It was obvious that they would be curious about the information Alex gave out, considering every single person aside from Zhou Mi had a spiritual sense of their own thanks to the Spirit Cleansing Lily Alex had given them.

Once the girls were done with their cultivation and had an improved Spiritual root, Alex started teaching them the recipe to make the pill that could heal everything for anyone below the Saint realm.

At first, they assumed the pill was going to have a simple recipe. However, when they realized they had to do something so drastic as keeping a single ingredient in a bucket of blood for over a month, they were surprised, to say the least.

Not only that, but hearing the constraints on the blood itself, they were truly flabbergasted.

"A bucket of blood for a single pill? How do we find that?" Lang Shun asked.

"From beasts or maybe humans. I understand it's hard, but that's exactly the reason I'm not teaching this recipe to everyone," Alex said. "Not everyone can either get the ingredients and even if they did, they would use some underhanded method to get the blood. This is why I chose you guys because I trust you."

Alex spent perhaps half a day more teaching the small group of people everything he knew and everything they could understand, including Symmetry.

Once he was sure he taught them everything he knew, Alex handed over a technique to his Martial Uncle.

"What's this?" Lang Shun asked.

"A pill forming technique I bought in the other empire. It's one of the best out there, so I hope you can make use of it," Alex said.

"Profound Revolutions of Myriad Combinations, huh? Sounds fancy," Lang Shun said.

"It better be," Alex said. "That's an Immortal grade technique after all."

"What?" the group looked at him in shock.

"Yeah, so keep it safe," Alex said. "I don't know how long it will take you to learn it, but pass it along once you are done reading."

Given that they had spiritual sense, they could easily remember whatever they read.

"I have taught you guys all I can, so I will leave for now. Martial Uncle, I will come tomorrow to teach about growing plants and taking care of them. Can you help me gather up anyone that is interested?" he asked. "Oh right, those girls that stay in the garden, those should absolutely be there to learn."

"Okay," Lang Shun replied, but his thoughts were still hung up on the book in his hand.

"Don't worry, we'll make sure to do it," Kong Yuhan said.

"I guess I will leave now then," Alex said. "So remember, tomorrow get the disciples and those girls for the gardening lesson."

"After that..." Alex thought to himself. "After that, I might teach you guys about something you will need to know once you enter the Saint realm."

"What? What do we need to know?" Wan Li asked as he was the closest to the Saint realm.

"It's a little something called Dao."

Chapter 773: Changes

3 days later, Alex and Du Yuhan got on a boat and left for Rubyroad.

Alex was done teaching about plants and Daos, as well as teaching about medicinal pastes for the Tiger sect.

Once he was done overall, he decided to go visit his sister. As she was the only one he had yet to meet, he was a bit too excited about it.

The ship they used flew at such incredible speed that Du Yuhan felt scared about it half the time.

"Should we really be going this fast?" he asked. "Not even the sect's grand ship flies this fast."

"It's fine," Alex said. "Those ships are meant to carry very many people, so they have to be slow in general for stability."

"This one carries 3 people at most so it can go as fast as I can make it go," Alex said.

"Still..." Du Yuhan looked around as the trees blitzed past him.

"Don't worry, we'll be fine," Alex said. "Also, just think about how fast we will reach there. In just a few hours we will be in Rubyroad city," Alex said.

"Yeah... I don't doubt you on that," Du Yuhan said. He was still a little scared about the speed but said nothing as Alex continued to steer it.

Alex felt a little happy that Du Yuhan did come with him as there would be no one else to keep him company while he was here.

Since he was forced to leave his mother alone, Alex let Pearl stay with her as well so that the jaguar would look after her just in case.

"So, this competition you mentioned," Du Yuhan asked, "it's going to have strong fighters right?"

"Yes," Alex said. "It is the biggest competition in the arena in the last 2 decades."

"How strong are these people going to be?" he asked.

"Well, it's for anyone that is below the age of 50, so anyone that counts I suppose," Alex said.

"And what's the general cultivation base of these people that are below 50 years old?" he asked.

"Well... at this time, it should be True Emperor realm," Alex said.

"What about the saint realm? Are there any?" Du Yuhan asked.

Alex shook his head. "No," he said. "There's a certain difficulty in reaching the Saint realm that one cannot do just by breaking through."

"Even if one is at the peak of True Emperor realm, they would need quite a while longer before they are able to enter the Saint realm," Alex said.

"Oh, is there an obstacle?" Du Yuhan asked.

Alex nodded. "To enter the Saint realm, you need to open up your naval area so you can freely access the energy that is stored there."

"Once it is accessed, it becomes the main essence of your cultivation, and that is very hard to achieve from what I've heard."

"So, I think it is unlikely that anyone will enter the Saint realm before this competition," Alex said.

"Oh, so you have a chance then," he said.

"Well, maybe, maybe not. It all depends on how far I can go in the next 9 months. I plan on cultivating with a lot of dedication so I can at least touch the True Emperor realm," Alex said.

"If I can do that, I will finally have a chance."

The two of them talked for a while longer as the sun reached the zenith. Finally, they saw a city far in the distance.

"We're here," Alex said.

Once they got close, the two of them dropped from the ship and walked on foot.

They lined up to enter and soon entered the city itself.

Alex remembered this city. In the city, he had to make pills overnight because there were people dying from the beast attack.

However, nothing of what he remembered remained much around here.

"I don't know if I can even navigate to my sister's house," Alex said. "We might have to ask for directions."

"Don't worry, I know the way. I've been here before remember," Du Yuhan said and took the lead.

Alex's memories returned as he went through the streets. He recognized a clothing shop that used to be a restaurant before. He recognized a blacksmithing place that had now turned into a small general store.

One of the flower shops had turned into a bakery, while the medical shop at the end of the road remained the same.

