

Alchemy 821

Chapter 821: Roaming the land

With the permission of the sect leader, Alex carved some formation flags to create an image obstructing the formation to block the stele from being seen by others.

He had analyzed the sect running formation of the Tiger sect for a few days before he was able to draw a blueprint for the necessary formation to join it into that one.

When he was ready, he put the formation flag around the stele, and without even needing his help, it activated itself the moment it was connected to the main formation.

Having been powered by the spirit vein underneath the sect, the formation would last as long as the main formation lasted, or the spirit vein was dried up.

Either one was just as unlikely in the current scenario.

Once that was done, Alex was finally comfortable with letting everyone read the human language.

Except for him, everyone became able to read the language and were soon reading all the different techniques Alex had handed them.

Of course, since they didn't have Talent like Alex's, it would take them a while to learn it all.

Alex decided it was time for him to leave.

After letting the people know that he would return in a few months, he left.

The puma helped him get back to the beast realm very quickly and Alex went to find the jaguar.

The black jaguar was sitting out in the sun, having nothing else to do in a palace that had no lord.

The moment Alex and the rest arrived, the jaguar noticed. It stood up and walked back to the palace. Midway through, it met up with Alex.

"Senior, did you find anything?" Alex asked in a hurry. The whole way here, he had been waiting to meet with the jaguar and learn more.

Unfortunately, the jaguar shook his head.

"There is nothing on the World Tree. If it is as you mentioned, a Demonic plant, then it is understandable why there is no information on it," the jaguar said.

"I see," Alex gave a disappointed sigh. "About the Nine Heavens Yang tree?"

He wasn't expecting much about this tree either, but he still asked.

"I didn't find anything on that tree either," the jaguar said.

Alex sighed again. 'As expected. I don't know what I was hoping for,' he thought.

"But..." the jaguar followed. "I did find something."

"Oh? What did you find?" Alex asked.

"It's not about the tree, but when I went through the records, I did notice a mention of a faction called the Ning Heavens Yang court being one of the major factions of the Human alliance. Maybe that's something?" the jaguar said.

"That... sounds almost the same. Maybe there is something there?" Alex said. "What's the Human alliance by the way?"

"Don't know," the jaguar said. "You will have to ask someone more knowledgeable than me,"

'I would love to ask Lady Ren if she isn't dead already,' Alex thought.

"Well, that's that then," Alex said. Now that he had gotten the info he had wanted, it was time to go roam the beast realm in its entirety.

Pearl stayed behind with the puma, while the jaguar took its daughter, Yao Jia, and accepted the task of being Alex's guide to the realm.

Yao Jia had mostly only spent time in the palace, so she was taken on this ride with Alex.

Alex had guessed previously as to how big the beast realm was, but this was something else. It was as if half the continent had been hidden inside this secret realm that the original white tigers had found.

Yao Jia had Alex draw a map of everywhere they went, and Alex complied. He wanted to keep track of the mountains and lakes they had been to so that he could later revisit those maps and see if any of the places he had missed fit the map.

The beast realm wasn't a unique piece of land at all. It was entirely covered in the forest from edge to edge. However, there were some places that were open grasslands where a lot of flowers grew and that made it look quite beautiful.

The land was big and going through every piece of it without missing anything wasn't an easy task.

With breaks in between to cultivate overnight, the journey to the east took about 2 months of time which only ended when they reached the ocean.

Alex was surprised one could see the ocean through the secret realm, but he did see a chromatic wall around the beach, which was likely the barrier that kept the beast realm in place just like the one in the demon realm.

Alex was a little disappointed that he found nothing on this part of the beast realm, but he was still a little happy with the number of ingredients he had foraged in the 2 months he had been through here.

During these two months, he also broke through to the 2nd True Emperor realm.

From what he could tell, during the war after the death of the White Tiger, this place was one of the only places in the continent that didn't have many things stolen from them.

So, throughout the realm, there were a lot of places where he found Saint Qi readily available. Alex practically decided at that moment that when he would break through to the Saint realm, he would do so here.

The trip back to the palace didn't even take a whole day as they didn't have to go through every piece of land this time.

He met up with Pearl and caught up with him. Pearl's cultivation was steadily progressing, but there was still a month or two before he would enter the 3rd True Emperor realm.

As for Alex, he expected to do it in the next 3 months if he could continue to fight with the jaguar from time to time.

After resting for a week or so, Alex decided to continue his journey and he left for the western half of the realm again.

This time, Yao Jia didn't want to go, so only Alex and the jaguar made their way through the land just the two of them.

This part of their journey would be a bit longer as the western half of the realm was about a third larger than the eastern half.

Alex scoured the land with the jaguar for nearly three months, but there was nothing.

At this point, he was pretty much certain that there was nothing here and he was just wasting his time. Still, he wanted to scour the entire land.

For 3 months he did that, and near the end of the third month, he was ready for a breakthrough once again.

Alex ate a True Emperor beast's core, whose spirit was quickly destroyed by the sword spirit, and he sat down to breakthrough.

It didn't take long. Only an hour later, Alex had entered the True Emperor 3rd realm.

Then, he spent the rest of the night cultivating and doing everything he needed to do.

Finally, Alex opened his eyes to the light of the new day as a person in a new cultivation realm. As soon as he did, he could tell very clearly.

Something was off.

Chapter 822: The West

Alex frowned the moment he opened his eyes. Something was off, he could tell.

He looked around. What was it?

Was it the dew on the blades of grass? Was it the slightly hung branch of the tree he was meditating under?

Was the air stale somehow despite them being in a forest? Or was his clothes not fitting him the way they used to just yesterday?

Alex couldn't tell what was off, but he could tell something was.

He stood up and looked around, trying to figure out what he was feeling. 'What's this?' he wondered.

Did he awaken new powers now that he had broken through to True Emperor 3rd realm? That didn't seem right. If he was to awaken something, it would have to happen at the beginning of a new realm, not the middle of it.

It was likely not something to do with his cultivation. Then... was it his Dao? But Alex didn't think he had understood anything new to say that it was the Dao.

'Maybe it's because I've gotten a lot of Saint Qi by now,' Alex thought.

Somehow, even at True Emperor 3rd realm, Alex's Qi had mostly converted to Saint Qi. It was easy to guess how it could happen given how thick his Qi was, but it was still a surprise that nearly 70% of it was already Saint Qi.

The jaguar walked up to him. "Are you ready to go?" it asked him.

Alex shook his head. "Something feels off, senior," he said. "I can't put my finger on it."

"What feels off?" the jaguar asked.

"I don't know," Alex said. "But something does. Not in a bad way, mind you. Although it could be, I don't think it is. It... it just feels like I'm noticing something I've not noticed before."

"Hmm, maybe you're noticing the worldly laws," the jaguar said. "Since you are so talented and know Dao, you might be sensing them again."

"No, that's definitely not it," Alex said. It still perplexed him as to what felt off about this place, but he decided not to dwell on it and went along with the jaguar to hopefully find the land on the map as he was getting very close to the edge of the western half as well.

The whole morning, Alex couldn't concentrate at all as he kept thinking about what could be happening to make him feel this way. Was having a lot of Saint Qi allowing him some sort of perception he was missing previously?

As he kept thinking that and concentrating on what felt off, he realized something.

'I have felt this before,' he thought. He couldn't remember if it was exactly the same, but this feeling was indeed very similar.

Alex remembered back to the day in the Wei Royal Palace's garden where he was waiting for the alchemists to finish preparing their pills for the test.

During that time, he had felt something off at that time too which he couldn't pinpoint. Surprisingly, the feeling had come from the direction of the Beast realm back then too.

