

## **Alchemy 911**

### Chapter 911: Ancient Battlefield

The Human language was the same as the Demon language, except it was written backward and with different letters.

So, all Alex had to do to learn it at the bare minimum was to understand the alphabet and read everything backward.

Once he was done, he could read anything in the entire world easily.

The only reason Alex had yet to learn the language was because of the skill in the Black Stele. The intention to learn the skill alone made you get hurt by the intent hidden in the stele, being able to do so would make you a clear target for the intent.

However, now that he was so far away and would take such a long time to return, Alex decided to learn the language and hone his intent with the current book he had.

It didn't take him long to finish learning the language, and so he brought out the book and opened the first page.

At the very first word, Divine, Alex's eyes narrowed as his forehead scrunched up in annoyance. Just one word and it was starting to hurt him.

"I'll read you, whether you like it or not," he thought and started reading. Wording his thoughts or even just speaking them out made it easier to form his intent as he knew exactly what he wanted to do.

Otherwise, it would've just remained vague notions in his mind that spread out his intent too thin.

Having never really read anything with Human language in it before, it took Alex an embarrassingly long time to read even just the first page in front of him.

Having never read backward before, it was just too awkward. And on top of that, the intent constantly assaulted him, making it hard to even concentrate on reading.

"You can't stop me! I will read you," Alex said what he wanted his intent to be and continued.

Slowly, but surely, he churned through the intent, reading everything on every single page.

This was the first time he read a book and understood what the words meant, rather than simply gaining an overall understanding of what was said.

The intent fought Alex, and Alex fought the intent, and after nearly 3 hours, he finished reading the entirety of the book, closing it behind him.

"Hah!" he let out a deep breath and felt his body become incredibly weak now that everything he had used up in the last 3 hours brought him mental fatigue that he had only felt after the final day of the 3-day alchemy session.

"Whoever this Hell Emperor is, he must've been an amazing figure," Alex thought. For someone who wrote a book likely many years ago, during the days of the Eternal War, his intent still flowed through the book as if no time had passed.

Alex wondered just how weakened this intent was, and if the real figure was here in front of him, would he have been able to survive a direct assault of his Intent?

Alex felt his mental fatigue grow a little too high, so he slumped back on the bed, surprising Whisker who had been in a deep focus of his own.

Alex spent a few minutes on the bed, trying to slowly heal his mind, and only got up once he felt the fatigue be at a manageable level.

Then, he started cultivating. He would cultivate for the next 3 days until the Ancient Battlefield opened up.

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Thousands upon thousands of people were gathered by the entrance to the Ancient battlefield, all ready to enter.

Alex saw people from the True King realm at the lowest to people at the Saint Foundation realm at the highest, standing around for the gates to open up.

He was sure there were other people here with a higher cultivation base, but if they didn't want him to find them, then he wouldn't be able to no matter how hard he tried.

Alex saw the many colors of robes, all of whom had come from all 5 different states.

He could see people whose upbringing hadn't been very good and he could see people who were born with a golden spoon in their mouth.

He could see people who looked like they had never found happiness in life, and some who had only ever been sad when their elders were a few days late at providing what they had asked for.

He could see people who, just like him, looked around at the massive crowd, alone by themselves, while he could also see people who had already started making friends in the crowd.

All in all, they were all different types of people, but they were all going to enter the same place as him.

Alex turned around, readying himself as well.

Disciples from all 5 ancient sects stood outside the barrier gate with tokens in their hands that were required to open the gate.

"Please step back, everyone," one of the disciples said. "Let the ones coming out come out first. You will have the entire day to enter."

Once people backed off a bit, they all used the token they had at once and the gate opened.

The barrier was dispelled and the people on the other side that weren't seen until now started walking out one by one.

Many of them walked to their friends and families to reunite after months or even years of being inside, and many simply went on their own way.

However, while watching them, Alex saw a few people looking at the gate, hoping to see someone that didn't appear at all.