It felt really weird knowing that 10 years was barely any time for him. All he had done was train a bit, learn a few knowledge, and returned back.

And yet, in that time, so much had changed for the mortals. There was nothing more telling for him about the life he had already left behind.

And he didn't even know it himself.

After a few minutes, Alex stood in front of a familiar white manor. 'If you want something unchanged and untouched over the years, leave it to the cultivators,' he thought.

Alex saw a carriage stop by and a woman got down from it. The moment she did, Alex immediately recognized her.

"Sister Meng!" he called out.

The woman turned around and looked toward Alex before giving him a confused look. "Hello, do I know you?" she asked.

"Eh? Do you not recognize me?" Alex asked with a surprised voice. He couldn't understand how Luo Mei's sister-like maid could have possibly forgotten about him.

"It's me, Yu Ming. Remember?" he said.

However, the woman's face didn't show signs of remembering at all.

Alex felt a little shocked by that. 'Are 10 years really that long?' he wondered. 'Or have I changed that much? No way.'

He remembered giving Meng Yun a Spirit Cleansing Lily before leaving, so as far as he knew, she should have a concrete memory of him. 'Is she sick?' he wondered.

"Do you really not remember me? I'm your young lady's junior disciple brother," Alex said.

That only confused the woman even more so. "My young lady doesn't have a junior disciple brother. She only has an elder disciple brother," she said.

Alex was stunned now. 'What's going on? Was her mind wiped? Did my existence erase from her memories? Did she suffer from a Qi deviation?'

Alex's mind went everywhere when Du Yuhan placed a hand on his shoulder. "I think I get what is going on," he said. "Luo Mei had made an off-hand comment about this once."

"What do you mean?" Alex asked.

Du Yuhan ignored him and looked at the woman in front of him. "You're not Meng Yun, are you?" he asked.

The woman shook her head. "I'm her sister, Meng Fei," the woman said.

Du Yuhan pat Alex as he said, "you were speaking with her twin."

"I... see," Alex was still stunned, only now the reason had changed. "So when I said your young lady, you meant..."

"Lady Luo Xing," she said.

Alex finally realized where the problem lied and laughed a bit. "I'm sorry for the confusion. I'm sister Luo Mei's junior disciple brother. Can you let her know I am here?" he asked.

"Of course," Meng Fei said and quickly walked into the house.

Alex and Du Yuhan waited a bit before a woman in a pretty blue dress walked out of the house.

In the last 10 years, she had grown and matured, but she didn't seem to have aged a bit.

Her black hair that shined with a hint of blue was longer than he ever remembered it, and her blue eyes popped that much more due to it.

Her fair skin remained ever untarnished as she walked out into the sunlight.

When she looked to the front of the house and saw Alex standing there, her eyes visibly moistened.

"Junior brother?" she called out, just to make sure what she was looking at was real.

"Sister!" Alex called back as he was really happy to see her as well.

Luo Mei realized that he really was her junior brother so she immediately ran out and hugged him tightly.

"You're back!" she cried out as tears began flowing down her face.

"Yes, I'm back," Alex said as he hugged her back as well.

Du Yuhan remained behind as he watched the two. "I wish you would someday be that happy to see me too," he said.

Luo Mei's tears vanished when she heard him and immediately let go of Alex. Only then did she realize Du Yuhan was there as well.

"Wh-what are you doing here?" she asked with a trembling voice.

Du Yuhan could only give her a sad smile in response. "Hello, Meimei."

Chapter 774: Indecisive

Shi Nangong walked out of the manor a little after her daughter. She looked to the front to see Alex and couldn't help but be surprised.

"Mei'er, what are you doing keeping your brother at the door? Quickly bring him in," She said.

Luo Mei found the opportunity to skip out of this awkward situation with Du Yuhan, so she followed what her mother said.

"Come on in."

She let the two of them walk into the house.

"It's good to see you, Senior Nangong," Alex greeted her, and so did Du Yuhan.

"It's good to see you two too," she said. "Also, call me Aunt. No need to call me senior."

"Okay, aunt Nangong," Alex said.

"Anyway, I haven't seen you in a decade, how are you doing, young man?" she asked.

"I'm doing fine," Alex said.

"And you? The last time we saw you we had to ask you to leave. How are you doing?" she asked Du Yuhan.

"I... I'm doing alright, I guess," Du Yuhan said.

Alex looked at the two awkwardly. 'Asked to leave? What happened?' he wondered.

"Don't worry, nephew Yu. It was nothing serious. It wasn't that we didn't welcome him, but that our daughter didn't want to meet him so she asked us to ask him to leave on her behalf."

"Were it for us, we would have never asked him to leave," Shi Nangong said.

Luo Mei walked in the front, not daring to show her face when this particular subject was being talked about.

The four of them walked over to the living room where they were made to sit on the magnificent sofa that was there.

Luo Mei and Shi Nangong sat on the other side.

Alex looked around the room and asked, "where's Uncle Keng and Sister Xing?"

"My husband is on a business trip. He should return in 2 to 3 days, so if you stay you might be able to meet him."

"As for Xing'er, I'm afraid she's an elder at her sect and won't be returning for a few good years," Shi Nangong said.

"Junior brother," Luo Mei interjected. "Where were you all this time? Were you really captured by the beasts? What about Pearl? Is he alright?"

Alex laughed a little as he realized he was going to have to tell the story of the last 10 years all over again.

However, since the audience was new, he told everything all over again.

"There's an empire beyond the forest?" Shi Nangong asked with a horrified face.

"Did you not know aunt Nangong?" Alex asked.

"No. How could we?" she asked.

"Did sister not tell you?" he asked.

"I... I didn't even think it was possible for you to go to the other empire," she said. "I mean people did mention it, but how could you have escaped the Saint beasts?"