'Could they be connected somehow?' Alex wondered.

Alex asked the Jaguar if the beast realm had anything that could be giving him this feeling, but the jaguar wasn't sure what he was even feeling. There was nothing Alex could say to describe it either, so their conversation went nowhere.

If the beast realm really was the reason behind him feeling like this, then it would explain why the feeling was constant.

He would have to wait until he got out of the beast realm to see if he was correct or not.

Alex ignored it for now and focused the rest of the day on searching through the land. When he spent his Qi away and cultivated it back the next day, he would still be assaulted by this feeling, but as time went on, he began to accept it as if it were natural.

A week later, Alex finished roaming the western half of the beast realm as well.

His search was a failure.

Still, he got quite a few ingredients here too, some that would help him a lot in the saint realm, so he was quite happy about it.

Alex stood on the beach, next to the chromatic wall that separated the secret realm from the outside world.

He stood at the edge, where just a few meters ahead, water would splash on his feet. Alas, that would never happen as he wouldn't be able to escape the secret realm this way at all.

Alex stared into the distance and saw the vast ocean of the west. He tried to look into the distance, but the haze in the atmosphere blocked his view from seeing all the way through.

'There are 5 continents in this world,' he thought to himself. 'And I'm on the west side of the western continent.'

'What's west of west?' he couldn't help but wonder.

Back in his home, there was a saying that they were surrounded by the void. If they tried to go outside, they would fall into the void and die.

Of course, it turned out to be an elaborate ruse to stop people from killing themselves in the chaotic Qi that surrounded the land, but... what if there was a truth to that information? What if they were told something that was false for them, but true on a bigger scale.

On a worldly scale.

Alex looked off into the west and wondered, was the void there?

"If I fly off to the west forever, will I fall into a void?" Alex asked. He was halfheartedly asking the question, but he was still curious about the answer.

"Of course not," the jaguar said.

Alex nearly chuckled. 'Why am I asking stupid questions?' he thought.

"Gravity doesn't work that way," the jaguar continued.

"Huh?" Alex looked confused and surprised.

"If you flew straight west, or rather in any direction, and forcefully went through the barrier of the world, you will drift off into space, rather than falling in it," it said.

"Wait, the void is real?" Alex asked in surprise.

"Of course," the jaguar said. "Although, don't call it void. It gets a little confusing as the real void is something else. Call it just empty space."

"Space?" Alex asked.

"Yes, if you keep flying to the edge of the world and forcefully go out of the atmosphere, you will enter empty space with no air, no Qi, nothing."

"Slowly, your body will try to fight against the emptiness by using the Qi you have in you. But, since you will never have enough to fight against nothingness, you will die," the jaguar said. "Peak saints have tried to ascend that way and died."

Alex couldn't believe what he was hearing. There was an edge to the world and beyond it waited death.

"Wait, are there only 5 continents in this world then?" Alex asked.

"Yes," the jaguar answered.

"Then do immortals really come from Heaven?" Alex asked.

"Well," the jaguar looked to the sky, "I guess you can call it that."

"How do they get here? Do they not die while coming to this world? How did the White Tiger and his family make it here to this world?" Alex asked.

"Well, that is something you will learn on your own. Given your talent, I don't doubt it will be very soon too," the jaguar said.

"Can't you tell me?" Alex asked desperately.

"Do you want to prematurely learn about the size of the world you live in and risk giving yourself an Inner demon you can never defeat?" the jaguar asked.

Alex thought about it for a bit and realized he couldn't do that. "I'm sorry," he said.

The jaguar chuckled. "Well, it's not like I had an answer for you. I only know a few things myself having been born and bred in this realm," it said.

Alex stayed at the edge of the beach and watched the sun go down in the west, beyond the edge of his world.

At the same time, the pale silver moon showed its face from the east.

Alex sighed and sat down nearby to refine his ring to waste all of his Qi for the day. Once, it was all gone, he closed his eyes and began cultivating.

The next morning, he got up from his cultivation and began making his way back to the palace.

Chapter 823: Preparation

Alex said his goodbyes in the Crimson Empire. Both the Tiger sect and Hong Wu sect were there for his departure.

"When will your return next?" Luo Mei asked.

"A few months? Maybe half a year?" Alex said. He wasn't sure himself. The Demon realm that was to open in a month would only last for 10 days, so that wouldn't take much of his time. Still, he wanted to stay on the other side to improve himself further than he could over here.

"Alright, see you when you get back then," Luo Mei waved her hands.

Alex smiled and waved his hands as he flew away.

Luo Mei and Du Yuhan turned around to return to their Elder job. Liu Xun went towards the gate to work on his guard duty.

Lang Shun turned around with Wan Li, Fan Ruogang, Zhou Mei, and Kong Yuhan to return back to the Hong Wu sect.

Wen Cheng stayed there for a few moments longer as he watched his disciple go off to the foreign lands again.

Alex turned around after reaching the distance and saw that his master was still there. He waved once more.

Wen Cheng smiled. He waved back and watched his disciple disappear off into the distance. Then, he turned around and got back to his own work as well.

Alex flew off without looking back as there was no reason to. He would be back in just a few months after all.

If only he knew how far away in the future his next visit would be.

Alex returned back to the Beast realm and couldn't help but notice the weird feeling of being back.

'Does it really have something to do with the beast realm? Is it because of the thick Qi in here?' he thought. When he had left, Alex had realized that he didn't feel the same feeling of something being off as soon as he was out of the beast realm.

He had wondered if it was just the lack of Qi in the Crimson Empire that was the reason why he wasn't feeling that way anymore. It did make sense quite a bit, so Alex had chalked up the feeling of his to be because of the density of the Qi in the surrounding.

Alex quickly found Pearl who was very much stronger at this point. At True Emperor 4th realm, Pearl was just a bit higher than Alex in cultivation base.

Alex had broken through to the True Emperor 3rd realm about 3 months ago, so it would soon be his time to breakthrough as well. He hoped he could do it in the 1 month he had before he had to go to the Demon realm again.

Alex took Pearl before leaving the beast realm. After saying goodbye to the beasts, the two of them got out of the beast realm and arrived at the Luminance empire.

As soon as Alex felt the slightly less dense Qi, he realized that the feeling was gone again. 'Even though the Qi is only just a little sparse?' he thought. That made him believe that his theory on why the beast realm felt off was wrong.

If so then... what was the reason?

Alex had no way of finding that out, so he had to once again ignore that feeling.

The last time he ignored a feeling, the beasts had invaded the capital of the crimson empire. What was going to happen this time around?

Alex reached the flowing brush sect and met up with his mother. He talked to her about a few things and was surprised that she was focusing quite a bit on her cultivation as well.

She was so very close to the True Emperor realm.

Alex settled down into the sect and continued his cultivation. When he was free, he worked for the sect to help them make pills in exchange for letting him stay there.

Of course, the Flowing Brush sect was more than happy to have Alex just stay in their sect. It was in fact an honor in their eyes. However, Alex didn't feel that it was right to take advantage of them, so he helped when he could.

Helen sat in a room while she drew some talismans. Alex stayed next to her and looked through the map of the beast realm to check if he had missed something there.

The talisman from the Demon realm that told him the location of the inheritance of the Undying God was next to him, and he was looking to match the two.

None of the locations matched the map. Meaning, that he was right that this place wasn't the beast realm.

Alex brought out the metallic medallion and looked at it. This gave him authority over many of the restrictions in the secret realm.

Unfortunately, it didn't give him authority to stay longer than 10 days, or he would have entered already.

