

## Alchemy 791

Chapter 791: Top 512

Alex went up to a seating area that was reserved for the 500 or so fighters that would be winning today.

He arrived and was immediately called up to sit near the seeded folks by Liang Qiu and the others.

"You did good," Liang Qiu said.

"Got an easy first match, that's all," Alex said. At the same time, his eyes fell on the purple-robed figure that he remembered seeing from time to time in the garden of the royal family.

"Your highness," Alex greeted him.

"Sir alchemist, I haven't seen you in a while," the man said. This was one of the princes of the empire, a cousin to the princess.

From what Alex remembered, this man was called Wei Taiwu. Alex sensed his cultivation base and was happy to find that he was only in the 7th True Emperor realm.

At the same time, Alex's eyes fell on 4 different people that he hadn't seen before. However, given that most of the elites were around them and were speaking to them, he could figure out who they were.

If not for that, their cultivation base alone would've given him the answer. After all, they were up in the upper True Emperor realm.

'The remaining 4 seeds, huh?' Alex thought when he saw them.

2 of them were girls while the other 2 were boys. Liang Qiu told him their names, and apparently one of the boys was quite famous for attacking a mid-grade sect on his own to take revenge for his father's death, but Alex had never heard of him so he didn't care.

Most of them simply focused on the matches that were happening 16 at a time, and so did Alex.

The competition ended a few hours later and Alex stood up to leave. However, Liang Qiu stopped him.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"Back to my hotel, why?" Alex looked at her curiously.

"Do you not know that we will be staying here in the arena?" Liang Qiu's face was one crack away from full-on laughter. In fact, her eyes were already laughing.

"We stay in the arena?" Alex was surprised.

"Yeah, they will let us know very soon."

Just as they had talked, a staff member came and explained the situation to the 512 participants that were there.

To make sure that the participants got the best treatment and facility during the tournament and to make sure that none of them got in any harm, whether that be accidental or intentional by other parties trying to keep them off the tournament, they were made to stay in the arena under the supervision of the staff.

Given that the staff consisted of elders and Saints from all the different families, sects, and some even from the military, it was hard to cause problems for the participants.

"Why now? Why not from the start?" Alex asked Liang Qiu.

"Well, for one there wasn't any need to be concerned about the participants, especially from being attacked by someone else given that no one really knew who they were fighting in the first round," Liang Qiu said.

Alex nodded. That made sense.

"However, now they know, huh?" he asked.

"Yes. Since we know who we are fighting, there is a chance of misconduct, so they are trying to avoid that," she said. "Aside from that, I think the more important reason is that there just isn't that much space in the arena."

"For all the different competitions this place has seen, it has always been 512 contestants at the start. However, with what happened just before the last tournament, no one wanted to hold a tournament anymore and we had to cancel."

"That was why they decided to make it big and start with 1024 people. Which also meant, they didn't have a place to keep those people," Liang Qiu said.

"And now they do," Alex finished her sentence. "I should let my mother know."

"I don't think there's any need for that. Most already know about it. Those that don't will find out soon."

Alex looked around the place and saw a disciple from the Flowing Brush sect. 'Sect master Qin should let her know even if she doesn't,' Alex thought. 'I might've learned if I didn't leave a week earlier.'

Alex shook his head and started following the staff as they handed a key to every person that walked through it.

Alex went to his room and sat down. He looked around the small 5 by 5 meters room that was mostly empty. However, he could feel the rich Qi environment that he was in and understood that there was a formation either in the room or over the whole building.

There was a talisman on the bed and he quickly read what was written on it.

The facility the staff had mentioned included a private or joint training area, as well as places where you could buy pills to improve your cultivation or heal yourself if you got injured.

Alex thought he didn't need that, but then he remembered he no longer had his items with him, so maybe he would need to use them.

Anyway, today wasn't the day.

Pearl came out and sat by him as they started cultivating.

Soon, time went by and the next day was here.

The staff members went around waking everyone up and took them to the watching area in the arena from where they would be viewing the matches today.

Alex was a bit surprised to learn that only Group 1 and 2 would be fighting on this day.

"Eh? It's a single match the whole way through?" Alex asked.

"That's what it is," Hand Daiyu explained.

"Who is in Groups 1 and 2?" Alex asked.

"Umm... I think it's sister Lu Yan and that Feng Xueshin girl," Liang Qiu said.

Alex nodded and watched as the first two fighters went onto the stage.

A swordsman vs a puppet master. The fight was surprisingly quick as the puppet master was nearly 3 realms higher than the swordsman.

With his strong puppets, the puppet master had no problem winning the fight at all.

The next two fighters went up and then the next two.

Alex watched the fighters with interest for a while but soon realized that there wasn't much point to learning how these people fought.

His group was so far away from these that it simply made no sense to care about these people.

At some point, he only watched for the sake of watching.

Lu Yan went up to fight at some point, and while her opponent tried to fight, there was simply no way for them to win.

Group 1's battles were over and the tournament went on a small break.

Alex went to meet his mother during this time and took back his storage bags and ring from her.

Once he returned, the 2nd half of the day's tournament began with another 16 different fights before the day concluded.

The original 512 people were now down 32 people, and the same would happen tomorrow and the day after that until all 16 groups will have 16 people each remaining.

Alex returned back to his room. Now all he could do was wait for his turn to come again.

Chapter 793: Fighting A Puppet Master

All 16 different groups were done fighting, yet the tournament didn't stop.

Once all 256 competitors had passed through the top 512, it was back to the start with the Top 256. Only this time, it would be 4 groups in a single day instead of just 2.

Alex arrived at the arena to sit and watch the day's matches. With 4 groups a day, his match would be on the 3rd day, so he didn't need to be anxious about anything, but today he did.

It wasn't just him, however. All 256 different young men and women that say here today were both nervous and excited, for today was the day the Emperor, as well as the heads of all the different families and sects, would come to watch the competition.

The past 2 rounds were child's play. They were simply there to filter out the weed, so the true elites of the empire didn't need to be there. However, almost every single one of the top 256 were True Emperor realm cultivators now.

So, every fight fought henceforth would be worth watching.

Alex looked towards the massive pillar where the Emperor, the patriarchs, and matriarchs, as well as different sect leaders, would stay and watch the matches.

Each one of these people would be looking at him when he fought. There was hardly anything he could do to stop them from finding out his secrets.

'Whatever, I've kept it hidden long enough,' Alex thought.

The matches soon started and everyone watched intently. After all, no one wanted to miss the fight between two True Emperor realm cultivators.

Alex watched the fight between an Earth and Metal elemental cultivator against a Spearman from one of the lesser-known sects.