"So I never even thought of the other empire from that point forth," Luo Mei said.

"Well, at least you are back now. What do you plan on doing? You're an Alchemist, right? You can become an alchemist in the capital," Shi Nangong said.

"I... I don't plan on staying here for much," Alex said. "In just 2 or 3 months, I will be returning."

"Eh? You're going back?" Luo Mei asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "I can take you along if you want."

"I..." Luo Mei glanced at Du Yuhan quickly before returning back to Alex. "I don't think I want to."

Shi Nangong sighed. "Nephew Yu, how are your medical skills? Have they improved?" she asked.

"I would say so, yes," Alex said.

"Oh great! I have had this really bad pain in my back for a few days, can you help me check it?" she said.

"Umm, sure," Alex said.

"Come, come. You can check me in the other room," Shi Nangong said and took Alex away.

As Alex walked away, he saw Luo Mei's eyes flash with panic while Du Yuhan looked thankful.

After going a little further away, Alex asked, "Are you really in need of my help, aunt Nangong?" he asked.

"Hehe, of course not. I just want the two lovebirds to talk it out," she said.

"I thought so," Alex said. "Do you know what's wrong with those two? Brother Yuhan said a bit, but I don't know if you know sister's end of the deal."

"She's just confused right now," Shi Nangong said. "Her heart is in two places and she can't decide what to do."

"In two places? Is she in love with someone else?" Alex asked.

"Not someone, something. Ever since she was young, we talked about how talented she was and how great she would be in the future."

"So, she doesn't know if she wants to focus on cultivation or love," Shi Nangong said.

"Oh," Alex said. "I honestly thought it would be more serious. So it's just that."

"Well, it's supposed to be just that, but this girl is so indecisive that she's let the young man wait for her for nearly 5 years."

"If she doesn't make a choice this time, I'm going to force her to," Shi Nangong said with a surprising amount of annoyance in her voice.

However, Alex couldn't argue against her as he did feel that way too after hearing what was going on.

'If both of them truly love each other, then they should just talk and work it out,' he thought.

"Well, since I already brought you away, want to tell me more about yourself? Do you have someone you love?" Shi Nangong asked.

"No," Alex said. There wasn't a single hesitation in him at all. As far as he understood himself, he didn't even have a crush on anyone.

"Well, you should try and find someone for yourself too. You should be 30 too right. Only a few years before you are considered adult," Shi Nangong said.

"Let's see what life has," Alex said while hiding a chuckle to himself. He didn't want to tell her what she got wrong about him since there was no way of knowing it without him telling her.

'That is true though,' he thought. 'I should be about 30 right now. At least, the other me. I wonder if he is doing fine and if he found someone to marry. 30 is very close to the time to get married.'

A woman walked up to the two of them and Alex recognized her, or so he thought.

"Oh, I heard you were back young lord," the woman bowed to greet him.

"Um... Meng Yun?" he asked. He still wasn't sure if there was a way to distinguish the two twins.

"Yes, it's me," Meng Yun said.

"Oh, hi. How are you doing? How's life?" Alex started making small conversation.

Shi Nangong took the chance to leave and go back to her own work of handling the manor and the business in the absence of her husband.

People came in one by one to ask for stuff, and she needed to be there to handle it.

As Alex and Meng Yun talked, with Meng Yun always calling him 'young lord', Alex heard someone walk towards them.

When Alex turned to see, it was Meng Fei.

"Sister," Meng Fei hurriedly came up to Meng Yun.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

Meng Fei came close to Meng Yun and whispered, "he's back."

"Who is back?" Alex asked.

"I'm sorry. No time to explain," Meng Yun said as her spiritual sense spread out in search for Luo Mei. When she found her, she sent a message directly.

"Is there a problem?" Alex asked.

"Not one you should worry about," Meng Yun said, but Alex wasn't listening. Spiritual sense spread from him like a barrier from an activated formation.

He sensed every entity that was currently in the house, and that included a man that was very audaciously entering the house.

Alex saw the face, but he had never seen him before.

Alex also saw the anger flare in his sister's eyes and knew this wasn't just some guy.

"Who's he?" Alex asked.

"He's Tian Chen, son of the Tians," Meng Yun said. "They are a rival merchant family and have been trying to join hands with the master for a while now."

"One of the ways they are trying is by asking young lady's hand in marriage. Every so often he comes to court young lady, but—"

"Does sister like him?" Alex asked.

"She hates him," Meng Yun said.

"Well, that's all I need to know."

Chapter 776: An Easier Way

Alex carried the unconscious Tian Chen through the street while people looked at him weirdly.

Those that did recognize the young master of the Tian family couldn't help but secretly run off to tell people about what they were seeing.

Alex ignored the people on the path and walked for nearly fifteen minutes before he arrived at a green manor with the word 'Tian' written on the front gate.

When Alex looked closely at the manor, he realized that the green was mostly just vines growing all throughout the walls, giving it an illusion of actually being painted green.

The men and women at the gate immediately ran to Alex to check on their young master.

"Young master, Chen? Are you okay?" they called him but he was out cold. Alex's mental strength was way too strong for him to handle right now so he would continue to remain unconscious for another half an hour unless someone used some treasure.

"What happened to our young master?" the servants asked Alex.

"He went unconscious, so I had to carry him here," Alex said.

"What? How? Why did he go unconscious? Was he poisoned?" the men and women started asking. At the same time, some of them had already left to inform the master of the house.

"No, he was being an idiot, so I made him unconscious," Alex said with a genuine smile on his face.

Meng Yun's eyes flashed with a hint of worry. She was brought all the way here and now he was saying things that were just going to make people attack him.

"You hurt our young master?" the servants asked.

"Yes, now where's your master. I didn't come all the way here to bring this bastard home. I'm here to talk to his father," Alex said as he walked through the gate.