He couldn't wait to enter those houses in the 5th mountain and acquire more wealth. More importantly, he would acquire knowledge of where the other land of the demons was.

"I'm done," Helen said from the side, grabbing Alex's attention.

"You're done?" Alex stood up and walked up to her to see the talisman she had just made.

"Here," she handed it over to him. Alex took it and looked at the runes on it. There was such elegant penmanship here that he saw not a single mistake on the runes.

He looked through the different runes of barrier, and teleportation and nodded to himself.

Now he too had a talisman to protect himself if he was ever attacked inside. Although, he doubt anyone could even do it, to begin with.

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A few figures gathered in a room somewhere south of the capital.

It was far away enough that the royal family had no idea of the gathering but close enough that any big family and sect could easily visit.

There was a single reason for this gathering.

They wanted to learn how they would extract information from Alex.

Some were there for Alex's alchemy knowledge, some for his Sword knowledge. Some were there for his physique knowledge, while some only wanted to learn how he was overcoming many realms to fight.

One of them didn't let know their attention, but they were there for his blood.

"Are we sure he's even coming to the Demon Realm? What if we're wasting time?" one of them asked.

"We don't know," another person said. "But this is our only chance, so we have to take it. Unless you want to go raid Flowing Brush sect in the open."

"So, we're working on the assumption that he will come. Then what about that beast that's threatening even the Emperor?" another one of them asked.

"We're too weak to defeat it," another person said.

"We don't need to defeat it. We just need to delay it while we get the information we need," one of them said.

"And I suppose you know a way?" someone else asked.

"I do," the same person said. "Not only will my way delay the beast, but if it goes well, but we can also kill that beast too."

"However," the same person continued. "That's not all. I have plans for the boy too. If done properly, we can extract every last bit of information from him, whether he wants to give it voluntarily or not."

Chapter 824: Arrival on the Island

Alex flew in the night sky. The pale silver moon hung in the sky, highlighting the black jaguar that flew next to him, which would otherwise be impossible to see at night with a mortal eye.

Today was the day the Demon realm opened. From what the Saints had calculated, the Demon realm would open in 12 or so hours.

Alex wanted to get there just a tad bit earlier.

The small ship flew with incredible speed, but the jaguar kept up with it showing no expression of unease at all.

Flying at this speed was barely an inconvenience for this beast. Alex couldn't help but look forward to the days when he too would be able to fly this fast without the help of any flying artifact.

They continued flying for about 5 more hours before they finally reached the edge of the continent. A few minutes of flight later, they arrived at an island that was already filled to the brim with people.

Alex stored away his boat and slowly drifted down to the ground. As he did, a lot of people stared at him.

For one, he had come with a Saint beast by his side, which was extremely unusual to these people.

But more importantly, they stared at him because they recognized him. They recognized the 28-year-old prodigy that was not only a miracle Alchemist but had also managed to become one of the top 4 strongest youth in the whole empire.

Many people smiled at him at his arrival, including the ones from the big sects and families. Alex smiled back.

He wanted to stay alone until the demon realm opened, but that was impossible as people surrounded themselves around him the moment he landed.

They introduced themselves, told him how much they had wanted to meet him, and asked how he was so strong.

Some wanted pointers on the Alchemy techniques and wanted his help to improve a family recipe of theirs.

Others simply wanted to establish a friendship so that they could later use it to their advantage.

The people swarmed him, but he was too kind to tell that he was bothered. He stayed polite, telling people that he would think about their things.

However, no matter how much he tried to speak his way out, another person would find his way to speak to him.

Alex had met with barely anyone for this precise reason. However, who could have thought that refusing to meet them would have such consequences at the moment?

'Should I scare them away?' the jaguar's voice rang in his mind.

Alex contemplated for a second and ended up with the answer that, that was the only choice he had. However, before he could give his approval to the jaguar, someone else spoke.

"Move away!" a voice came from behind the group, instantly shutting their mouths.

The people slowly parted to show an old woman with blood red robe walking toward him.

"Come, young man. You don't need to waste your time with them," the woman said.

Alex hesitated for a split second. Going with the old woman, who was clearly the matriarch of the Song family was like jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire.

He couldn't think of anything worse. However, refusing someone of such stature didn't feel right to him. Also, at least with someone like the Matriarch or patriarchs and sect leaders of the elite sects and family, he could trust them not to continue asking the same thing over and over as these people did.

"Thank you, senior," Alex said and walked with her.

"It would be our pleasure if you came with us, senior," the woman then bowed towards the Jaguar as well.

"Hmph!" the jaguar's human-like harrumph surprised a lot of people in the area, but the Song family matriarch wasn't phased at all. As if, she had been expecting this, she bowed respectfully to the jaguar that was moving away to a more solitary location and walked back.

Alex reluctantly followed her to a place where the other elite family and sects were gathered.

He was surprised to see quite a few people there, and at the same time, he was surprised to see quite a few people absent.

Alex looked around and even used his spiritual sense, but he couldn't find a few people

Liang Qiu, Han Daiyu, Guo Chiang, Zhou Ren, and Lu Yan were missing from the group. A few others were missing too, but Alex didn't know them enough to keep track of it. Instead of them, the people here were their juniors, who surprisingly were still older than Alex.

Alex could see Zhou Ren's little brother Zhou Guyang in the mix, who bowed the moment he saw Alex. To Alex's surprise, in the last 4 or so years, he hadn't seen the man, his cultivation base had increased to True Lord 5th realm.

'Not bad,' Alex thought to himself. He didn't realize any of the other juniors, but he did recognize a few of the seniors.

Fu Tao, Song Shing, Jin Tengfei, He Liwei, and Xue Meirong were here.

Perhaps, most surprising of all, however, Alex saw another person there who was crazily waving his hands in his direction.

Alex didn't know whether to laugh or not as he waved back at the man as well.

Somehow, Fatty Tian Ye was here as well.

Alex hadn't seen the man since the day he was reunited with his mother.

"Nephew Yu, I can't believe you're here," the fatty said, somehow fatter now than he was 7 years ago when Alex last saw him.

"Uncle Tian Ye, it has been a while," Alex respectfully bowed toward the man.

If Alex's guess was right, the man was about 45 years old as of now. Back in his home world, no one would bat an eye if he called someone 15 years older than him an uncle.

Surprisingly enough, they cared even less here.

"Oh, you two know each other? Come, we can sit and talk," the Song family matriarch said as she arrived at the group of elites that were gathered around.

Alex recognized nearly everybody.

The Lu family, the Song Family, the Fu family, the Jin family, the Han family, the Zhou family, the Shen family, the Heaven's Peak school, the Glory's Edge sect, the Falling Lotus sect, the Broken Ravine sect, and many more that he didn't recognize at all.

Everyone was here.

Alex looked at the crowd of Saint realm cultivators and was surprised at just how many there were.

He was also curious why the head of some of these families was here when they could just send their elders to look after the juniors.

But when Alex remembered the cultivation bases of some of these juniors, he understood why the case was.

There were tables laid around in clusters where the big figures were staying and Alex was brought directly to them.

He knew what they were going to ask of him, nay demand of him. And Alex was ready to refuse.

As long as the jaguar was close by, he had nothing to worry about.

He looked at all of the elite heads and bowed his head a little.

"Greetings, seniors."

Chapter 825: Demon Realm opens

"Ah, I knew you would come," one of the elderly men said.

"Greetings, young man. It's good to see you again," another old man said.

They all started speaking at the same time, and Alex had to make sure not to miss what they were saying.

"Have you improved at all since the last year, young man?" one of the elder folk with a green robe asked. "Did you sword Qi progress? Did your physique grow stronger? What about your spiritual sense?"