'He knows Spear intent,' Alex thought. Alex remembered this person fighting before, but he hadn't shown spear intent at that time.

Which meant that he had decided to start revealing part of his abilities to everyone.

The Spearman's cultivation base was 1 realm higher than his opponent, so he managed to win against him. However, it wasn't an easy fight.

After all, the Earth and Metal elements were one of the Empowering combinations of spiritual roots, so the cultivator had much more powerful Earth attacks in general as compared to other people.

Once the fight was done, a few staff members got up to the stage to check the state of the ground where the fights happened and fixed it if there was any problem.

After that, the next match started.

The day held a total of 32 matches in which everyone that passed was a True Emperor realm. The few True Kings that had made it up to this point were slowly weeded out.

The same happened the next day when 32 more people made their way through to the Top 128, where they could be considered the elites of the younger generation.

And the same would happen on the third day as well.

Alex walked onto the late in the day. His match took place late afternoon as he was one of the final 4 matches of the day.

Alex stood in front of his opponent, a woman he knew fought with puppets.

Until now, she had only brought out a single puppet to win her fights, but there might be more this time around.

Alex didn't waste his time either. Everyone had already seen him, so he brought out Pearl early on.

Pearl came out in his giant form where he was the size of a massive tiger. That was, the cute Pearl could end up looking threatening.

The woman also brought out her puppet, but only one of it. It was a True Emperor 3rd realm puppet, but there was only one.

'She's underestimating me and Pearl,' Alex thought. The girl herself was in the True Emperor 2nd realm, so she must've imagined that this would be an easy match.

After all, this was the round where the True Kings were weeded out.

Alex looked at the humanoid puppet and saw the swords embedded in its arm. He brought out his own sword.

Since poison was simply not allowed in the battle, he wouldn't risk using the poison sword. Aside from that, his best sword, the one he couldn't use would be useless for the most part if he wanted to use ranged attacks.

After all, he could only use Sword Qi to throw out attacks with this, and this was way too soon for that.

Therefore, Alex was forced to bring out a new sword. It was a simple-looking sword, not unlike the poison sword, but he had only refined it for a few days now.

Hopefully, it wouldn't cause him much problem.

The referee for his match this time around was a Saint realm from the Broken Ravine sect.

As Alex and Pearl got ready, so did the girl. When the referee saw that, he started the fight.

Alex sent Pearl to fight the puppet. With his strong body and cultivation base, a True Emperor 3rd realm puppet would be just about the amount of strength Pearl could produce.



However, Pearl was a living, breathing being with his own thoughts and knowledge.

The puppet lacked that completely. Which meant the girl would have to constantly focus on it for the most part.

If he could distract the girl, Pearl would easily win against it.

So, he did. He didn't know what the girl's own powers were, but he knew he had to keep her occupied so she couldn't focus on the puppet at all.

Alex dashed at her, surprising the girl. She knew what cultivators did to fight against puppet masters, but she hadn't expected Alex to run at her, given their cultivation base difference.

She immediately brought out a formation plate and threw it on the ground in front of her.

Before Alex could reach her, a barrier sprung forth from the formation plate as it solidified right in front of Alex.

Alex hit the barrier with a bang and was stopped. He got back up and hit the barrier a few times, but it was going to take more than that to get rid of this barrier.

He quickly turned around and saw Pearl's glowing paw hit the puppet, but that did nothing.

Since the girl was inaccessible at the moment, Alex decided to go fight the puppet instead.

Alex ran up to the puppet, and even as he did, a sword came swinging in his direction.

Alex swung his own sword from down to top as he parried away the attack. However, at the same time, the puppet's upper body spun with no relation to its lower body and the 2nd sword came at him as well.

Pearl attacked it at the same time and the puppet stumbled backward.

Alex realized that the puppet had free upper movement, so he needed to be careful. While he thought that, he thought of what else he could do at the moment.

The girl could see every single move of his clearly and counter it while remaining inside the barrier. He needed to counter that somehow.

Alex knew the exact way to do so.

Pearl dodged one of the sword attacks, while Alex blocked the same one to get thrown away from the puppet.

When he landed, he was right in between the girl and the puppet.

Alex turned around towards the girl and smiled. That smile would be the last thing the girl would see for a while.

A blinding light originated from right behind Alex as a miniature sun the size of a watermelon appeared on stage.

Alex kept the heat of the sun to a minimum, but the light it produced was unimaginable.

"Argh!" the girl cried out as she was forced to close her eyes. The sun was too strong for her to look at what was going on.

Even most of the audience didn't see what was happening from the brightness.

Fortunately, unlike the girl, they could simply put their hands in front of their face to block off the small sun from their vision.

This maneuver wouldn't have worked if the girl had spiritual sense, but it was pretty apparent she didn't. If she did, she would be controlling a far stronger puppet.

Alex went back to the puppet that was now on default fighting mode and fought it until Pearl was able to beat it.

Once the puppet was defeated, Alex turned off the sun and turned around to look at the girl.

The girl looked at them in shock and brought out another puppet of a slightly lesser strength this time around.

However, to get it to fight, she needed to get rid of the barrier, and that was all Alex needed her to do.

Because after she did that, it was an easy victory for him and Pearl.

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The Emperor sat quietly in his room in the tower as he watched the battle that just concluded below.

He saw Alex and Pearl fight their way through an opponent that for all intents and purposes should have won, but she didn't.

"I didn't know he was this strong. I would have tried to have him join the Royal disciples if I did," the princess said from the side. "I can't believe he can fight against True Emperor realm puppets and react in time against them. He didn't seem like a fighter to me."

The princess spoke, but the Emperor didn't listen to a single word of hers since things were finally starting to make sense to him.

"It's all coming together," he said. "Now I know why he took him under him."

Chapter 794: Top 128 Begins

Alex sat down on his seat in the participant viewing area while the next two fighters made their way down to the stage.

However, Alex didn't watch them at all. Instead, his eyes shifted to the figure that walked up to him and sat beside him.

"You really did make it to the top 128 huh? I'm proud of you, brother Yu," He Liwei spoke up. "That's not bad at all for someone like you. You should be the only True King in the Top 128 at this rate."

"I plan on going further, of course," Alex said as he turned towards the man.

"Oh, and how will you be doing that if I may ask?" He Liwei asked. "You know I'm not going to make way for you just because we're both from the other world. I will fight you to defeat you."

"I know," Alex said as he stared at the man directly. "I will fight you too, and I will defeat you."

He Liwei suddenly started laughing out loud, catching the attention of a few of the others that were sitting around him.

"You shouldn't overestimate yourself, brother Yu. Just because you beat a puppeteer by overwhelming her with your beast doesn't mean you can do the same to me you know," He Liwei said.