As the people walked out, they still waited and Alex knew that they understood what had happened inside.

The person they were waiting for could have decided to stay inside another 6 months, or he could have just been late and not made it to the gate.

However, there was another possibility that was extremely tragic.

It was possible that the person they were waiting for had died somehow. It could've been the intents and powers inside the battlefield, or it could have been people imitating intents and powers to kill people without being found out.

Alex was quite surprised at the number of disciples from the Ancient sects that were walking out of the battlefield. It seemed thousands of them entered each time.

Once the people coming out dropped from a flood to a trickle, all the people that were waiting to enter immediately ran in.

Alex followed them and walked in as well.

As soon as he was in, Alex felt the weirdness in the air.

He could see the massive wasteland with not a single tree inside. There were gorges and deep cuts everywhere along the way, and different places with different destruction.

Whisker cowered a bit when he felt the smallest hint of intent in the air and couldn't handle much of it.

Alex took a deep breath and looked at every single piece of land he could see with Whisker's eyes.

He didn't really need him as he had seen some basic maps of the battlefield from the stores in the city, but it was still better to see stuff with his own eyes.

Alex was about to send Whisker back when he suddenly saw a few people fly away.

Before they made it very far, however, they fell to the ground, clutching their heads in agony.

Many people laughed and a few of them scolded them for being so ignorant of the place they had come to. A few people helped them, but quite a lot of them simply watched them while shaking their heads.

What they had done was what anyone would have done had they not been warned before.

This was the Ancient battlefield where Saint realms had died like flies and Immortals fought with all their cultivation base and Intent.

In a place where the Immortals fought in the sky, a place where that Immortal aura and intent was still remaining, flying was the worst thing you could do.

The sky was filled with aura that even the Saint realm cultivators had to be careful of before approaching.

For True realm cultivators, even the ground was dangerous.

Alex looked at the world in front of him one last time through Whisker's eyes and then sent him back into his beast space.

After that, Alex started slowly treading into the battlefield where he would stay until he entered the Saint Realm.

#### Chapter 912: Intent and Aura

As Alex started walking, he felt how thick the air was. For some reason, the entire battlefield was like a viscous fluid that was blocking his movement at every step.

And from what Alex could tell, it wasn't even aura or intent that was creating the resistance, it was the actual air.

'It is not just the air,' he thought. While he couldn't physically feel it like he could the air, Alex did notice that the Space in this place was also... affected.

It didn't feel constrained as it did with the secret realms. No, this was a different feeling, one he simply couldn't explain due to his lack of understanding of space.

'I should improve that,' he thought. 'But before that, I will have to improve my Sword Intent and Sword Qi.'

It had been a long time since he had a chance for proper sword training. The last time he had done that was in the forest for 2 years where he couldn't use his eyes.

It was funny how fate was. Once again, he was going to have to fend for himself with no eyesight.

Still, compared to last time, he had a cultivation base that was effectively in the Saint realm and a spiritual sense that went further than anyone would ever need under a normal scenario.

Of course, Alex didn't send out his Spiritual sense to the furthest he could. He kept it close to him, ready to pull it back if necessary.

After all, there were so many aura and intents out there that it would be dangerous to wantonly walk around with no care. There were also Saint realm cultivators that he could offend, that he certainly didn't want to.

The thousands of cultivators that entered were starting to branch out in various directions.

With both its length and width in the hundreds, the Ancient Battlefield could house as many people as could come.

Alex walked further, feeling the slight hint of aura in the air that didn't threaten him. He had learned that most of the places were actually not threatening, granted you stuck to the ground and were in the high True realms.

There were however a few places that were so dense with aura and intent that one couldn't just go there without proper protection.

One could block aura with talismans and artifacts, but blocking Intent was hard. As long as the Intent was targeting you, you had to fight back or lose.