"Oi old man, why are you asking so many questions all of a sudden?" some of the other elders said.

"What?" the old man looked back at them. "I know you were all wondering the same thing."

If nothing, Alex felt a little thankful for this man's directness so that he could get the topic out of way from the start.

"The only thing I've managed to improve over the last year is my cultivation base," Alex said.

"I see," the old man said.

"You have improved a lot then," the song family matriarch said. "Just look at my grandson, he will have to be stuck at the peak of the True Emperor realm until he finds a way to enter the Saint realm."

Alex looked towards Song Shing and nodded when he sensed the True Emperor 9th realm cultivation base. He hadn't improved at all in the last year, but he doubted it could be so easy to do so.

Alex himself wondered how long it would take before he could reach the Saint realm. Certainly opening up his naval area would be quite hard as not many had done so before.

"Say, are you still not allowed to tell us anything about how you got so strong?" one of the women with a green and pink robe asked.

"I'm afraid not, senior," Alex said. "The senior I told you about hasn't allowed me to speak on this matter at all."

Alex was still using the excuse of Shen Jing to get away from the things, but he hadn't expected nor knew that these elderly folks were mistaking the jaguar for the senior he was talking about.

Since most of them had felt the jaguar's cultivation base and power, they knew that there was no way the 'senior' had anything to do with Alex's improvement and was likely a ruse he was using to get away from telling them.

"Stop asking him if he doesn't want to tell you," the Fu family's head said and the group changed topics.

Time went by as they asked Alex various questions.

"Oh right, are you prepared to go in?" one of the elders asked.

"I... am?" Alex said, not sure what they meant by ready.

"Right, you have to have armors and escape talismans. The beasts in there can be scary from time to time and need a Saint realm to go in and take care of," the Song matriarch said.

She reached into her storage and fished out a talisman. "Take this if you don't have escape talismans. It will help you teleport out if you're in any danger," she said.

"Thank you, senior, but I already have one," Alex said.

"Oh, of course, you would. I forgot you stayed in a talisman sect," the old woman said with a smile.

Alex felt awkward talking with the elders, but fortunately, they let him be after a while.

Unfortunately, Fu Tao called him to their group and Alex was forced to mix in with the juniors this time.

At least these people didn't ask him about his powers and secrets, so Alex was a little happy.

"Do you want to stay with us inside the demon realm? We can search for riches together," Fu Tao said. His cultivation was still in the True Emperor realm, so Alex could only imagine just how desperate he was to break through.

"It's fine, brother Fu," Alex said. "I like being alone."

Alex couldn't have company as he was going to go through the many rooms and find information that was there.

"I see," Fu Tao said. A few others tried to persuade him to stay with them in the demon realm, but Alex refused.

He had no plans of staying with them at all.

After a while, Alex left them too and went to sit alone by some rock. He felt at peace as no one talked to him for a while.

He was surprised when the people continued talking on and on without stopping. At least, now he didn't have to listen to them and could focus on himself.

Finally, he peacefully looked everywhere, taking in all the sights, and the numbers into his head.

'So many,' he thought. The number was drastically higher than last time around. People had arrived early this time around.

He saw Qin Shan and some elders in the distance looking after the disciples of the Flowing Brush sect. Just to stop others from following him, Qin Shan didn't come to visit Alex at the moment.

Alex was a little thankful for that. He didn't want to fight the horde of people again.

The jaguar came to his side and sat down next to him without saying anything. At the same time, the sun slowly began to rise.

Just a few more hours remained before the demon realm would open.

Alex went through his storage ring again. He checked through the map, and the medallion. He even reread the diary left behind by one of the inhabitants of the demon realm too.

The information in there was cryptic, but Alex still read it in hope of being some kind of help.

A few more hours went by and the sun came up a bit higher.

Suddenly, the monument in the distance lit up brightly with light shining from it. The sound of the monument activating caught Alex's attention and he looked toward it.

It wasn't just him. Everyone turned towards the monument.

Slowly, one by one, the True realm cultivators stood up as it was time for them to enter. After all, the Demon realm had opened.

People hurried as time had already begun ticking down. There were 10 days remaining after each time the demon realm opened, so they needed to hurry.

Also, the faster they could get in, the faster they could get to the riches. Who knew how many more doors would have opened in the time since last year.

Alex stood up as well. "I'm leaving," he told the jaguar, who nodded and continued crouching there. He would stay that way for 10 days until Alex returned.

Alex walked up to the thin pyramid with runes carved all throughout it. He wondered for a second if he should wear the medallion before activating the runes. However, he didn't know just what sort of response it would give to the person with the highest authority in the secret realm, so Alex didn't wear it just yet.

He took a deep breath and poured his Qi into runes on the monolith. The runes shined, and Alex felt an extremely familiar sense of teleportation cover him fully.

A second later, he vanished.

Many others vanished into the secret realm as well, but a group of the elite saints only focused on Alex entering the realm.

It wouldn't be very much longer before their disciples would put the plan into motion.

Chapter 826: Another Diary

Alex arrived inside the demon realm and immediately felt something was off.

It was the same feeling he got from the Beast realm.

'So it wasn't because of the beast realm?' he thought even before looking at his surrounding. Immediately, a few things became clear to him.

Whatever this feeling was, he was feeling it because he was inside a secret realm. What that had to do with the feeling was unclear, but he at least knew that it wasn't the beast realm only that made him feel that way.

That did make him question what he had felt 4 years ago, but he didn't care enough to keep thinking in that direction.

Now that he was in the demon realm, there were more pressing matters that he had to look towards.

First of all, he needed to locate just where he was.

The Demon realm was massive in size and given that he had appeared in the forest, Alex couldn't exactly see the mountains to see where he should be going.

Fortunately, it was still early morning so Alex could use the sun for directions.

He saw the rays of light fall through the forest from the right-hand side, so he knew he had to walk straight ahead to go towards the north.

Since he had just 2 objectives in the demon realm this time around, he wanted to finish them both as quickly as he could. It was just an added bonus that both the 5th and the 6th mountain lay to the north.

Alex sprinted.

He saw a few people along the way, but he didn't stop to greet them or even looked at them.

He wanted to go to the closed houses as soon as he could before too many people gathered up around him.

After entering a relatively open area with sparse trees, Alex saw the chromatic boundary of the secret realm not far away from him to the left.

Seeing how it curved at the front, he finally had an accurate guess of just where he was.

Alex turned and ran east.

The 5th mountain was to his right from what he could tell, so he needed to change his direction.

He wished he could fly and get there quickly, but the suppression field didn't let him fly above 5 or so meters.

"Wait, what if I wear the medallion?" Alex thought. He brought out the medallion while he dashed through the forest and wore it on him.

He placed it inside his robe, even underneath his armor, and tried to fly now.

However, it didn't seem like he could still fly.

'Weird, don't I have the authority for it now?' Alex wondered. However, if he couldn't fly then he couldn't fly.

He ignored the thought of flying and continued running through the forest.

It wasn't until an hour or so later that he saw the giant mountain through the thicket of the trees and recognized it as the 5th mountain, the mountain where the demons lived in the past.

Alex wondered how long it the past that was, as he hadn't gotten an accurate answer from anywhere yet.

Not long after, he arrived at the foot of the 5th mountain and saw a few people gathering there already as they went through the houses.

Some of them were told about the House of the Undying at the top of the mountain, and they rushed there to see if anything was left behind on accident last time.

Sounds of banging came from everywhere as the newly entered young men and women used every attack in their arsenal to try and break through the doors of these houses.