The men tried shouting at him to stop and some even pointed spears and swords at him, but Alex simply put Tian Chen's body in front of him and walked through the weapons.

The servants hurriedly backed away, not wanting to hurt their young master.

"Where's my son?" a loud voice came from inside. A gruff, middle-aged man with the same hawkish face, but with a messy beard walked out of the manor.

"What are you doing to my son?" the man demanded.

"Nothing," Alex said as he walked straight toward the man. "I'm just here to talk to you about what your son is doing, senior. Would you mind speaking with me inside?"

Alex didn't wait for the man to respond as he walked in. Meng Yun didn't understand what was happening, but she too walked into the manor.

Tian Fuzhen was too confused about what was going on to even begin to stop Alex. Only when he realized that a stranger had entered his house did he finally follow.

Alex's spiritual sense went throughout the house looking through everything.

'As expected,' he thought. These people truly were weak. A Merchant house such as this would have True Emperor realm guards at the very least.

A bigger one would have a low-tier Saint realm employed to the job. In the Crimson Empire, the best mid-tier merchant house such as this could afford a low-tier True King at best.

"Who are you? If you don't answer right now, I will kill you," Tian Fuzhen started shouting the moment he saw Alex.

"You can try," Alex said as he dropped Tian Chen to the ground. "Did you know that your son has been going after the Luo family's girl despite her clear refusal?"

Tian Fuzhen immediately went to check on his son and was glad to find he was fine. More and more members of the Tian family were gathering at the spot, and Tian Fuzhen turned around to speak.

"So my son is trying to find himself a woman. What does that have to do with you?" Tian Fuzhen asked.

"Well, she happens to be my senior sister and she definitely does not want to be his woman. So, I'm here to tell you to keep your son in check. Next time they come by they might end up with broken bones, or at worse, dead," Alex said.

Tian Fuzhen's anger was peaking. Meng Yun saw this and didn't know what to do, but Alex's words entered her mind. 'Take a few steps back.'

She immediately did as told and backed a bit giving them some room.

"You bastard!" Tian Fuzhen brought out a spear as he slammed the butt of it onto the marble below him, cracking it into many pieces.

"You dare threaten me in my own house? You are looking to die," Tian Fuzhen said. At the same time, the people from the house surrounded Alex.

"I suggest you don't attack me," Alex said.

"Scared? I'm glad. That will be the last thing you feel before you die," Tian Fuzhen shouted as his spear started glowing red. Fire Qi entered the spear and a fire serpent moved around the spear's blade.

The old man Tian then thrust the spear directly at Alex, with all the power that he could muster with his True King 4th realm cultivation base.

BANG!

The spear struck Alex straight in the chest.

Tian Fuzhen smiled for a second before he noticed no sign of injury on Alex. Yes, his clothes had been pierced but it wasn't soaked in blood yet.

He tried to pull back the spear to see the wound he had caused. However, before he could do so, Alex directly grabbed the blade of the spear.

He didn't just grab the flat side, but everything.

"Sigh," he shook his head. "Brother Shen was right. I tried to make sense with words but sometimes it's far easier to beat someone and make them understand you."

CRACK~

The blade crumbled to pieces under Alex's clutch, he immediately struck Tian Fuzhen in the chest. Tian Fuzhen stumbled back as he clutched his chest in pain.

He barely opened his eyes enough to see that his beloved spear was now fully destroyed. This was a True Earth spear, and somehow it was... Tian Fuzhen started feeling very scared.

"Kill him!" he shouted in his pain and fear.

The men were entranced for a second, but the scream from their master brought them back to reality and they jolted into action.

Alex sighed, but there were too many to simply use Heaven's impact to knock them all out.

He used Heaven's impact on the first person that ran at him with a spear. He stepped aside for the man to drop down and at the same time dodged the second person's sword swing.

At the same time, he punched the 3rd person's incoming spear and caught the 4th person's sword with his other hand.

The sword crumbled in Alex's hand and so did the spear he punched. Alex reached behind the second man's neck as a sword appeared in his hand.

He slashed the sword through the man's neck but it didn't cut him at all. After all, it was a sword created by Alex's imagination.

Even then the man fell unconscious as if being hit by Heaven's impact. The spiritual damage the spiritual sword did as it passed through a person's spine was enormous compared to making the meridians lethargic when it went through limbs.

The sword had no one that could stop it so Alex casually dodged the attacks that were coming after him and danced through the crowd as his fake sword carved its way through the crowd.

Many swords and spears hit him, but the most they could do was cut his clothes.

Tian Fuzhen watched with wide-eyed horror as everywhere Alex moved through, people would fall to the ground as if dead. He saw no weapon in his hand, so he couldn't tell what technique he was using. Whatever it was, it was horrifying.

He looked at his son that was on the floor too and couldn't help but wonder if that was what had happened to him as well. He feared for his son's survival.

Finally, Alex was done with the many people and walked towards Tian Fuzhen.

Before Fuzhen could say anything, Alex used the spiritual sword to cut off all of his limbs so that he couldn't produce much power from his cultivation base.

Then he let go of the sword and crouched down in front of Tian Fuzhen. "So, senior, about our little talk. Please make sure your son doesn't bother my sister ever again. I won't be so kind next time."

Chapter 777: Justice

Alex returned back to the Luo family manor in a good mood.

He was really happy about getting to test how strong the Spiritual sword was on humans now.

'Well they were weak, but it's still a good test,' he thought to himself.

Meng Yun had no idea what to say the whole time she walked behind Alex and didn't plan on saying anything either.

The two of them then arrived back in the manor and walked in.

"Where were you two? We searched around everywhere," Luo Mei asked.

"I went out for a little something," Alex said.

Luo Mei's eyes narrowed. "What did he do?" she asked Meng Yun.