"We'll see." Alex turned around to check the fight that was starting on stage and ignored He Liwei for the most part.

The day soon ended and everyone returned back to their rooms to cultivate. Most didn't waste time with the facilities that were provided but some were still too confident to worry about that.

The next day marked the end of Top 256 and the crowd now knew the top 128 best members of the young generation.

Surprisingly, that included a person in the True King realm. However, since they had seen a True Emperor beast with him, they dismissed him as a True Emperor as well.

That meant, that not a single person that didn't have a True Emperor cultivation base to aid them had not passed the third round of the competition.

The Top 128 started the next day with the first 64 people fighting on the very first day.

Guo Chiang and Song Shing were their group's two most prominent fighters that easily won each battle with a single attack.

Half of those times, their opponents had to be saved by the referees. The battle concluded with 32 people passing on to the next round.

Alex watched those fights with not much interest as he knew who would make it out from there. The seeded fighters were way too strong.

Still, there was a chance someone would win against them so he still watched it.

The group all returned back to their rooms and half of them prepared for their next battle.

Alex sat in his room cultivating when he suddenly heard a knock on the door.

He opened his eyes, his body full of cuts due to Pearl cultivating next to him. He asked Pearl to stop and get back into his body for the moment.

After he was gone, Alex opened the door.

"Sister Liang, what are you doing here?" he looked at Liang Qiu with a confused expression as she stood outside his door.

Liang Qiu spread her spiritual sense around to see if anyone was watching and asked, "can I come in?"

"Um..." Alex looked around. "Sure, come in."

Liang Qiu walked into his room and went straight to sit on his bed. Then, she looked back at him standing by the door and asked, "You're not giving up tomorrow's match, are you?"

"Of course not," Alex said.

Liang Qiu sighed. "I thought so. But you have no way of winning, do you?" she asked.

"I will try my best," Alex said.

"I don't think you would be this confident for no reason, so I can only assume you have a plan. Will you be using your Sword Intent tomorrow? Or maybe even your Sword Qi?" she asked.

Alex's eyes narrowed. "Why do you say so?" he asked.

"I remembered seeing you fight all those years ago in the poison valley, and I saw you fight the puppets a few days ago. None of your attacks had the slightest hint of intent to it," She said.

"So?" Alex asked.

"It is impossible for anyone with such a grasp of the sword to not have any intent to it. Most of the fighters that watched you have already realized that you are hiding your sword intent," she said.

"Is that so?" Alex asked with an awkward smile on his face. "Did me hiding my sword intent backfire on me?"

"Yes, but not necessarily. Sword Intent can only take you so far in the True Realm. It's not very helpful," she said.

"I see," Alex said. "So... why exactly are you here?"

"Do you know anything about He Liwei?" she asked.

Alex thought for a moment. Aside from the few techniques he saw him use in the 3 fights before this, there wasn't much information on him.

"Not really," he said.

"And I don't suppose anyone is passing in information for you from the outside?" she asked.

Alex shook his head. "Sect master Qin might've done it, but I don't think he's allowed to come to visit me given that I put my affiliation as nothing. It would have been helpful if some of the sect's disciples passed, but they've already failed," he said.

"I thought so," Liang Qiu said. "Since you were so adamant about fighting He Liwei, I thought you would need some information on his to make whatever plans to win against him."

"That would in fact be helpful," Alex said.

"Good. The first and most important fact about He Liwei is that while his cultivation base is at True Emperor 6th realm, his real fighting power should be around the 7th realm," Liang Qiu said.

Alex's eyes widened. "He can skip levels like me?" he asked.

"Exactly," Liang Qiu said. "You surprised me there, but I guess there wasn't much to be surprised by."

"What else?" Alex asked. "What's his weapon of choice? I haven't seen him use anything."

"He uses swords and sabers, but I wouldn't call him a weapons master necessarily. He only uses them to send out his powerful attacks that come from his strong spiritual roots. That brings me to another crucial information."

"While it is only speculations based on what we've observed, He Liwei seems to have 3 Superior spiritual roots. Mainly Earth, Wood, and Fire," she said.

'Earth, Wood, and Fire,' Alex thought to himself. Fortunately, there was only one Empowering combination of Spiritual roots in him. Had it been Metal, Wood, and Fire, Alex would've been in some trouble.

"Anything else I should know?" Alex asked.

Liang Qiu shook her head. "That's the most information I have to give you. Since he's not one of the people I will be fighting, my master hasn't provided me with much information," she said.

"I see. Still, this is very much valuable. Knowing how strong he can get will help me remain vigilant and not underestimate him in the battle tomorrow. Thank you, sister Liang," Alex bowed.

Liang Qiu nodded. "Good luck," she said and left the room, leaving Alex to prepare for his fight tomorrow.

Chapter 795: Here Goes Nothing

The crowd celebrated as they watched the fight between Jin Tengfei and a random beast master.

Jin Teifeng was a master with the sword. The way he slashed in between the beasts and attacked their master left the crowd breathless.

Alex watched the fight while constantly monitoring the time. The 3rd match after this one would be his, and he was starting to get worried that the sun would reach its zenith at that point.

The fight ended not long after and the next set of fighters went up to the stage while Alex waited for his turn to come.



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The different family heads and sect leaders were all gathered in a single massive room to watch the competition from the tower that was raised on the northern side of the arena.

"Tengfei is doing quite well, isn't he?" a bloody white-robed old woman asked the yellow-robed old man that was sitting not far away from him.

"He's doing the best he can for his cultivation base," the old man said. "His cousin would've done much better, but alas." The old man shook his head while turning to look at another old man.

The old man in the crimson red robe frowned when he saw the yellow-robed man turned towards him. "Stop looking at me. You all agreed to send your disciples into that realm on your own. Now that they're dead, all you can do is blame me," the Fu old man shouted.

"It's hard not to blame you, brother Fu," Han Huaxian, the family head of the Han family spoke up. "2 times the realm opened, and 2 times people went in. However, in both of those times the only ones that survived have been from your family. It's hard not to see the conspiracy that could exist in all of this."

"Hmph! Its not just my family that survived. Oi, old woman. Tell them that your granddaughter survived too," the Fu old man spoke to an old woman wearing green robes.

"Don't look at me. For all I know, your grandson could've been star-stritten for my granddaughter and decided to save her," the old woman said.

"Urgh!" the old man started getting frustrated and everyone found fun in that.

They all knew that the beast realm was dangerous and that it wasn't the old man's fault. Besides, it was a joint decision. Still, they had all lost something precious at that time. All except for this old man who not only had an unharmed grandson but also found out his brother from over a thousand years ago had actually survived and had an entire family on the other side of the realm.