After walking a bit further through the desolate path, after most of the people around him had moved along to find their own way through the land, Alex brought out Pearl.

Pearl shuddered the moment he came out but was fine a second later. He just needed to get used to the area.

"Is this the place you wanted to come to?" Pearl asked telepathically.

"Yes," Alex said. "Be careful. Don't let your spiritual sense wander off too far."

"Okay," Pearl said. "You are going to train right?"

"Yes," Alex said. He felt the environment around him and sighed. "I wish this place helps me learn some Space laws, but I will have to be content with being able to learn Sword aura for now."

Alex took out a sword from his storage bag. This was a True grade sword that he was rather fond of. After all, this was the sword he had made not long ago.

Using a sword he made himself, using Sword Intent and Sword Qi through it would be quite easy.

"Let's just hope that since I have improved my will quite a bit, the Sword Intent will have reached very close, if not exceeded the requirement for Sword aura," he said. "Since I already overcame the requirement to learn Sword Aura, the only thing remaining should be to hone my Sword Qi."

Alex nodded to himself as that made sense to him.

"What about me?" Pearl asked.

"Uh..." Alex thought for a bit. "Since you have learned the Dao of Metal, we should work on you learning more Dao related to that."

"So... Dao of Sharpness, Dao of Conduction, Dao of Malleability, Dao of Ductility, Dao reflection, and Dao of Cutting," Alex said. "Those were what Shen Jing told us you could learn right?"

Pearl nodded.

"Great, then we will help you learn exactly that," Alex said. "As for me... I should focus on improving my understanding of the Dao of Techniques. That is the main thing I need to do before I can improve every single technique I have to the highest level they can go."

Alex continued walking. The more he did, the more he understood how weird this place was.



With the air not moving at all, for the most part, it felt like Alex was moving through a portrait that someone had drawn.

There were no sounds here other than his footsteps, not even the rustling of his clothes. He had to take a heavy breath to even breathe normally as the air simply refused to move at all.

"How do you think this place came to be?" Alex asked.

"I don't know," Pearl said. "What is this place exactly?"

"A battlefield of ancient times," Alex said. "But it's weird because the battle was over 90 thousand years ago, and yet all these auras still remain here. How do you think that happened?"

"Hmm... maybe someone sealed this place?" Pearl said.

"No, this place had no seal. It was an open place where anyone could walk in and out. Given how many places must've been a battlefield at that time, why is this the only one remaining?" Alex wondered.

"Even if someone had sealed it and another person had unsealed it sometime later, the aura wouldn't be this potent, and the small time intents would last this long," Alex said. "Something major must have happened in this place."

Alex arrived next to a giant boulder that looked red to his sense. However, it was just his senses that gave him such an illusion because the rock was filled with Fire Qi.

"Someone was using some sort of fire technique and it must've landed on this rock," Alex said. "How did this fire Qi last so long?"

Alex produced his own fire next to him and let it go. As soon as the fire lost connection to his Qi, it disappeared. However, the Qi that was left behind didn't.

"Oh, could it be that the air not moving is causing this?" Alex wondered. However, while it did take a bit of time, the fire Qi still disappeared into the atmosphere. It had only remained so long because of the environment he was in.

"And yet that fire Qi still remains. What's so different about that fire?" Alex wondered.

He took a deep, heavy breath and walked towards the rock. Pearl stayed behind and he had nothing to do with Fire Qi at all.

Alex walked carefully. While this was Fire Qi and he was used to it, this was one that very much likely belonged to a Saint realm or even an Immortal realm cultivator.

Alex walked one step at a time, feeling the danger as he moved forward. He felt the Qi, its strength, and the intent behind the action of using this Qi.

Alex felt the intent and it was a similar intent that he vividly remembered feeling many years ago that night.

"Murderous Intent," Alex said. "Makes sense."

He stayed there for a bit longer as he forced the Intent from affecting him and felt the aura of the fire instead.