"Young lord threatened the Tian family to not let their son come after you again," Meng Yun said without hesitation.

"What? Did you go to those bastards? Are you okay? They didn't hurt you right?" she asked.

"I'm fine. They can't hurt me," Alex said.

"Still, they have True King realm culti—"

"I know," Alex interrupted her. "They can't hurt me." He smiled at her. "You guys finished talking right? Come on, I have a few things I need to talk to you about."

Luo Mei went along with her junior brother to the other room where they talked about more things. Luo Mei wanted to see how the little cat had grown, but unfortunately, Alex had to leave Pearl back before coming here.

Alex then tested Luo Mei's spiritual roots and was glad to find that she did indeed have some weak Earth roots. So, he handed her the pill to improve it.

That was the final pill he had, and after this, there would be no more unless he found a Corrosive Willow tree or something that had similar energy as the bark.

As the group talked with each other, night fell soon and they all retreated to their quarters.

Alex and Du Yuhan were led to their own guest room where they rested overnight.

The next morning Alex opened his eyes to come knocking on the door. He quickly unlocked the door to see Meng Yun's panicked face in front.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

"Old man Tian is here," she quickly told him. Alex spread his spiritual sense and saw him in the backyard, sitting opposite Luo Mei and Shi Nangong in the garden. Not only that, there was someone else next to them that he didn't think he had seen before this.

"I'll go there," Alex said and hurriedly left. Not long after he was walking out of the door into the garden.

Tian Fuzhen flinched a little when he saw Alex walk out. Due to his reaction, Shi Nangong and Luo Mei also noticed him walk out.

The final man turned his head to look at Alex. This was a younger man, around the same age as his elder disciple brother.

He had a thin line of mustache but no beard. He also had a prominent nose that stuck out beyond the normal amount.

Alex sensed his cultivation base and realized he was at the end of the True King realm.

'A strong one,' he thought. 'A guard?'

He walked up to the group and sat down on one of the empty seats. "I didn't expect to see you so soon, senior," Alex said.

"You think you won't see me after what you did?" the old man Tian sneered at Alex.

Alex ignored him and turned to the young man next to him. "And who is this senior?" Alex asked.

"This is City Lord Fu," Shi Nangong introduced. "City Lord, this is my daughter's disciple brother, Yu Ming."

"So you are the young man that wreaked havoc in the Tian family yesterday?" he asked.

"Not intentionally," Alex said. "He attacked first. I only went there to talk."

"Nonsense. You hurt my son first," Tian Fuzhen shouted out loud.

"Who was being extraordinarily rude to my sister. Is that how you've taught your children to act, senior?" Alex asked.

"Young man, you went to his home and attacked him. You will need to face punishment for this," the city lord said.

"Yes, city lord. Thank you," Tian Fuzhen said. He was still afraid of Alex, but not when the city lord was around. After all, who could offend someone from the royal Fu family?

"City Lord, you can't do this. My brother was not in the wrong. It was Tian Chen that came to our house first and was rude to me and others. Why isn't he being punished here?" Luo Mei asked.

"This is not about him," Tian Fuzhen spoke up. "It's about this bastard coming to our house and—"

Alex's cultivation base suddenly exploded as it fell upon Tian Fuzhen. "Just because I call you senior doesn't mean you get to walk all over me and call me a bastard. Next time you say anything that offends me, see if I don't break your arms."

"You!" Sweat started appearing on Tian Fuzhen's forehead.

"Are you willing to talk now?" Alex asked. "Or do you still want justice?"

"Young man, you—" the city lord was just about to speak up when he suddenly felt something powerful crash upon him.

Alex had let his cultivation base fall upon him too. "I'm not talking with you." Alex didn't even look at the man as he continued staring at Tian Fuzhen.

"Make an oath to the heavens that you will never let your son interact with my sister again."

Tian Fuzhen only glared at him and did nothing as he waited for the city lord to help. However, the City Lord himself was in trouble as he couldn't move or even begin to use the power of his cultivation base despite it being so much better than Alex's.

Seeing Tian Fuzhen not speak up, Alex decided to act to make him speak. He suddenly grabbed his arm by the wrist and brought it up to his eye level.

"Say the oath that you will never let your son come close to my sister," Alex said. "Or else."

Alex didn't need to say any further. Tian Fuzhen remembered the sword from yesterday and knew what would happen if he refused.

He didn't really understand what Alex wanted, but he did it anyway.

"I swear..."

"To the heavens," Alex reminded.

"... to the heavens that I will keep my son from ever approaching you sister," he said.

Alex felt the slight disturbance in the air as Qi moved into the old man Tian.

"Good," Alex let go of the arm. "Now you can go."

Tian Fuzhen looked dumbfoundedly as he felt the subtle tightness in his chest.

"What did you do?" he shouted.

"What do you mean? I did nothing. You were the one that made an oath to the heavens," Alex said. "If you break it, the Heaven will punish you. At that time, you will either go through Qi deviation, be crippled, or worse simply die. How's that for justice?"

Tian Fuzhen remained in his seat completely horrified at what he had been just made to do. He didn't know if what Alex said was true or not, but in his heart, he could tell it was true.

Alex finally lifted his cultivation aura from the city lord and turned. "Do you have something to say?"

Chapter 778: Making Memories

The city lord froze there in fear. He was sure that tucking his tail and walking away was the logical thing to do here, but would someone of the Fu family really do that?

"I'll give you an out," Alex said after seeing the man fall into a dilemma. "As we've been telling you. This man's son has been harassing my sister, coming into the house uninvited, and has been in general very rude."

"This is your chance to do something about this situation." Alex looked at him.

The city lord gave a small self-mocking smile as he said, "you're right. I should get to the root of this problem. Thank you for showing me the way."

He then stood up and apologized to the mother and daughter duo for ruining their morning. "Let's go." He took the dazed Tian Fuzhen and left the house.