In fact, he had been the Emperor of the empire on that side. That made these people want to tease him whenever they could. After all, they had to win somewhere.

"I hear it was the miracle alchemist that helped them get back here, is that true?" a man in blue robes asked.

"Tsk! How did you find out?" the old man asked. He had been surprised when he learned that 2 years ago after the alchemy tournament, but hadn't expected the alchemist to just die at the time.

"Apparently, your grandson couldn't keep his mouth shut," the blue-robed man laughed out loud.

The old man grumbled. "Yeah, it's him," he said.

Some of the others looked at the bracket that hung in the sky. "Well, we will have to call him here soon then," one of them said and turned to a husband-wife pair to the side. "Your disciple isn't going to hurt him too bad right?"

"He's just a mere True King. The fight will be over before it even begins," the wife said.

"My disciple knows what to do," the husband said.

"Well, let's send someone to go get him. Finally, we can talk to him like we've been wishing for this entire time."

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Alex walked onto the stage and it was finally his turn. He Liwei walked up next to him with a smile on his face.

"Don't worry, brother. It will be over quickly," he said and walked to one end of the stage.

Alex looked at him for a second before walking to the other side of the stage. Once he was there, he looked at the sky and then to the ground.

As he feared, the sun was directly over them. 'Well, it should still work fine,' he thought and stared towards He Liwei in the distance.

He Liwei stood without taking out any weapon as they were ordered to prepare.

Alex took out the sword he had been using to fight throughout the tournament and stared across the stage at He Liwei.

The sounds of the crowd quietened as the barrier sprung up to block all sounds from outside. Alex felt the world go quiet.

The referee, a woman from the Falling Lotus sect stood between them as her spiritual sense fell on both of them as she waited to see if they were both ready.

She frowned a bit when Alex didn't bring out his beast companion at all. It was hard to tell if he was ready or not.

"Are you ready?" she was forced to ask Alex in the end.

Alex looked away from He Liwei toward the woman. He glanced towards the tower on the left side of his vision and sighed. The people that mattered would all be looking at this fight, evaluating him.

'Here goes nothing,' he thought to himself and nodded.

"I'm ready."

The woman turned to look at He Liwei who nodded his head as well.

"Begin!"

The moment the woman gave the go, Alex moved. As if an arrow that had left the bowstring, he zipped through the entire stage and smashed his sword directly onto He Liwei's chest.

He Liwei's armor lit up to protect him, but even then Alex's attack was too strong for it to completely negate it.

As such, He Liwei was sent flying back close to the boundary.

Vines suddenly appeared around He Liwei's arm and struck the ground to slow him down. He barely managed to keep himself from going out of bounds.

When he looked up, Alex was already there.

An earth wall appeared in between the two of them to stop Alex. However, the wall couldn't stop Alex at all.

From the shadows next to the wall, Alex emerged and swung at He Liwei.

He Liwei was now scared out of his mind. He couldn't imagine why Alex was so strong or how he was doing what he was doing.

Unsurprisingly, he had to use his real strength, something he hadn't done in the tournament before.

A gust of wind pushed Alex back before he could hit He Liwei. The swing went untouched as he was pushed back too fast.

Alex tried to fight back against the wind but it was too strong. A bit too strong.

Alex landed far away from He Liwei and looked back at him. He understood what had happened right now.

'He used his Saint Qi, huh?' Alex thought. A True realm 6th realm cultivator wouldn't have much Saint Qi, but what he did have would make him very strong.

Alex smiled. It had been a while since he had felt the thrills of a true battle.

#### Chapter 796: No Restraint

The crowd looked at the battle in shock. They couldn't understand how what had just happened could ever happen.

"Is he hiding his cultivation base?" Song Shing couldn't understand.

"Can't be, he was checked before the registration," Liang Qiu said with shock filling her eyes.

"It can't be that he can really jump 6 minor realms to fight his opponent, can he?" Fu Tao asked with an awkward expression on his face.

"7 minor realms, if you count He Liwei's own ability to skip realms," Liang Qiu.

"There's only one explanation here really," Zhou Ren said from the side and everyone understood what he meant.

"He's cheating."

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Alex stared at the scared He Liwei and a small smile crept up on his face.

"You cheater! Tell me you didn't eat a pill," He Liwei shouted.

Alex's face turned to a frown. "Why would I cheat so blatantly?" he asked. "I'm not stupid."

"Senior, he's cheating," He Liwei complained.

The referee looked at Alex for a bit and turned to He Liwei. "The fight will continue as it is. The punishment will come afterward depending on the severity of the offense."

Alex turned towards He Liwei. "I hope you have plenty of Saint Qi in you," he said.

"What does that have to do with you?" He Liwei frowned.

"I just hope you can make me fighting with no restraint be worthwhile."

"Continue!" the referee said.

Alex dashed with his sword again while constantly remaining aware of the things that were happening in front of him.

A normal True Emperor realm cultivator would start to form Saint Qi around the 5th realm. By the 6th realm, they would have about 5% of their entire Qi turned to Saint Qi.

Since He Liwei could jump a realm, he would have denser Qi than normal. Given that, it was a good guess when Alex thought that about 15% to 20% of his Qi would have already turned to Saint Qi.

That meant, Alex would have to be extremely careful of any attacks that He Liwei sent his way.

As expected, when he saw Alex move, He Liwei reacted as well. He slammed his foot onto the ground which broke apart and turned to lava instantly.

A tentacle-like arm emerged from the lava that started waving at Alex.

Alex slashed at the lava arm and cut it in two, but that would only make the lava fall back into the pool and rejoin the arm.

Alex cut it off a few times, but the lava arm kept regrowing and wouldn't let Alex go around it either. The lava also didn't create any shadows for Alex to teleport to.

'I need to destroy the lava,' he thought.

Alex reached out with his left hand towards the lava and willed the world to come to his aid.

A single tongue of fire flickered in the lava, and Alex used his authority over it.

'Explode!'

BANG!

A massive explosion rang out on the stage that sent shock waves all around.

Alex hadn't made the explosion strong enough to hurt him, but it was strong enough to destroy the arm and make the lava lose its connection to He Liwei.

Alex flipped through the air and landed with no harm, while He Liwei was only alive thanks to a barrier that appeared around him at the last moment.

Even as He Liwei tried to get rid of the barrier Alex dashed back at him.

Ignoring the barrier, He Liwei retaliated. Vines and roots grew out from the ground and tried to constrict Alex.

However, all they met were his sword as Alex cut through each one of them while continuing his way toward He Liwei.