One of the things he had learned recently was that being around a strong aura of something helped one understand the laws behind it.

One of the reasons why Alex learned so many Fire related Daos was because he was an Alchemist, who sat around a fire making pills.

However, those normal fire auras could not be compared to the fire aura that was here.

Alex had come to learn and hone his intent, but the real treasure here was the aura.

He sat next to the Fire Qi for a while and learned what he could. While he didn't gain a Dao, his understanding had improved a lot.

After a while, he stood up and left the place to go back to Pearl who was waiting for him out of the range of the murderous intents.

Hundreds of kilometers of land, with hundreds of thousands of Aura everywhere. The potential in this land was endless and Alex felt he had a chance to learn about everything he wanted to.

"Let's go, buddy," Alex said. "I think I know where I need to go next."

#### Chapter 913: What Can You Cut?

Somewhere about 10 to 15 kilometers away from the gates of the Ancient Battlefield, there lay a massive gorge on the ground, as if the ground had been split in two.

In fact, the ground had been split into two, and it had been done with none other than a sword.

For a sword cultivator, this place was one of the best places to cultivate in the entire Ancient Battlefield.

Alex arrived at this location not long after. He had learned about this place before even coming here and had planned on learning in this place.

But his plans were for him to come here many days later. However, learning about the aura and how useful it was forcing him to come here.

"The gorge is right in front of us?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Pearl answered.

"Describe it to me," Alex said.

Due to the self-imposed small range of his spiritual sense at the moment, Alex was incapable of seeing anything in there. However, even without it, he could feel the sword aura and could tell that whoever had fought here, had wanted to cut down everywhere.

"The ground looks like it has caved in, but at an angle," Pearl said. Towards us is the thin end of the gorge that was cut open, and it expands as it goes forward and only ends at the feet of a rather large hill," Pearl said.

"Is there any change in scenery?" he asked.

"No, it's the same barren land as we've been walking on for the past hours," he said. "There are also people here. Hundreds, actually."

Alex nodded. He wasn't very surprised. This was a famous place after all.

"How are they seated?" Alex asked.

Pearl looked around. "They're scattered, around the start of the tip of the gorge mostly, but there are some on either side as well," he said. " Although, most are quite far away from the gorge itself."

"I see. Let's go to a relatively open place then," Alex said. "We'll test ourselves against the intent and aura here. If we can withstand this, we can continue moving forward."

"This will help me hone my Sword Aura, and you should be able to look into the laws of the Dao of Cutting or Sharpness," Alex said.

Pearl took Alex to an empty location away from the start of the gorge and saw down.

Alex found himself capable of going even further with relative ease, but he still decided to stay back so that Pearl could take his time.

He sat around the hundreds of people who were all in deep cultivation, doing their best to look into the Intent and Aura that was used to split the earth in half in front of them.

Pearl concentrated on it as well, and so did Alex.

For a while, Alex could feel nothing much at all. So, he decided to sense more, deeper with his spiritual sense.

He sent his spiritual sense further towards the edge of the gorge. He needed to be careful here as the aura from the sword was still quite dangerous for him.

He continued increasing his range and soon entered an area where the sword aura and thereby intent were quite thick. As such, he started concentrating on it from far away.

It took him a while, but he was able to get lost in his own thoughts, as his mind was influenced by the aura and intent he was constantly experiencing.

Soon, he started seeing visions.

Alex saw a man in front of him with a single sword in his hand. Alex didn't know what the man looked like, how he talked, or how he dressed. He didn't even know if that was a man.

He couldn't see what the sword he held was like. Was it metal or wood? Was it a single-edged blade or double-edged? Alex couldn't even see if the man was holding a blade at all.

However, a man holding a sword was the impression he was getting for the moment. The man prepared his sword and swung.

The world lost its colors as light itself seemed to have been cut, and Alex came back to his senses a second later.

He fell into deep thought for a few minutes as to what he had seen before understanding what it was.