However, Alex could read the runes on the doors. He could read every single one and tell what it was supposed to do.

He could tell that these doors were meant to stop anyone without the right authority from entering. Authority, that one could only hold in physical form.

The medallion Alex wore was most likely not the authority the door was looking for, but he could tell that the medallion was like a master key, that worked on every single door.

He spread his spiritual sense around and saw a few people looking at him. He waited until they looked away and walked over to a door before placing his hands on it.

Pure Qi flowed out from his palm and the door cracked open. Alex nodded as that was what he would have expected to happen.

The moment the door cracked open, Alex sent his spiritual sense inside to look if it was worth it to even open the door fully.

Unfortunately for him, there was nothing left inside.

Alex locked the door and the barrier was reinstated. Then, he walked towards another door.

People kept staring at him from all directions. Not too long, but enough to make him conscious about freely opening the doors.

They would look away most of the time but turn to look at him for some of it.

Alex frowned as he started hating his own fame. While it was useful in most cases, in cases like this, he couldn't get any freedom.

Still, he used up the chance of people not looking at him to open more of the doors and look inside.

Alex didn't find anything inside. If there were anything, it would have already rotted with time.

He found weapons that were rusted, beds that were on the verge of collapse, and clothes that were one touch away from crumbling to dust.

After going through nearly 5 more houses did he find something of worth. Another diary.

Alex smiled when he saw it.

He didn't want the weapons or techniques from these houses. After all, as far as he could tell, this place belonged to folks in the True Realm.

Only some of the bigger houses were for people in the saint realm and those were already low at the time of war.

The Eternal War for Dominance should have already whittled their numbers down to a few.

No, what Alex wanted to find here was obviously information about the other location he wanted to go to.

After reading up on the previous diary he had found 10 years ago, Alex knew that when the war had ended, the inhabitants of this secret realm had left.

And when they did, Alex didn't see why they would bother leaving anything that wasn't useful to them behind.

The Undying God, their young lord, was trapped in cultivation, fighting to save his spirit at the time. So, with the authority medallion with him, they couldn't empty the library, or the House of the Undying.

They had likely emptied the Alchemy mountain, but it had most likely grown again in time.

The training and crafting mountain as well as the cultivation mountain wasn't something they could take and were left behind.

So, they had taken the only thing they could. The object they owned in their houses.

Fortunately, some of them had deemed their diaries unnecessary as well, and Alex got to read what was written in this rotten one.

[Mother died the other day. I will kill those damn with my own two hands.]

[The young lord is choosing a few of us to pass down his technique to. I hope I'm one of them, but I would like to be Saint realm before that.]

[Fei Hualing didn't break through to the Saint realm yet, so he is struggling to even see where he is going without any assistance.]

[I avenged you, mother. I avenged you. I killed those humans in battle. I carved your name with their blood on the snow.]

[The young lord was ambushed by 4 humans in the blizzard. I saw him dance with death. I saw him find glory.]

[I wonder why the young lord is making us find so many of these mouses.]

[We set out for battle today. Whoever manages to prove themselves will get to inherit the Undying inheritance.]

[The immortals themselves came down to strike the young lord. He managed to save his nascent soul, but I could see that he was hurt. What will happen now? Will he be okay? Who will look after us?]

[So many of my friends and family died, but I lived to see the war come to an end. Should I be happy that I didn't die? Or should I be worried that we will now be ruled by these beasts?]

Chapter 827: Stuck

Alex read the diary with a weird look on his face. The people around him were still looking at him, even staring, but he didn't have the mind to think about that.

He thought about what the diary said.

It was a tragic tale of a demon who had to live through the war, and while Alex did empathize with him to a certain extent, there was something else that grabbed his attention.

Something that was entirely too easy to miss if you weren't looking for some clues.

Alex read the two lines that he found were the most important.

[I avenged you, mother. I avenged you. I killed those humans in battle. I carved your name with their blood on the snow.]

[The young lord was ambushed by 4 humans in the blizzard. I saw him dance with death. I saw him find glory.]

He quickly thought back to the other diary from nearly 10 years ago that he had managed to take from another one of these big houses and remembered the similar lines in there.

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

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

Snow wasn't something so easy to come by on the Western continent. Even when it got cold in the winter, it didn't snow.

However, there was one place. A place where the snow covered the land and the blizzard threatened to kill them.

"The Icy Hell," he thought. "Is that where it is?"

A smile appeared on his face as he was sure that was it.

"If the demons were in war then they most likely have a fortress on the eastern side of the continent," Alex thought. "If that place was forever in ice and that is the only description I ever get in fights, then that must be the case."

Alex was about to relish in this discovery of his when his attention was tugged away by the continuously watching people around him.

'I'm not a celebrity, you know?' he wanted to say but simply didn't want to bother talking with them. If they saw an opportunity to talk back, they would likely talk for hours.

'I'll confirm my hypothesis later,' Alex thought. 'First, let's go check the northern mountain.'

Alex ignored the stares of the people and walked away from the mountain, quickly walking in the northern direction.

The ones that were watching him continued watching for a while before bringing out a talisman to speak into it.

"He's going in the direction of the 6th mountain in the north."

* * * * *

The sun had gone past the zenith and the jaguar was starting to feel bored. He wondered why he was here. He wondered why he had to be the one to chauffeur the kid around.

Why couldn't it be the Puma? Or the Leopard. Or the Lynx. Or the Cougar. Or even the young Serval.

'No, it has to be me,' the jaguar thought. After all, it was the one that was given the order to look after the human kid and the young lord before Lady Ren—

The jaguar's eyes sharpened. It looked up front and saw a few of the Saints walking towards him.

It slowly got up and stared back at them.

"Greetings, senior," the group of them greeted them the moment they arrived close to him.

"What do you want?" the jaguar asked.

"We were wondering who exactly you were, senior," one of the women in the group asked. She wore a brown and gold robe, belonging to the Glory's Edge sect.

"What do you want to know about me? My name or my faction?" the jaguar asked.

The group watched expectantly as if they wanted both.

"My name is—"

Before the jaguar could finish speaking, the Saints moved. The jaguar quickly created a halo of white light around its black body, but they weren't attacking him, but rather moving around him.

The jaguar was confused for a split second before it saw the Saints bring out metallic weapons.

No, they weren't weapons.

Those were formations flags.

The Saint had already reached position and dug the formation flag onto the ground. Before the Jaguar could move away, a barrier opened up all around it, confining it to just that formation.

The jaguar's white halo brightened and it opened its mouth. A giant tiger head appeared all around it, large enough to be bigger than two elephants, and it roared. The roar struck the barrier with magnificent force.

The barrier shuddered, sending shivers up the Saint's bodies, but nothing else happened.

The jaguar attacked a few more times, but nothing happened even then. "What are you doing?" the jaguar attack.

"Sit still, kitty. Or we will be forced to kill you," the old woman with the blood-red robe spoke while freely pouring her Qi into the formation flag below her.

The jaguar looked around. They all were.

Each one of the 14 Saints that stood next to the 14 formation flags was pouring their Qi onto the formation flags.

They were trapping him in here and the only way to get out of this formation was to strike it so hard that Saints outside were forced to pour out their entire dantian before they were empty.

The Saints casually started sitting down on the ground and started cultivating while pouring in the Qi.

The jaguar knew that so long as their Qi and their Will lasted, he wasn't getting out of here.

The old man in the crimson robe was giddy with happiness at the fact that his years of research on the formation finally paid off. He blessed the person that threw the formation manual down from the heavens that night nearly 1200 years ago.

There was a reason why the old man had gone with this approach, rather than using normal formation flags with spirit stones.