"Arrgh!" He Liwei shouted and used a technique. Spikes of the earth grew out of the ground as they launched towards Alex.

There were over a thousand of them and each one was sharper than the other. Alex tried to look for a way to dodge but there was nowhere he could teleport to that would help him escape this attack.

So, he instead used his defense technique and crashed into flying earth spikes.

A long strip of dust cloud rose to the air after the crash. He Liwei smiled as it soon turned maniacal. He turned to look at the referee, waiting for her to announce her victory, but all he could see was a shocked expression on her face.

'Is... is he dead?' He Liwei wondered as he looked towards the cloud of dust on the stage that was starting to settle. However, it didn't take even a moment for him to realize that if Alex was ever in trouble, the referee would have already moved to save him.

Which meant—

Alex dashed out of the dust, completely unharmed. His robes were in tatters as they showed in well-defined muscles that were always hidden beneath his robes.

He Liwei was ready and retaliated as well. He brought out his sword as he realized he couldn't keep half-assing this fight or he would definitely lose.

His sword glowed red as he swung it directly at Alex. The slash moved a little forward before suddenly turning into a fire tornado that stood like a pillar in the middle of the stage.



The pillar appeared right in front of Alex.

Alex put his empty arm out and yin Qi started flowing into his meridians. He didn't know how helpful this would be, but he would do it anyway.

He felt the fire in front of him and willed the world to follow his command. When the world agreed, he lowered the temperature of the fire until it wasn't dangerous at all.

Then, Alex plunged into the fire tornado and came out on the other side.

"HOW!" He Liwei shouted, but he didn't get any answer.

Alex slashed his sword at him, and He Liwei swung back with a hint of Saint Qi poured into his sword.

Even then, Alex only felt a slight pain in his arm from the rebound. He jumped back and slashed again.

He Liwei fought back, but Alex was too strong. To contend with him, he had to continuously deplete the Saint Qi in his body.

Alex himself was glad that using his physical body alone was enough for him to fight against He Liwei.

When He Liwei did use Saint Qi, adding his own Qi to fight was in fact better than He Liwei's own.

Not to mention, if Alex had used his mental attacks or Sword Qi, the fight wouldn't have lasted for long.

Alex had planned to hide nothing in this battle. However, just because he was willing to show everything he had, didn't mean he needed to.

If the battle didn't call for anything aside from his physical and cultivation base, he wouldn't use anything else.

After going through the ordeal of the yin orb where his body was wrecked in a fight between the yin and yang, his body cultivation had improved a lot.

In fact, he had reached True Emperor 7th realm after surviving the clash between the two.

In addition to that, after the yin and yang had found harmony and his Qi was now pure, instead of being affected by the yang, the thicker mixture of the two now made his effective cultivation base to be around True Emperor 9th realm while remaining in True King 9th realm.

If Saint Qi was out of the equation, Alex would be able to go toe to toe with every single fighter in this tournament without using his physical, Sword, or mental strengths.

He Liwei kept hitting Alex's sword back as hard as he could but slowly it was getting harder and harder as Alex started using his Sword Intent to corner He Liwei into the boundary.

Any further and he would lose the match.

Anger flared in He Liwei and flame spears appeared around him.

Alex could tell that he had used Saint Qi into those spears, so he needed to be careful.

The spears shot at Alex, but they only hit empty air. Realizing the problem, Alex had already teleported to one of the shadows that belonged to the ruins on top of the stage.

He Liwei finally breathed in relief as he got some time to rest. However, he knew that wouldn't last long, and he knew he himself wouldn't last long.

He needed to use this break he had gotten to win. So, without hesitation, he decided to use his strongest skill.

## Chapter 797: Single Attack

He Liwei had already realized that Alex was much faster than him regardless of if he used his own movement technique or not.

Besides, he was more of a turret-style fighter, one that would sit around throwing out skills until something landed and his opponent was down.

However, no matter what he threw at Alex, he would still stand up with not a single scratch on him. He couldn't win like this at all.

"I have a proposal brother Yu," He spoke up.

Alex who was about to attack stopped and looked in front of him. "What proposal?" he asked.

"A single attack to determine victory between us two," he said.

Alex frowned a little. "A single attack? Against your Saint Qi versus my True Qi?" he asked.

"What? Are you scared? I thought you were winning," He Liwei asked.

"I was, and I am not planning on throwing away my victory," Alex said.

"Come on, you can't be this much of a coward, right?" He Liwei asked.

Alex showed a visible snarl on his face as if his ego had been attacked. "Fine, attack me," he said.

"Haha, good. Good. We will both attack at the same time," He Liwei said and started preparing his attack.

He Liwei was very glad when he saw Alex's cockiness. He knew he couldn't win like this and needed to use his strongest attack to win. However, the problem with his strongest attack was that it took some time to prepare.

He Liwei saw Alex prepare for his own attack and got excited. He had a chance to win it. 'You can't just have brute strength. How could you forget that the brain is always stronger than the brawn,' he thought to himself while shaking his head.

Then, he let go of his own sword and put it into his storage. Next, he put his two arms out in front of him as waves of Qi left his body at an incredible amount.

The ground shuddered while the wind roared. Heat waves distorted the surrounding for the viewers.

Tiny rocks moved on the ground as they slowly rose to the air while a raging fire appeared in the middle of it all. The fire shrunk and shrunk until it was nothing but a tiny little orb.

The rocks flew up to cover the fire and soon they started condensing too. As they did, the rocks slowly started glowing bright red from the heat of the fire orb.

The wind moved all around the newly formed glowing rock spike that flew in midair.

As He Liwei pumped more and more air onto it, the faster it spun. Soon, it was ready.

A deadly burning rock that would zip across the stage like a bullet. He Liwei didn't have much control after letting it go. However, until now he had never missed the attack on a stationary target.

Since Alex had decided to the single attack match, it was guaranteed that he wouldn't move at all.

"Ready, brother Yu?" He Liwei asked as he looked at Alex who seemed ready to use his attack. However, he hadn't prepared it at all.

'Arrogance! That will be your downfall,' He Liwei thought.

Before Alex could even say or do anything, he let the rock bullet fly.

Alex stood there, on the pathway of the bullet, like a doe in headlights. That was exactly what He Liwei wanted.

He wanted to see what defenses Alex would put up to try and block the attack, but he knew that there was no defense a True King could produce that would stop his deadliest attack which was filled with Saint Qi.

Seeing that he had caught Alex unprepared, he smiled and his eyes shifted to the referee to watch her move to protect him. However, she remained unmoving.

SWISH~!

The bullet zipped through the stage and struck Alex dead on the chest as it pierced through him before coming out of the other side and hitting the barrier.