Intent. Alex had seen this man's intent. More specifically, he had seen this man's intent to cut everything in his path using his sword, even if the thing he was cutting was light itself.

'Such grand intentions,' Alex thought. He was shocked by exactly what the man thought he could accomplish with his sword skills.

'Are all immortals like this?' he wondered. It was hard for Alex to have such intentions. He didn't even know if it was possible to cut light or not. He had never heard of anyone doing anything like that in the first place to have intentions like this.

But, if that really was possible, then just what else was possible?

Alex began thinking. You could cut space, he knew that. Could you cut time? How would that work?

Could you cut reality? Was that even possible?

Could you cut a soul? A spirit? A mind?

Could you cut the heavens? Could you cut a dao, the very fundamental truths of the world?

If you could, just how strong could you be?

While Pearl focused on learning the truths behind the Dao of cutting hidden within the aura of the sword, Alex started unraveling the possibilities hidden in his future.

He understood that cutting everything was not what he wanted to do with a sword. A sword for him was a means of defense in most scenarios and only a means of hurting or even killing when absolutely needed.

He would rather de-escalate a situation than immediately fight the other person.

However, he was also willing to cut down anyone or anything who stood in front of him and his path forward.

Whether it be Immortals, Divinities, Celestials, or even Gods. Whether it was living or dead. Whether it was the earth, the moon, the sun, or even the stars.

Whether it was space, time, or fate, he would cut everything down and keep moving forward.

Alex felt a clear change in himself after the self-revelations. His mind felt improved for some reason, and it took a moment for him to figure out what had just happened.

'My sword Intent has improved... by quite a lot,' he thought. He could tell that it was now above the threshold of what was necessary for someone to have Sword Aura.

Now, the only thing that was lacking was for his Sword Qi to improve as well. For that, he needed to improve his way of handling the natural sword aura and make the sword Qi as dense as possible.

That was something he could either learn after a long training session or simply improve by understanding how someone else had done it through their sword aura.

With so much of sword aura in front of him, Alex was more than certain that he could gain an understanding of that here. If he was lucky, he would even learn his Sword Aura right here, in this very gorge.

#### Chapter 914: Intent

After a day of sitting down and meditating, Pearl was able to improve himself enough that they could move some dozen or so meters ahead and sat down closer to the starting point of the gorge.

Alex was now about 100 or so meters away from the tip of the gorge and was around the same area as most other cultivators that were just starting as well.

Barring the experienced Saint realm cultivators, there were only a few that were further than them and they had been here for a while as far as Alex could tell.

Alex felt the aura and intent land on his body and simply brushed it off as if it was nothing.

Having sensed the aura and intent close to the tip of the gorge, Alex was sure he could handle anything about 10 meters away from it. They were but an inconvenience for him at this point.

Beyond the 10-meter area, however, was a location that most cultivators weren't sitting in, so Alex too felt a little reluctant to check that.

He didn't think there would be anything harsher there, but just to be safe, he kept his spiritual senses from reaching beyond that point.

As for the sides of the gorge where the Saint cultivators were apparently staying, he had no intention of going there yet. That was a place where only those who either had a very high cultivation base or understanding of the sword went. Usually both.

In order to wait for Pearl to be ready to move forward, Alex stayed where he was and started cultivating.

Time slowly passed by as he sat there, cultivating. Alex cultivated his eyes, his Undying physique, his spiritual sense, and his Qi.

Pearl in the meanwhile was getting ever so closer to understanding a new dao, but he simply couldn't force himself to understand it.

He still needed some time, so he focused on improving his fighting power over the physical and mental pain that constantly bothered him.



He hadn't expected the aura and intent together to be this strong, this far out. But, he knew that Alex was staying behind just for him, so he felt determined to fight this out and become strong enough to move forward.

If he could not, he would only be dragging Alex back with him.

So, the two, man and beast continued their own things for the next few days.