Luo Mei looked at Alex with a blank face. "What's your cultivation now?" she asked.

"True King 7th realm," Alex said nonchalantly.

Both Shi Nangong and Luo Mei gaped in surprise. "That high?" she couldn't believe it.

Alex talked to them for a bit, making them understand that their annoying rival wasn't going to cause problems.

He told them about the oaths and how they worked. That was one more thing he could teach to this empire, but he didn't want to as that would probably cause more trouble around here.

Luo Mei couldn't help but feel amazing starting that day. Her love life was fixed, the annoying childhood friend no longer came, and her junior brother who hadn't come home in over 10 years was back.

She couldn't be happier.

That day, she took both of them around the city, showing the various landscapes and scenic places around the city.

She took them to the market where the Luo family's merchant group was situated. She then took them to a small auction that was held in the open market every day.

There was nothing to be found there, but Alex did manage to find some good memories.

They returned back after traveling some more and then came the most important question that Du Yuhan had been meaning to ask after Luo Mei told him to hold off on the marriage.

"Will you come back to the sect with me?" he asked.

"The sect?" Luo Mei hesitated. "But... I left so abruptly. Will they even accept me back?"

"You forget that you are one of the best students of the sect. Not to mention I'm the sect master's disciple. They will have to accept you back," Du Yuhan said.

"Don't worry, sister," Alex told her. "If all else fails, I will just take over the sect and have you join it."

"That..." Du Yuhan didn't know how to respond to that. That was an open threat to the sect and the elders.

Alex chuckled a bit. "I'm joking. Geez, you guys think I'm some blood-thirsty demon now?"

"Sigh, I think it's time to go rest," Du Yuhan said.

"You guys go. I don't think I want to rest tonight," Alex said.

"What will you be doing?" she asked.

"Oh, you know. Ingredients gathering and such," Alex explained. "I doubt anyone has really disturbed this side of the forest, so I might find some rare plants."

"Who knows, I might even find a Spirit Cleansing lily," Alex said. "See you tomorrow."

Alex left the manor. He really did plan to go to the forest, but first, he decided to take a detour and see how things were going.

He turned invisible and flew directly over to the Tian family. Once there, his spiritual sense spread in all directions as he looked to see how the people there were acting.

Tian Fuzhen seemed to be in an incredibly bad mood, while Tian Chen was practically grounded for a while. It seemed the city lord had in fact done his job.

Alex still waited for a bit. The oath he had made Tian Fuzhen had no clause about not attacking the Luo, so Alex waited to see if they planned something like that.

Fortunately, the old man wasn't that stupid and was trying to forget his embarrassment with alcohol.

"Well, that's that then."

Alex flew over to the forest after that and spent the entire night searching for ingredients.

Since he directly went over to the area where the True realm beasts roamed, the ingredient he found were also ones that had been growing for a while, so he had a really good chance of finding rare ingredients.

To his surprise, Alex did find 3 extra Spirit Cleansing Lily in the entire night he was there.

One of those had to be for his mother, he thought. The other two, he decided not to give anyone else one as they would already have it.

'I'll keep it for the future,' Alex thought.

He found some more True rank ingredients, but he didn't find a single Saint rank ingredient.

That was to be expected. There was barely any Saint Qi on this side of the forest.

There weren't even any Saint spirit veins in this empire except for maybe one or two here and there. Those spirit veins were mostly occupied by big sects and families.

The Fu family definitely had that as no Saint rank cultivator could progress without it. As for the others, Alex wasn't sure.

All he was sure that there was no Saint rank Spirit vein in a massive radius around this place, and that meant the inexistence of anything Saint rank.

Alex returned back around 8 am in the morning and talked about his haul from the forest. They were surprised how many ingredients he got from the forest, but they weren't alchemists, so they didn't know if that was a big amount or not for a single trip.

Later that day, Luo Keng returned home to find his benefactor back.

"Nephew Yu? You're back?" the man was surprised. He wasn't told anything about any of this during his trip so it was understandable.

However, what shocked him, even more, was what his wife told him about what had happened in his absence.

"That bastard Tian dares?" Luo Keng got angry.

"It's already settled. Your nephew took care of it," Shi Nangong told her husband while trying to get him to not get worked up for nothing.

"Still, I'm surprised how strong nephew Yu has come to be. He's stronger than me right?" Luo Keng asked.

"Of course he is. He spent 10 years in a foreign empire. How could he not come back strong?" Luo Mei said.

"Yes, yes, you're proud of your junior brother, we get it," Luo Keng said, and made Luo Mei sit back down.

The group talked for a bit before Luo Keng took Du Yuhan away to talk on his own.

"You told them about leaving?" Alex asked.

"Yes, I told mother yesterday and she's okay with it. Hell, she's happy I'm not staying around doing nothing," she said.

"Great, when do you plan on leaving then?" Alex asked.

"Whenever you want," she said.

Alex looked back at Shi Nangong sipping tea alone and said, "let's stay for 2 more days then. We can leave after that."

Chapter 779: Passage of Time

After staying there for 2 more days, Alex and Du Yuhan returned back to the Tiger sect. Only this time, they also had Luo Mei with them.

The moment they landed in the Scarlet city, they immediately went to the sect to give master the good news.

"Mei'er, you're back?" Wen Cheng was surprised.

"Yes, master. And I won't be leaving for a long while," she said. The master-disciple reunion lasted for a little while.

Luo Mei then met up with Liu Xun and there was a warm welcome for her from her elder disciple brother as well.

After that, he got her paperwork and some other things done. Finally, after all that, Alex took her to meet his mother.

"Aunt Lin, it's good to finally meet you." Luo Mei showed proper respect as she bowed towards Helen.