The crowd on that side flinched when they heard the sound of the explosion from the fire and rocks that spread throughout the barrier on their side.

However, He Liwei didn't care for that. He only cared that Alex was hit. However, he wasn't hit. Alex wasn't even there.

"An illusion?" He Liwei's eyes went wide.

"A Qi clone," Alex explained from behind him.

"Wha—" before He Liwei could exclaim, Alex caught him by his armor.

"My turn now."

He put all his strength into his next move and threw He Liwei as hard as he could towards the barrier.

At the same time He Liwei left his hands, a small tongue of flame appeared between them which exploded with great intensity.

He Liwei felt like he had been hit in the head by a charging bull as the explosion rang his head hard. For a second, he couldn't focus at all due to his brain rattling in his own skull.

That second was all it took for him to crash onto the barrier and fall to the ground.

He Liwei shook his head and stood back up to fight, but the referee was in front of him and shook her head.

He Liwei was confused at first. But then something came to him and he looked down.

He had crossed the barrier.

"I... I lost?" he asked in a dazed voice.

The referee nodded without saying a single word.

He Liwei dropped to the ground. "I... I lost? I failed? How can that be? I... I'm supposed to win. I'm... I'm supposed to..." He couldn't fathom having lost against someone that he perceived as a stepping stone at best.

Now, he had become the stepping stone.

Alex got up from the ground as he tried to stop the ringing in his ears. "I should really stop having so many explosions right next to me. This can't be good for my ears," he said to himself.

The referee came up to him and he waited for his victory to be announced.

However, she instead just stood in front of him and said, "Junior Yu Ming, in suspicion of having used forbidden resources that go against the tournament rules, your result will be postponed until the elders come up with an answer. Do you agree to get tested for it?"

"Forbidden resources? You think I used pills for the strength I showed today?" Alex asked.

"That is the suspicion yes. If you do not agree to be tested, you will be considered guilty of going against the rules," the woman said.

Alex sighed. He hadn't thought that revealing his strength would end up with this.

"Very well. Let's go," Alex said and followed the woman.

The staff walked up to the stage to fix it after the tremendous battle that had left the crowd shocked.

The earth elemental cultivators quickly fixed the stage to how it usually was and walked away as it was time for the next battle to start.

Alex turned around just as he entered a hallway and frowned as he was really curious to see this match. After all, his next opponent would be between the two women that stood on the stage right now.

However, he was forced to follow the woman into the dark to prove his innocence on this matter and thus become the victor of this match.

## Chapter 798: Testing for Cheats

Alex walked into a room, following the woman from the Falling Lotus sect. It was a medical facility for people that were injured in the tournament.

Alex looked at the many beds that were in the room and asked, "What do I do now?"

Just as he asked, he heard a set of footsteps as a whole lot of people simultaneously walked in from the other side of the room.

He had seen almost half of them before, but he only recognized Xue Mufan amongst them.

"You should not have cheated, young man." An old man amongst them spoke up as he walked ahead of all of them.

"I did no such thing, senior," Alex said, wondering who the old man was.

"And you lie as well," the old man sighed and shook his head.

"What exactly is happening, senior? I'm missing the match outside and that may cost me tomorrow's match. Please hurry up and test me so I can leave," Alex said.

"Alright, give us your storage bags so we can check it," the old man said.

Alex's eyes narrowed. "Why do you want my storage bag? Isn't the suspicion here that I ate a pill?" he asked.

"Yes, and you might have more in your bag," the old man said.

"Senior, do you really believe that I would be stupid enough to cheat in the way I did and would be even stupider to keep the evidence lying around?" Alex asked.

"That's..." the old man had no response.



"Even if you did find something forbidden in my storage bag, you are here to prove that I used it in the first place. Surely it is not a crime to own something, right?" Alex asked.

"Sigh, Mufan, Zirong, take over," The old man said and walked back.

Xue Mufan walked up front along with another man in a white, burnt robe. 'That's Zhou Zirong?' Alex thought to himself. It wasn't every day that you got to see the two most famous Saint Alchemists of the empire in a single room.

"Seniors," Alex greeted them with a bow.

"Sigh, young man. You caused quite the commotion today," Xue Mufan spoke up.

"It was either that or lose without fighting," Alex said.

"Bring a puppet please," Zirong asked someone from the tournament staff. The man nodded and walked away for a while.

"Please tell me if you really ate something or used something to enhance your abilities," Xue Mufan asked.

"I did nothing, senior," Alex said.

"Sigh, I really hope you are telling the truth," Mufan said under his breath.

The staff that had left earlier arrived with a puppet. When Alex saw it, he realized what was happening.

"You want to test my strength?" he asked.

"Yes," Zirong said from the side. "Before we do what we do, we need to test your strength to see if you still have the pill in your system."

Alex frowned but agreed. "Okay, I'll do it," he said and turned towards the puppet. Without waiting for anything, he punched at it.

A golden fist emerged from his punch and flew at the puppet, hitting it dead on the chest.

After a second or two, a single line of sentence emerged.

- True Emperor 9th realm-

Alex turned toward the two alchemists. "That's enough right?"

Xue Mufan and Zhou Zirong looked in shock. They simply knew of no drugs that could produce such a massive result for someone that was in True King 9th realm.

That was an entire realm above where he was currently. "Just what did you eat?" Xue Mufan muttered to himself.

"Here, eat this." Zhou Zirong produced a blue pill from his storage bag. He handed the pill over to Alex, who looked at it with a dumb face.

"What's this?" he asked.

"It's a type of nullifying pill. Unlike a normal nullifying pill that works only when recently created and just as the pill is in effect, this one can be used long after one has eaten a pill," Zirong explained.

"That's... that's quite good," Alex was surprised to hear of the existence of such pills.

"It is, but it's not without its drawbacks," Zirong explains. "For one, it can only be used after the pill has taken effect. So if it's a harmful pill you ate, this would be useless."

"And worse of all, especially when concerned with the current situation, this pill needs a full 24 hours to completely get rid of the pill you ate from your system," Zirong explained.

"Which means... I won't be freed until after 24 hours?" Alex asked.

"I'm afraid that is so," Zirong said.

"You don't have to worry about your match if that's what you are concerned about," Mufan said from the side. "If we don't make it in time, your match will be postponed by a bit."

"Then, we will find out if it is you or He Liwei that will get to pass to the next round," Mufan explained.

"I see, so I better eat this early," Alex said and was about to eat the pill when he stopped.

"What will the pill do to me when it doesn't find anything in my system?" Alex asked.

"Nothing," Zirong answered.