For one, Saint spirit stones were almost impossible to find except in the treasuries of the big houses and sects. Since the Saint spirit veins were taken away back before these saints were even born, the new Saint spirit veins would take years to die and turn to Saint spirit stones.

And given how rare they were, they couldn't just use it to contain a beast in the upper Saint Core realm, where it could break the barrier eventually and turn their rare Saint spirit stones useless.

Secondly, spirit stones weren't infinite. At least, not in the same way a cultivator could be. With 14 different cultivators constantly channeling the formation, while renewing their lost Qi, the formation would last as long as it would.

And they knew that they would last forever.

The people around them were looking at them with a horrified expressions as they didn't understand what was happening.

"What are you doing, seniors?" one of the Saint from the Lu family asked, but he was met with a glare from the Song family matriarch.

"Any one of you that questions or dares to interfere with us right now... dies," she said. Then, she realized that this wasn't enough to keep them away, so she decided to go one step further.

"In fact, anyone that doesn't leave this island in the next 5 minutes will be struck through their dantian and have their cultivation base ruined," she said. She knew that wasn't something she could do as the collective wrath of so many houses and sects was not something even she could handle. But, she didn't need to as the threat of a crippled cultivation base alone was enough to send the people scurrying.

Now, only the people from the 5 different great houses and 2 great sects remained.

The Lu family and the Shen family had not involved themselves in this, and neither had the Falling Lotus sect or the Heaven's Peak school.

The jaguar struck the barrier again, but the Saints outside didn't even flinch. While they weren't as strong as the jaguar, they were still in the Saint core or high Saint foundation realm.

"Why are you doing this? What's your purpose?" the jaguar asked.

"We want answers," the lady said without hiding anything. "We want answers from the kid inside and we don't want you to interfere while we get it."

Chapter 828: Plan 0

The jaguar growled while striking at the barrier again, but that barely did anything.

"Do you think you can keep me here forever while you work to succeed in this little plan of yours?" the jaguar asked. "Do you not believe it when I say I will tear you to shred and feast on your corpse."

"No, I believe you," the woman said without blinking an eye. "That is why we used a barrier in the first place."

"By the time this barrier comes down, either of two things will have happened," the yellow-robed figure with the crisscross pattern on his robe said.

"Either we won't get any answer from the kid and will be forced to kill you in this formation slowly," the white-robed Zhou Tianqiu said.

"Or we will have gotten our answer and will be strong enough to kill you without needing this formation." A creepy smile appeared on the old man with missing teeth and a deathly face.

The jaguar frowned. They had been prepared for this. They had been prepared for him. If that was so, then the human child, and more importantly, the young lord was in danger.

"Hold this please," the old man in the crimson robe suddenly said and stood up. At the same time, the Saint foundation realm expert next to him struggled immediately as she was forced to pour twice the Qi on two separate nodes of formation flags at the same time.

No, it was more than twice. Since the old man held one of the more important nodes, she was forced to pour in more than what she could to keep the formation stable.

The Jaguar's eyes shined a bit. He turned to look around at all the people other 12 people in the formation.

Aside from the Crimson-robed old man, there were 7 more Saint core realm cultivators. The others were in the Saint foundation realm and they were the weakest link in the formation.

While the jaguar did learn that, he still didn't have a way to get out. He couldn't go protect the young lord.

The crimson-robed man moved towards the monument and started placing formation flags around them in a large area.

The Saint rank formations quickly popped up, creating a barrier field that covered the monument.

The jaguar waited for the old man to go in, but he didn't. Instead, once the barrier was formed, he returned back to the spot and took the task of pouring in Qi away from the struggling saint foundation cultivator and continued what he had been doing.

The jaguar turned to the monument that was covered in formations and frowned. Why didn't this man go in?

In fact, that wasn't all. The jaguar noticed several other Saint realm cultivators waiting around, all of whom definitely belonged to the same factions that were bounding him in here.

Why didn't they go in? Why didn't they go and directly get Alex when that was their plan all along?

He could understand why they didn't go in along with the other juniors because it would have caused a commotion at the time.

But why not now?

Suddenly, the jaguar noticed that there was something wrong with his thinking. Why did he think that they hadn't gone in already? Why did he think they hadn't hid their cultivation base and entered with the other kids? It wasn't like the demon realm didn't let Saint realm cultivators enter without permission, unlike the beast realm.

He looked at the barrier and realized what their plan was. They weren't planning to find Alex in the secret realm and make him spill his secrets. No, they were planning for him to come out and then make him spill it all.

This meant, there were definitely people inside that were there bringing Alex outside.

* * * * *

Pearl walked in his small size next to Alex. After leaving the people behind, Alex was making his way to the mountain in the north that was quite literally named 'North Mountain'.

There was a barrier around that mountain that covered it completely, and while he had seen a bit of what was inside, all he saw was a giant hallway.

Now, he wanted to see what was really behind the 6th mountain. A mountain that no one had any idea about.

He was in the forest, making his way toward the mountain when suddenly he heard a whistling sound.

Alex quickly turned around and punched at whatever was coming, but the force of the clash still sent him flying backward.

Blood dripped from his hand but it wasn't his blood.

People quickly arrived next to him and Alex got ready to fight. Before he could think what to do, a barrier sprung up around him, separating him and pearl.

There were a few figures around him, all of whom were out of the barrier.

Alex stood up and felt the weirdness about the barrier, something he could only say was similar to the weirdness he felt about the whole secret realm.

He saw Pearl outside and tried to call him back into his beast space, but the barrier didn't allow for it. He tried to teleport outside, and the barrier still didn't allow for it.

He then struck the barrier, but it was strong enough to survive his punch. What if he used Saint Qi?

Before he could attack, a few figures casually walked in through the barrier as if it didn't stop them at all.

Fu Tao, Song Shing, Jin Tengfei, and He Liwei walked in. The rest stayed outside the barrier, with their cultivation base clearly in the True Emperor realm.

"Good to see you, brother Yu," Song Shing said.

Alex sneered. "Are you guys here to get back at me because I took away your victory in the tournament?" he asked.

"Tsk. Tsk. Tsk," Fu Tao shook his head. "Such lowly mindset. Do you really think we are petty enough to attack you just because you beat us in some tournament?"

"It sure looks like it," Alex said. A sword had already appeared in his hand, and he was ready to strike at any moment.

"You might want to think twice about that," Song Shing said as he reached into his chest and tore out a talisman.

Instantly, the aura of a Saint spread out from him, making Alex fear more than he should have.

"You broke through?" Alex asked.

Song Shing smiled. "Not just me of course."

Fu Tao's veil was removed from his dantian and the aura of a saint emerged from him as well. However, Alex felt some inconsistencies in his aura. As if he hadn't waited long enough to have a stable foundation before breaking through.

'He did it in a hurry then,' Alex thought.

Nearly 20 different individuals were gathered outside the barrier, but Alex was occupied with just these two alone.

He looked towards Jin Tengfei and He Liwei, but their cultivation base was still in the True Emperor realm, but they were at the peak of it.

Jin Tengfei was in the 7th realm a year ago, so going up 2 realms made sense for him, but He Liwei had gone 3 realms. Alex wondered if he did so naturally, or did he rush?

Song Shing moved forward and spoke up. "Time for Plan 0."

Chapter 829: Seeking Truth

"Plan 0?" He Liwei looked at Song Shing weirdly from the side. "I didn't get notified on any plan 0? Weren't there only 3 different plans?"

"Oh, plan 0 is something I just came up with," Song Shing said as he strode forward without must care. "It's the plan where we just ask him nicely and he tells us everything."