Every so often, Pearl would let Alex know that they could move forward and they would move a step closer.

It wasn't just them. Many other cultivators would move forward after some time of getting used to the aura and intent.

They all wanted to get closer to the gorge and understand its true mysteries, and if possible, learn the sword strike that made this gorge.

It took a month for Pearl to move about 50 meters closer to the gorge, but there was still 50 meters or so left.

However, he couldn't do it anymore. He had learned the mysteries behind the cut as much as he could, and now he simply had to wait for the Dao mountain to open up so he could learn another Dao.

As for improving his Intent, he was taking too long.

"I'm sorry," he said. He knew that Alex was blind in the current situation and that he was his only eye. However, he couldn't keep dragging him any longer. He was just slowing down his progress.

"You don't have to be sorry," Alex said. "I'm just glad that you did the best you could. I'm sure you'll soon figure out the entire Dao."

With that, Pearl went into the beast space, and Alex stood up to walk up front.

His spiritual sense diminished as he walked forward so as to not harm himself by accidentally seeing too much.

Some people noticed him walking quite far, but most ignored him. Only a few of them showed a surprised look on their face when they saw him suddenly move over 30 meters at once.

Alex walked even further and stopped at around 15 meters of distance. This to him felt like the perfect spot where his body was constantly assaulted by the aura, but it wasn't strong enough to cause him pain.

So, he sat down and started looking into the mysteries that were now so close to him.

Not even half a day later, Alex understood what it was exactly he had to do. He had to use his Sword Intent to generate more Sword Qi and then condense it using his Sword Intent again.

That was how he could improve it.

Since Alex had skipped a step in learning Sword Qi, his idea of how sword Qi could be improved was almost non-existent.

And since Sword Qi itself was quite rare to see on the Western Continent, he had no place to learn how it was trained.

It was only now that he was learning how one properly learned it.

Alex brought out a sword to test this and the moment he took it out, the sword started glowing all white.

Little flickers of light appeared from the sword, shooting outside as it always did.

All of a sudden, the little flickers of light that rarely stayed shaped like a sword, started maintaining their sword shapes more often. They still flickered back to being a mote of light, but they did remain, even if just for a while, in the shape of what a Sword Qi really should be.

Alex felt excited. If only he knew this was all he had to do. He forced himself to create even more of the Sword Shaped Qi, and to his surprise, it worked.

The method to turn raw sword Qi into Sword Shaped Qi was simply the intent behind it. So, the more he focused on his Sword Intent, which was now acceptable to be in the same category as Sword Aura, his Sword Qi naturally started improving as well.

Alex focused on that and only that, oblivious to the fact that there were people around him, looking at him with awe.

The relative ease with which he had gone from having almost no Sword Shaped Qi to almost all of the Sword Qi being Sword Shaped Qi was mind-boggling for them.

The rate of improvement was just too much, and some even began to think that he was just showing off, putting on a fake performance.

However, those that understood Sword Qi better, and especially those that understood Sword Aura, could see the terrifying speed at which he was approaching the limit of Sword Qi.

Alex's Sword Intent was not just creating more Sword Qi around his sword, but it was also starting to create some Sword Qi here and there all around his body.

The surrounding cultivators kept looking with shock, expecting to see a miracle.

However, in the end, Alex stopped. "God, this is so draining," he thought. Using so much intent at once gave more mental fatigue than he would have liked to admit.

He sighed, and unknown to him, so did the others.

A True realm cultivator learning the Sword Aura was a feat that was rarely preceded, and learning it so quickly was surely unprecedented.

However, now that Alex had stopped, they couldn't help but sigh in disappointment. Just a little more and they could've seen history, and yet he just had to—

Alex's Sword Intent burst back into action, forcing Sword Qi in the shape of a Sword to appear not just on his sword but also all around him.

He had understood what he had needed all this time. Shen Jing had hinted at it, but he had likely never told him because he needed to learn this on his own.