"I see, very well then," Alex said and popped the pill into his mouth before swallowing it.

Xue Mufan watched him swallow the pill with his spiritual sense and followed it until it reached his stomach.

Spiritual sense was hard to use on someone else's body, but a Saint realm cultivator using it on a True realm gave way for his senses easily.

Once he saw the pill dissolve, he finally nodded. "Good, now you will be under supervision for the next 24 hours here. Anything you need will be provided by the staff but you won't be allowed to get out," he explained.

"I understand," Alex said.

"That's it, senior. We will take our leave now," Zirong turned to the old man at the back of the room.

"Thank you, brother Mufan, brother Zirong," the old man bowed in thanks.

"Keep an eye on him. In 24 hours, if he still has the same strength he showed earlier, he will have passed," he explained.

After the two alchemists left, the staff also left one by one until only a few remained to watch over him.

Alex sighed and went to sit on one of the beds where he started cultivating, ignoring the person that was watching him.

Yang Qi raged through his body, destroying any part of the pill he had just absorbed. While he trusted the words of two Saint alchemists to not harm a young man like him, he still decided to be careful and destroyed the pill in his body after they left.

That in turn gave him a boat-load of Qi that he now needed to refine in his body. So, for the entire 24 hours of the time he remained in the room, he cultivated.

Once the 24 hours had passed, he stopped and walked up to the staff that was watching over him now.

"Can I test now?" he asked.

The staff nodded and let Alex attack the puppet.

The golden fist struck the puppet and the same information was shown in it again.

True Emperor 9th realm.

## Chapter 799: Return to Fight

"My god! He really can do it," the old man from yesterday watched the result at the different puppets that were before them.

He had suspected that one of them might have been broken and had asked for more, but to his surprise, they all showed the same result.

As such, he was no longer able to keep Alex held back at all and would have to let him go.

"Come with me," the old man said and took Alex along with him.

Alex followed him and soon realized he was being taken out of the arena, back to the stage area.

He arrived outside and watched the fight that was taking place in front of him.

'That's... group 9?' he thought when he saw Xue Meirong on stage. She was the seeded fighter of that group.

Flowers grew from the stage of many types that soon started filling the place with their sweet smell.

Her opponent tried to swing his sword, but the smell of the flower was getting to him.

Alex wondered how he would fight if he were in there, but it was soon apparent what he had to do.

As soon as the man on the stage held his breath, he no longer had to breathe at all. A cultivator could hold his breath for a lot of time, but not forever.

The fight became a battle of attrition as Xue Meirong kept up the flower field while her opponent tried to force him to breathe.

Slowly, parts that he did already inhale were getting to him, so the man lost in the end.

Once Xue Meirong was announced victor, the staff walked onto the stage to fix it. When it was fixed, the next set of fighters was about to be called.

However, before that could happen, the old man walked onto the stage and called Alex along with him.

Alex walked behind him and looked onto the seating area to see He Liwei still sitting amidst the people.

'I guess he still hadn't lost yet, technically,' he thought.

"I have something to announce," the old man said. "Regarding yesterday's match from Group 12 where participant Yu Ming fought against He Liwei and won, we had to postpone the results until further investigation and we are finally done with that."

The crowd looked at them curiously as they waited for the verdict. He Liwei leaned in as well as this concerned him too.

"And the result is that participant Yu Ming had not broken any rules, and this is the winner of yesterday's match. Young man He, I'm afraid to say that you will have to leave the contestant area," the old man said.

"You can go sit and wait for your turn," the old man told Alex.

Alex nodded and walked towards the seating area.

He Liwei left as Alex reached and even managed to glare at him. Alex simply nodded towards him and went along his way.

As he entered the area, all eyes fell on him. However, he was quite surprised to see just how few people there were.

Half the people from yesterday were already missing, while a third of these were still left to go today.

Compared to the original 512 that stayed here, this area felt very... vacant.

Alex searched amongst the crowd and found a dark-skinned, muscular man with short-sleeved, brown robes.

'So he passed yesterday, huh?' he thought as he analyzed his opponent for today.

Alex ignored everyone's eyes and sat down in an empty spot. Surprisingly for him, no one came to ask about it at all.

Out of nowhere, people were starting to understand that he wasn't just a random fighter in their path. He had beat the seed of the 12th group.

It was safe to say that he was now the 12th group's seed himself.

One after another, the fights went on until it was finally time for Alex to fight again.

Alex was a little bummed out that he didn't get to see his opponent's fight, but realizing that he was from the Han family, Alex knew how he would fight.

Alex walked off the seating area and went onto the stage. He stood on one end of the stage while his big opponent stood on the other.

Alex felt the man's cultivation base. He was simply at the 5th True Emperor realm. This wasn't even going to be a fight.

The man brought out a hammer to fight while Alex brought out nothing. The referee considered them both ready and started to fight.

Alex waited for his opponent to make the first move and he did. The man had analyzed Alex's match with He Liwei and had understood that Alex's advantage lay in his fighting style where he always ran to his opponent and struck them before they were aware of what had happened.

So he decided to take that advantage of himself and charged at Alex.

Alex watched the man run up to him and took a single step forward.

The man used a hammer technique that caused a lion's head to form on top of the hammer as it fell with increased force.

Considering the man likely had his physique active, this attack would do quite some harm to even people that were in the True Emperor 6th realm.

For Alex however, this was nothing. He made a fist as he twisted his entire waist to put his weight into the punch.

The punch broke the sound barrier as it made its way onto the hammer and struck it directly in the center.

The man felt pain between his thumb and his index finger as the hammer rebounded back away from him.

"Argh!" he cried out in pain and tried to grab the hammer with all he could from leaving his arm.

However, that wouldn't help him at all as Alex's left arm moved and punched him in the chest.

The man felt what he thought was the force of mountain land on him as he was sent flying back onto the edge of the stage, directly next to the boundary.

He quickly got up and tried to get out of the way but Alex was already next to him.



The man hurriedly used all of his defensive skills while also activating his armor.

As he did, Alex's golden fist landed on his body.

At first, the man smiled when he realized that his defense that stopped the attack, however just after that the golden light around Alex's arm suddenly expanded, turning into a delayed attack that sent the man hurtling back.

By the time the man tried to gain control of his body, he had already struck the barrier behind him.

He slowly got up and saw the boundary before him that he had crossed. He understood that he had lost.

What he could not understand was why it had been so quick, and just why... Alex was so strong.

The referee checked on the man and then turned towards Alex to announce his victory.

The crowd cheered as Alex walked back onto the seating area.

Another hurdle was passed. Alex managed to defeat his opponent with ease.