"Isn't that right, brother Yu? You will tell us nicely so we don't have to go through our actual plans, right?" Song Shing asked.

Any other time, Alex would've wanted to say something witty, make fun of them for even thinking that he would give away anything. Right now, however, he wasn't in the mood to do that whatsoever.

He wasn't worried about himself, but Pearl was stuck outside and was already getting ready to fight. But, with nearly 20 people outside the barrier, Alex knew he couldn't let him do that.

He needed to fight.

Alex was about to turn around and hit the barrier behind him when Fu Tao saw him move and brought the weight of his energy spiritual sea on top of Alex.

Alex nearly felt his knee buckle as a force far stronger than his own, nearly twice as strong fell on his spiritual sea.

His mind started hurting from the force, but somehow this wasn't as bad as the first stage of the mask.

He could fight through it.

Just as Alex was distracted from the mental attack, Song Shing threw 3 bottles on the ground near him, from where blood erupted like vines and grabbed onto him.

Alex tried to pull away, but a saint realm attack wasn't something he could easily get away from. Even when using his Saint Qi, he could barely pull his right arm out of the blood constriction when Jin Tengfei arrived with his sword.

Alex parried the sword with one hand and swung back, but the man managed to get away.

He Liwei threw an entire volley of rocks at him, but Alex cut them to pieces before they even arrived at him.

'Strong!' the two non-saints thought, while the two Saints were smiling at the fact that it was a bit more entertaining than they would have expected it to be.

"Since Plan 0 doesn't seem like it will work, why don't we go for Plan 1," Song Shing said.

"Finally, my turn," Fu Tao said and once again crashed his entire spiritual sea on top of Alex. It wasn't just the spiritual sea however that was the problem. The main problem was that Fu Tao was using a technique to do so.

Meaning that his spiritual energy was far more potent than just slamming it normally.

Alex was still constricted by the blood on all sides so he couldn't leave. He tried hacking at the blood, even while his mind was in pain, but Song Shing arrived next to him before he could do so.

Alex swung back at Song Shing who protected himself with a blood shield. Even then, his eyes went wide. 'Strong!' he thought. His eyes only blazed with more greed when he felt that. 'I want that.'

"Eat this or your cat will die," Song Shing said.

Alex frowned and looked at Pearl who was already surrounded outside. 'How did they know?' he thought for a moment before noticing Fu Tao grinning from ear to ear.

He was the one Alex told about saving Pearl from the beast realm. Which meant he was the only one here that could've possibly given away any information.

Fury blazed in Alex's heart. He couldn't believe anyone was capable of going against someone just because they were jealous of them.

He had called the man brother at some point. He felt disgusted he had even thought of him as that.

"Eat this pill," Song Shing forced a pill next to Alex's face.

Alex saw the pill, sniffed it a little, and immediately knew what it was. It was a Truth Seeking pill.

As soon as he ate it, he would be in a state of mind where he would blurt out every truth hidden deep within him without any possibility of stopping himself.

They wanted him to spill his secrets.

"Okay," Alex said and ate the pill.

Song Shing was a little surprised that Alex agreed to this. After all, when they were planning, this was one of the throwaway plans as it could have never worked on anyone.

Who in their right mind would willingly want to eat a truth-seeking pill?

It was really Plan 2 that they were relying on because the chances of Plan 1 working were really, really low.

'Hey, I can't complain though,' he thought and flicked the pill onto Alex's mouth.

Alex gave him an angry look and swallowed the pill. As he did, he remembered the face the clone Song Zun made after he had eaten the pill.

When he burned the pill in his stomach until it was nothing but Qi, he looked back up and emulated the emotions that were on Song Zun's face all those years ago.

"It worked? So easily?" Jin Tengfei held his sword in his hand and a look of disbelief on his face.

"Yeah, we can start asking questions now," Song Shing said. He too was having a hard time believing it worked.

Sounds of fighting rang out from behind them where Pearl had started fighting against the True Emperors, but these 4 had never really cared about Pearl.

"Tell us your secrets," He Liwei asked impatiently.

"I..." Alex started to speak. "I..."

"Yes, go on," he urged.

"I haven't taken a bath in years," Alex said.

"What?" He Liwei looked confused. Was that the secret behind his strength? No way. Cultivators never really took a bath. They could clean themselves with just Qi.

"Idiot, ask specific questions," Jin Tenfei said from the side and looked towards Alex. "Can you use Sword Aura?"

"No," Alex said without hesitation. There wasn't even a need to lie here.

"Then how do you have Sword Aura's property with only Sword Qi?" he asked.

'What?' Alex looked at the man with a confused look. 'Sword Aura's property with sword Qi? What does he mean?'

"I don't know," Alex said, unable to hide away the confused look on his face.

"What do you mean you don't know?" Jin Tengfei asked.

"I don't know anything about Sword Aura aside from the fact that it comes after Sword Qi," Alex said. To his own surprise, he hadn't lied yet.

"How is your spiritual sense so strong?" Fu Tao decided to get his question in as well.

"I ate a lot of pills," Alex said without hesitation.

Fu Tao frowned. He had done that too, but his spiritual sense wasn't nearly as big as Alex's. Did Alex really eat an amazing pill... or was he lying?

"How is your blood aura so strong?" Song Shing couldn't wait at all. He wanted that answer right now.

"My blood aura?" Alex was too taken back to even think of an answer immediately. How was his blood aura so strong? He didn't have a definite answer himself.

Maybe it was his constitution? Maybe it was his dense Qi? Or maybe it was even the fact that he had the White Tiger's blood essence in him.

However, none of these answers was something that he could tell.

"I don't know," Alex said, trying not to make it sound like it was a contemplated answer.

However, Song Shing wasn't duped. He couldn't help but feel that the answer was wrong and in fact, he was most likely lying.

Which was to say... "did the pill even work?"

"I thought so too," Fu Tao said from the side.

Alex frowned, but he didn't show it on his face. He couldn't let them know he wasn't telling the truth or they would hurt him.

He wasn't worried about death, of course. There was no chance these people would kill him and miss out on so many secrets.

But, there were other things they could do to him, that he didn't want to suffer from.

The most important one of them being losing Pearl. He was already fighting, and Alex needed to get to him quickly.

However, going through 2 saints and 2 peak True Emperors wasn't an easy task even for him.

"Let me see if these are the truths," Fu Tao said and strolled forward. "Guard me."

Song Shing and the rest nodded and got ready to attack Alex anytime. A few vials of blood flew around Song Shing.

21 swords flew in the sky, all physical swords this time around.

He Liwei also put out a few artifacts that he had made in the image of weapons from his own homeworld. One of which looks suspiciously like a bazooka.

Fu Tao came close to Alex and while still pressuring Alex mentally, placed his forehead on Alex.

Alex felt something try and breach his mental area. Fu Tao was trying to pierce into his spiritual sea where he would get information on everything using the secret techniques of the Fu family.

Just like Zexi, the high prince of the Crimson empire did all those years ago.

Alex remembered the pain, the near-death experience he had to go through, even when he was just a suppressed soul, watching his clone's soul fight in the sky against Zexi.

That were some of the only memories he had of the spiritual sea from before he had gained back his control. A bad memory.

And now, Fu Tao was trying to do the same thing again. The same bad thing.

'You want to get inside my mind?' Alex thought and fully lowered his mental defenses.

'Come.'

Chapter 830: Final Wish

"What's he doing?" He Liwei asked from the side. Being someone who had only recently come to the Western Empire, he had a relatively low amount of knowledge of everything that was in the Empire.