"Oh hello. Wow, you're pretty. So you are his senior sister, huh? I've been wanting to meet you ever since I heard about you. Come tell me more about yourself." Helen instantly took a liking to Luo Mei and started a conversation with her.

Luo Mei mentioned her surprise at the fact that Alex even had a family, but when she really thought about it all and remembered about the players, it did start to make sense.

Luo Mei had never seen Alex as a player, but at some point, she too had come to accept it for the truth. It didn't make any impact on who he was now that most of the players had properly integrated into the society, but it did give a window to his past and why he was the way he was.

"Hello!" Pearl jumped up at the familiar face too.

"Oh... wow," Luo Mei's surprise was muddled with confusion. "How has he not grown in the last 10 years?" she looked to Alex.

"He has." Ale turned towards Pearl. "Pearl, show her the big you," he said.

"Okay!" Pearl instantly changed his size and grew bigger in size until he was large enough to be the size of a normal True beast.

"What the!" Luo Mei stumbled back a bit in surprise. Helen simply chuckled as she remembered being this surprised as well when Pearl had first transformed for her.

"Small Pearl is much better," she told him as she rubbed his back. So, Pearl once again changed his size to that of a kitten again.

Alex left the girls to talk and went over to the Hong Wu sect to meet up with his Martial uncle again.

He also met up with his other friends and checked what they were doing. They were all practicing alchemy just the way he had taught them so their progress was fairly visible.

Just using his recipes, they were able to consistently get heaven grade pills. If they improved on their techniques, soon they would get higher numbers until they too could make Immortal rank.

It took the first person in that group exactly 20 days to make the first Immortal grade pill.

By the end of the first month, they had all successfully made Immortal grade pills shocking everyone to their core. Making Heaven grade pills alone was considered super difficult for them, and here they were making Immortal rank pill so very easily.

They were now realizing just how much knowledge they were missing regarding alchemy. If they improved it further and could teach it to everyone in the sect, they would certainly be the best alchemy sect in the entire empire.

Around the same time, Qin Shan arrived in the Scarlet city and found his disciple. After a month of being in the sect, Helen was starting to get bored as well, so Qin Shan took her, and Pearl with him to roam the rest of the empire.

Alex diligently cultivated during this time and also helped train some of his friend. He would fight them whenever they wanted so he could help them hone their skills.

Days passed slowly and with Alex being done with teaching them everything he wanted, it was slowly approaching his time to return.

So, after 2 more months, Alex was ready to leave.

Things got emotional again as everyone gathered to say their goodbyes. Wen Cheng, Luo Mei, Liu Xun, Du Yuhan, Wan Li, Zhou Mei, Fan Ruogang, Lang Shun, Kong Yuhan, Zhou Mi, and finally, Qiu Ju, the current sect master of the Tiger sect gave them a farewell.

Alex held back his tears as he waved his hands and promised to come back soon. He promised to be back once a year at least.

Qin Shan brought out his boat and everyone boarded as they got ready to leave.

"Goodbye everyone," Alex said one last time and zoomed off into the distance.

"Are you okay?" Helen asked.

"Yes, I'm fine." Alex smiled at her.

Helen rubbed his head. "You'll be fine."

Within a few hours, around the middle of the day, the group reached back to the teleportation formation and saw a few people already there.

Fu Wen had arrived to the capital a week or so earlier with his wife and was now waiting to go with them to the other empire.

"Are you guys ready?" Alex asked the city lord and his wife.

"Yes, we've already said our goodbyes," Fu Wen said. Mo An held her little child in her hand.

"If you are ready, then we can leave soon." Alex then turned to look at the figure that was standing a little far away from the formation platform.

Alex went and greeted the Emperor.

"So you weren't here forever, huh?" he asked.

"No, your majesty. I was always going to return," Alex said.

"The other side must be quite amazing then if you are willing to leave behind your friends and families to go back," the Emperor said.

"It's not better exactly, more so challenging," Alex told him. "It helps one reach their potential much better. Although yeah, the Qi there is better too and much easier to cultivate in."

"I see. I hope I will get to go there sometime too. However, its hard when you're an emperor."

Alex nodded. "I'm sure you'll find a way, your majesty," Alex said. He gave a bow to dismiss himself and walked back on the platform.

"Senior, please activate it," Alex requested the jaguar.

The jaguar brought out a medallion from his storage armband and activated the formation. A while glow enveloped them all and in the next second, they vanished.

When the group reappeared, they found themselves in the glowing cavern.

"Where are we?" Fu Wen asked with a look of surprise on his face. "Are those..."

"Spirit Veins," Alex said. "We should keep going."

Alex felt the stark difference in Qi between the forest in the Crimson empire and inside the Beast realm.

'Its just too vast,' he thought. He couldn't help but plan on something spontaneous.

"Mother," he spoke up.

"Yes?" Helen turned around as she was about to walk away.

"I think you guys should leave on your own," Alex said.

"What do you mean on our own?" Qin Shan asked from the side.

Alex looked around and felt the grandness of where he was. "I want to stay behind and cultivate here."

Chapter 780: Training

Alex made Qin Shan take Fu Wen and his wife and child back to the DawnSpring city, from where they would take the teleportation formation to wherever the Fu family was.

After that, they would be on their own to find their parents. Alex wouldn't be responsible for them afterward, but he still hoped they made it there safe and sound. After all, they had a very young child with them.

Alex trained for a while that day and returned back to his room. 'Not yet,' he thought. It would still be a few weeks until he was ready for a breakthrough.

Still, Alex diligently cultivated, along with Pearl by his side. Alex was particularly hopeful that Pearl's breakthrough would come at any moment too.

When he did, Pearl too would enter the True Emperor realm.

As they were cultivating, someone knocked on the door.

Alex sent out his spiritual sense outside without opening his eyes and saw someone standing there. A smile rose on his face as he tapped on Pearl.