Now, he had entered the Top 32. Which meant the next battle he fought would result in the victor of Group 12.

#### Chapter 800: Victory

"Your Majesty, this is ridiculous. Are we really to believe that a kid at True King 9th realm beat our disciple at True Emperor 6th realm?" the wife of the husband-wife pair, that were the sect masters of the Glory's Edge sect, spoke.

"Your majesty, our disciple has been wronged here, I hope you will do something," the husband spoke.  
"That kid is clearly cheating."

The Emperor frowned a little. He too thought something was wrong, but the committee had no reason to help Alex in any regard.

"Call Wei Tianshan," the Emperor ordered some of his guards. One of them nodded and left.

The husband and wife waited patiently for a little while before the old man that was the head of organizing this tournament arrived in the room.

It wasn't just him, however. Both Xue Mufan and Zhou Zirong also came along.

"You called for me, your majesty?" the old man asked.

"You should know why I'm calling you, right?" the Emperor asked.

"I believe I do," the old man said. "This is in regards to the young man Yu Ming's victory today."

"Yes, so what happened? Why is he still in the tournament?" the Emperor asked.

"Well, we have no reason to suspect he's cheating, your majesty. We thoroughly checked him and even had the two Saint Alchemists give him a pill to get rid of whatever he might have eaten. We even looked after him for an entire day, yet his power never diminished."

"Whatever that junior is doing to gain this much ability, it's not cheating," the old man said.

"You checked everything?" the Emperor asked.

"Well, he didn't allow us to check his storage bag, but since we took him directly after his fight with Junior He Liwei, he didn't have his storage bags on him either."

"What he did have would be checked before he walked onto the stage, and as far as that's concerned, it was only filled with swords," the old man said.

The Emperor frowned. "So he really did not cheat?" he asked.

"Not by the definition that can be given using the tournament rules," the old man said.

"Really?" the Emperor was now amused. He couldn't have possibly imagined that Alex was this strong with his own strength.

"You saw it today your majesty, how easily he beat the kid from the Han family despite being under supervision the entire day earlier. Please believe me, that kid is not cheating," the old man said.

"We can give our words too, your majesty," Xue Mufan spoke up. "I saw the young man eat our pill. His strength does not come from any pills he might have taken."

The Emperor thought for a moment. 'Did that senior do something to him? Is he this strong because of his help?' the emperor wondered.

He hadn't thought of it before as cheating had been the obvious answer at that time. However, now that he was convinced that Alex wasn't cheating, the other obvious answer was that Shen Jing helped him gain this ability somehow.

'That must be it,' the Emperor thought.

"Well, you have your answer, don't you? Your disciple lost legitimately," the Emperor told the husband and wife.

The two of them looked at each other and talked between themselves using their spiritual sense. After a few seconds, they turned towards the Emperor.

"Your majesty, if... if our disciple truly lost and that young man didn't cheat at all to win then... do you think we should call him here and ask him to explain how he did it? Learning to be that powerful with that low of a cultivation base... that would be incredible, wouldn't it?" the wife asked.

"We should do that, your majesty," the husband nodded. "Brother Tianshen, please call the young man here so we can—"

"No!" the Emperor said with a stern face.

"Your majesty?" the two of them were surprised.

"You will do no such thing," the Emperor said with a serious face. "I told you all before, that kid has a backing that we cannot offend. Leave him be."

"But we can just ask—"

"No buts," the Emperor said as he stood up. "We're done here."

The husband and wife weren't happy with the response but there wasn't anything they could do.

"Yes, your majesty."

The two of them left the area and went back to their seating area with the other heads and leaders.

They had given up on the fact that their disciple had been cheated. However, they now had a newfound reason to look for Alex. If he could help them become strong the same way he was, they would do whatever they needed to get it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alex stood before his final opponent. This woman with her 3 different beasts was all that stood against him and becoming the sole victor of Group 16.

Alex looked at the woman and then at her beast. The 3 beasts were all in the True Emperor 6th realm. She truly deserved to be where she was.

Her cultivation itself was around True Emperor 7th realm. If He Liwei wasn't as popular as he was, being the sole disciple of the sect masters of the Glory's Edge sect and all, this girl would have most likely been made the seed.

Alex wondered why she wasn't with all of these beasts, but he realized it could've been the same reason as his.

She had been hiding her skills as well. There was a good chance that the girl would've entered the Top 16, and maybe even the top 8 with the potential she had shown to everyone in the tournament.

Unfortunately for her, she was pitted against Alex.

Alex looked at the salamander, eagle, and rhino beast. He knew their names and their description.

'Poison, sharp talons, high defense,' he thought as he looked through the beasts.

"Begin!"

As soon as the match began, Alex dashed forward.

The salamander tried to spit out some poison along his way but Alex had faster than it.

A golden fist flew in the direction of the salamander and hit the poison along with the beast, sending it hurtling back.

At the same time, a flying palm landed on the rhino, pushing it back as well.

Before the Eagle could even do anything, it fell unconscious.

The match had barely begun and the girl found all 3 of her beasts incapacitated already.

The girl was scared, but not so much that she forgot to fight. After all, she too was a fighter here and a strong one at that.

A blue whip emerged from her storage bag as she quickly unfurled it and swung it at Alex.

Alex tried to dodge and succeeded, but a rather loud noise appeared right next to him as it sent his ears ringing.

This was like multiple explosions happening at the same time right next to his ear.

While he was slightly disoriented, the girl swung her whip again and struck Alex directly on the head.

Alex stumbled backward but he wasn't hurt much at all.

The girl looked at him in surprise. 'How is he not bleeding?' she thought. There wasn't even a wound on him.

'How is he so strong?' the girl realized that if she didn't capitalize on her advantage, she would lose.

However, before she could attack again, a golden fist flew at her.

The girl moved to the side with her movement technique, leaving behind a blur of her afterimages that slowly faded.

At the same time, the hairpin on her head grew bright and hot. 'Mental attacks? When?' the girl was surprised. She couldn't see Alex use any attacks other than the punch, but somehow her hairpin had stopped something.

Alex ran forward at the same time, but not towards the girl.

"Where— My beasts!" she realized and ran towards them as well.

Alex reached them first and grabbed the rhino before tossing it towards her.

The girl stopped mid-run and focused on the rhino to take it back to her beast space. However, just as she tried to do that, Alex suddenly appeared in front of her, using the shadow of the rhino, and punched her in the chest.

Her armor stopped as much as it could, but the girl was still sent flying until she was out of bounds.

The referee quickly checked up on her and announced the victor.

Alex sighed. The fight didn't go as he expected it to, but he won in the end anyhow.

He became the victor amongst the 64 people that were in Group 12.