"He's trying to enter his mind and directly get the answer from his memories," Jin Tenfei said. The Fu Family's secret arts weren't much of a secret.

"What? You can do that?" He Liwei looked with awe. "I'm surprised the Fu family isn't stronger than the royal family if they can steal all the secrets."

"Look at him," Song Shing said. "Whenever they use this technique, they leave and go into the spiritual space of the enemy along with their spirit. They will now clash until he nearly defeats this guy, and then he will get us the information."

"He's vulnerable on the outside while he gets that information. So the Fu family can't just go and take away others' secrets," Song Shing said.

"Well, anyway we should have done this from the beginning," He Liwei said with his hands behind his head, in a relaxed manner.

"That was the plan from the very beginning," Jin Tengfei said. "Plan 1 is getting the information ourselves."

* * * * *

Fu Tao arrived on the vast, cold sea that was the spiritual sea. He was surprised at how easily he had penetrated Alex's mental defenses.

'Am I that strong?' he thought and looked around the sea.

"Is this worth it?" Alex asked from the side.

Fu Tao turned around and saw a solemn Alex fly not far above the sea.

"There you are," he said and slowly drifted down.

"If anyone asked me if I knew you, I would've said you were my friend, a close brother I knew. Turns out, I was wrong," Alex said with a cold expression on his face.

"Yeah, yeah. Can we get this over already? Come, let's fight. I want to get that information in your head," Fu Tao said.

Alex smiled mockingly. "You want the information? Come get it," he said.

Fu Tao got ready to attack when he realized Alex wasn't fighting at all. "What are you doing?" he asked

"What? I'm letting you take a peek into my memories. I told you, come get it," Alex said.

Was there some sort of trick here? A trap perhaps? He should sense something if there was with his superior spiritual strength. But he couldn't.

Fu Tao saw no reason to believe that he was being lied to, so he slowly flew towards Alex, while obviously being on guard.

Even as he got close, he expected Alex to suddenly attack him, but Alex did no such thing. He stood there, unmoving as a rock, and waited for Fu Tao to arrive.

Fu Tao cautiously arrived next to Alex and saw Alex show his head towards him.

He frowned.

"You've done this before?" he asked.

"Yes, I've had my memories stolen before. I know how this goes," Alex said. He did know how it went.

Fu Tao would place his palm on his head, then he would ask questions that would evoke memories from Alex's mind which he would then try to make sense of.

Fu Tao became reckless after seeing an opportunity and placed his palm on Alex. He realized that he shouldn't have been so hasty and was ready to face an attack, but no attack came.

Alex really was letting him read his memories.

'Weird kid,' he thought.

Alex knew there was not much pain involved in this process, so he let Fu Tao read his mind.

Fu Tao asked about Alex's life, and he saw the memories of Alex back when he was a kid. Back when he was on the farm, back when he watched TV and helped his mother in the kitchen when he could.

Fu Tao couldn't help but be surprised a little. He wasn't as surprised as Zexi had been, however, as Fu Tao was completely in the knowhow about players that seemed to have come from another world and had great talent.

He saw Alex's memories as a child and knew that Alex was a player too. Rather he had already known it for nearly a year after the glory sect had made the knowledge public to the great houses and sects.

Fu Tao saw Alex waste 18 years of his life and got angry. He had cultivated since childhood and was beaten by a kid that hadn't even cultivated for a dozen years?

He saw Alex come into the world and see the world in a form of the game. Then, he saw something that made his eyes go wide.

He saw a book with the title 'Alchemy God's Knowledge'. Anyone who dared call themselves an Alchemy god would have to have the best alchemy knowledge in the whole world, even the immortal worlds.

He saw the book getting destroyed and frowned. Now the only memories about Alchemy were in Alex's head.

A few more questions and he had a general idea of what had to be done to improve a pill's recipe. Of course, he wasn't an alchemist, so he would have to depend on Zhou Tianqiu to decipher what his memories said.

Memories flickered as Fu Tao's questions changed. He asked how Alex's spiritual sense was so strong.

He saw Alex pick Spirit Cleansing lily, eat some pills, and for some reason saw a lot of yellow fog in his memories.

'So he really did eat pills?' Fu Tao thought. He needed to ask other questions, so he moved on to asking why his Qi was so dense.

Fu Tao saw the pain Alex suffered each time he ate a Yang Jade. Felt the heat of a sun radiate not far away from him, and then saw coldness that would even dare freeze time itself.

These memories made no sense to Fu Tao. How could ice and fire ever make a person's Qi strong? If anything it would make a person's body strong.

Which was when he remembered to ask about his physique.

Fu Tao saw Alex train with Pearl and immediately understood that his physical strength was from no physique, but rather pure physical strength of his body.

A body cultivator.

There were many body cultivators in the Luminance empire, but none could ever go above the common realms.

How did he— Fu Tao saw Pearl's image.

'It's the cat!' he realized. Only now did he understand, or thought he understood, just how important pearl was.

Next, he needed to ask questions about his sword Qi.

The moment he asked the questions, Alex's memories flickered to the time when he got his sword Qi.

A crimson barrier surrounded him, and a crimson-robed lady stood on the other side. He fought against the mental pressure and found his Sword Qi.

Not long after, he killed her.

Fu Tao's eyes went wide. "You killed Xinyi?" he asked. "You killed my cousin?"

"Yes, are you angry?" Alex asked.

Fu Tao fumed with anger but quickly calmed himself as there was one more question he needed to ask.

About his blood aura.

Fu Tao felt the suppressive aura of the White Tiger emanating from the single drop of blood that hovered in front of Alex.

He felt the blood strike Alex and go inside his mind. He then saw a flicker of a screen where something was written.

Sun God's Divine Yang body.

A body constitution. Was that why his blood aura was so thick? Fu Tao had gotten the answers he had wanted. Some were helpful, others not so much.

Still, he needed to go out and tell them everything.

He lifted his hand off of Alex's head, and Alex grabbed it immediately.

"You're not done looking," Alex said and placed his hand back on his head.

Fu Tao wanted to stop his technique, but the very first thing he saw shocked him.

A big white cat stood in the sky as deadly lightning fell on top of her. She was an immortal, and yet the lightning was powerful enough to completely defeat her.

Memories flickered and he saw Alex walk through the poison swamp with no protection. In fact, he was poisoned many times, but he survived them without any pills.

"How?" Fu Tao couldn't understand.

Memories flickered even faster as many different things passed by Fu Tao's head.

The White Tiger's Palace was in the beast realm. Pearl was the next lord of the western continent. The players came from the Central continent. Alex learning Dao.

The immortal techniques he learned. The many spiritual roots he had improved. Shen Jing's teaching about the Dao. Shen Jing threatening the Emperor.

The many gods he knew about. The sword that killed those very gods.

The corpse of the Undying god in the timeless palace. The talismans and medallion he got from that very corpse.

The location of the inheritance. The inheritance that would make one Undying.

More and more memories flickered through that shocked Fu Tao to the deepest core. The thing he had seen, the things he had learned today. There were secrets here that he wouldn't dare reveal to anyone.

The saint experts had been worried about the jaguar, but the jaguar wasn't even the strongest being Alex knew.

'I need to tell them,' he thought, but Alex didn't let go of him.

"So? How was it?" Alex said.

"What?" Fu Tao asked with a confused look.

"Were you satisfied with your final wish being fulfilled this way? I hope you learned everything you wanted to learn about me," Alex said as yellow fog emerged from his palm.

Fu Tao recognized that yellow fog as the thing that killed so many beasts, and deep dread filled his heart.

"Now that I've helped fulfill your final wish, I think it's about time you die."