"Get up, we have a visitor."

Pearl opened his weary eyes and looked around. "Who's here?" he asked.

"Why don't you open the door?" Alex gestured him forward.

Pearl went up to the door without question and pulled on the handle.

"Sister!" Pearl's eyes went wide and his smile large when he saw the one that stood on the other side of the door.

"Pearl! I missed you." A female black jaguar said with a happy smile on her face.

"Sister Yao, I'm glad to meet you again," Alex said.

"Oh human child, you really are back? You are not still angry are you?" Yao Jia asked.

"Oh no, of course not," Alex said. "Well, maybe a little with the other senior, but not with the rest."

"With uncle Cheng? Well, you don't have to worry about him. He's gone into closed cultivation after learning you are here. He was scolded quite badly after his— what am I saying?" Yao Jia stopped abruptly. "Nevermind. Anyway, how have you been? You wanna go visit the garden?"

"Sure," Alex said and walked out with her.

Alex went out to the garden and sat around for a while. Immediately, a few of the beasts recognized him and walked over as they started roaring.

"Wha-what's going on?" Alex asked.

"Oh, they want pills. They remember you making pills and they're asking if you have some," Yao Jia said.

"Yeah, he says his father's knees are injured and would love for some pills," Pearl said. "That one says he had headaches all the time. That one said he can't breakthrough properly."

"Do they?" Alex sighed. "Fine, I will work on their pill as long as they can get me something precious."

"Should I tell them that?" Yao Jia asked, to which Alex gave a weird face. "Right, I should tell them that."

After the beasts went away, Alex and Yao Jia talked for a while. As they did, Alex brought up the question he had been meaning to ask for a while now.

"Hey, you once mentioned that you learned the human language right?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Yao Jia said.

"But it was the Demon's language, was it not?"

Yao Jia shook her head. "Demon, human, same thing. You can't even tell the difference most of the time," she said.

"Yes, what I was meaning to ask you is you said you had a way to learn the Human language too right?" Alex asked.

"Oh yeah, I was planning to do that, wasn't I?" Yao Jia thought to herself. "Hmm... There should be some books in the library. Why, do you want to read it?"

"Yes," Alex said.

"Alright, I will ask my father and get it to you if he agrees. What do you want to do in the meantime?" she asked.

Alex thought for a bit. "Do you think your father will agree to fight with me for training?"

And so began Alex's 2 month-long training session. Every morning, he would wake up from his cultivation session with Pearl.

Then he would go to train with the Jaguar in the morning. He would fight against the Saint-ranked beast with nothing held back and truly get the most out of his training.

Then, he would spend 3 or so hours in the afternoon focused on his Alchemy session to make pills for the beast.

Then, he would spend another 3 or so hours in self-training, where he practiced his techniques and helped Pearl practice with him.

After that, he would once more have a short training with the jaguar and then go back to cultivating.

He was a little sad to hear that he couldn't read the Human language just yet, but there was a good reason for it.

Apparently, all the books in the library were written in the beast language, another language Alex just came to learn about.

It wasn't a well-known language, so Alex didn't have to bother reading it at all. Besides, only the beasts could speak it anyway.

However, because it was another language that Alex didn't understand, Yao Jia had to now work day and night and create a new book from scratch that translated the Demon language to the Human language.

Since she didn't know the human language, she also had to learn it in the process to do so.

Because of that, Alex wasn't going to get the book for a long while.

Time passed soon and it approached the end of the 2nd month. Alex passed along the pills in return for alchemy materials or spirit stones that the beasts brought.

He was working at a loss certainly, but most of the common pills would be useless to him, so he was using the opportunity to clear them away from his storage.

Late that night, he trained with the Jaguar for a while until it came to an end.

Alex huffed as he sat down to the side while clearing his sweat from his forehead.

"You're getting better, much better," the Jaguar said.

"Thank you," Alex replied.

"If we were to fight on skill alone, you would have me beat a long time ago. Now, you just need to gain the cultivation," the jaguar said.

"I'm working towards it." Alex took a deep breath. "I'm already at True King 8th realm and will soon enter True King 9th realm. So, I will get there eventually."

"Still, I didn't expect you to fall behind the young lord considering you were ahead of him in cultivation by a long while," the Jaguar said.

"Well, Alchemy took most of my time, and that nearly year-long outing on the ice." Alex shook his head. "Pearl got ahead of me, and to be honest I'm quite happy for him."

"I'm happy too," the jaguar said. "I didn't think the young lord would become a True Emperor this early."

"Wouldn't he have been faster if he had gone through the ritual?" Alex asked.

"Not necessarily. Well, at least I didn't think so. But now that I know the young lord's potential, I can't say I will be surprised anymore."

"His potential?" Alex asked. "It's not the same as before?"

"It is, but I just didn't know it at the time," the jaguar said.

"What's different? Doesn't he still have the potential to become a White Tiger?" Alex asked.

"No, it's no longer just a potential. It's a given he will become a White Tiger someday. The Ritual will help accelerate it, but he will do it even without the ritual. Only that would take a lot of time," the jaguar said.

"I'm fine with it taking time," Alex said from the side. "Right, is Lady Ren ever gonna come out from her closed cultivation?"

The jaguar hesitated for a bit. "I'm afraid you won't see her for a while," the jaguar said.

'Shit, just how wounded was she from the Heavenly Judgment?' Alex wondered.

Yao Jia arrived next to them. "You guys are still training? Isn't it time to stop it?"

"We've already stopped, honey," the jaguar said. "anyway, you should go back to your room." The jaguar turned around and left.

"Right, I should," Alex said and stood up from the fighting area as well.

He looked back at the two jaguars that walked away and wondered why they were so human-like, so intelligent.

"Well, that's a question for another time, I suppose."