Everything stemmed from intent.

Whether it was the intent to use a technique, intent to use a weapon, or intent to use a Dao.

Without intent, none of these things were usable.

Without Intent, a cultivator would just be a mindless husk, incapable of doing anything.

Without Intent, cultivators wouldn't exist.

It was only their Intent to grow stronger and live longer that made the mortals cultivate in the first place.

As such, using Intent as a base, one would be able to do anything so long as they had the potential for it.

In the case of cultivation, as long as there was Qi around them, a normal person could start cultivating.

In the case of a Dao, as long as one understood the dao, they could use their Intent to use the dao.

In the case of swords, as long as one had a sword, using the Sword Intent as a base, one was able to generate Sword Qi.

Previously, he was using his Intent to 'keep moving forward' as an indirect method of creating Sword Qi. That resulted in the Sword Qi rarely being sword-shaped.

However, now that he had learned the actual method, he was able to use Sword Intent to force out a lot of Sword Qi that he normally wouldn't be able to.

His sword glowed ever so brighter, forcing out the Sword Shaped Qi in all directions around him.

However, Alex didn't stop there. He used his Intent to make even more Sword Qi, and before long, his Sword was too overwhelmed to handle more Sword Qi.

In that instance, his body started creating more Sword Qi, all of which were influenced by his will to 'keep moving forward', and would act accordingly.

As such, when there was enough of them hanging around him in unison, Alex understood that at this moment, he had learned Sword Aura.

## Chapter 915: Training

Alex stopped his Sword Aura. While he did learn it, it was a bit too strong for him at the moment to continue keeping it active without throwing it out.

Also, he was certain that he was still going to need a lot of practice to use it multiple times.

The amount of mental strain alone used up by his Intent to create Sword Qi around him would be a lot for him now.

'Well, it's only been a month since I entered anyway. I have a lot of time,' Alex thought.

Once the Sword Aura disappeared, he stood up and walked forward. He got closer and closer to the 10-meter mark that he was told by Pearl.

He had not yet seen the gorge or whatever that lied around it. Until now, he had only been explained that.

So, Alex decided to see it for himself and took his first step into the unknown.

Intense Intent assaulted him the moment he did. He was not the one the Intent was targeting clearly, but even then it was hard to not be attacked by it.

'Attacking intents are so much stronger than ones that are simply there to stop people from reading some words,' Alex thought.

It could also be that in this stagnant world, this intent had remained fresh, while the ones in the book and stele had faded over time, but that didn't take away from the fact that Alex was currently being attacked by some of the strongest intent he had felt to this day.

Alex stayed determined, however, and kept moving. There was nothing that was going to stop him.

He took another step, fighting the forces of the intent and aura together. They were bad, but nothing that could stop him right now.

Besides, the truly bad part would start at the spot where the ground was attacked.

Alex moved three more steps forward, arriving around the 6-meter mark, where he was finally forced to stop. He could have kept moving forward, but then he would have to move back immediately as he would be completely exhausted.

Instead, he sat down and started tempering his intent again, while at the same time trying to look into the mysteries behind the aura.

However, this time he was looking for different mysteries. Previously, he was searching for the mystery behind Sword Aura. However, now he was searching for the Dao that was hidden within this aura.

He knew for sure that the Dao of Sharpness was hidden within this aura, but he wanted to see if there were more he could find.

So, he sat and continued understanding the dao for as long as it took him.

Time passed slowly, but surely. People continued coming and going from this place, but very few actually stayed there long enough to give themselves ample opportunity to learn everything.

Alex was one of them. He had stayed there for one month with Pearl, and that was what he had needed to slowly grasp the concept of Sword Qi so he could form his own sword aura.

After that, he stayed there for 2 more months, learning everything he could. During these times, he practiced bringing out Sword Aura frequently but found that he still needed a lot of time if he wanted to use it multiple times.

What he did successfully do was understand the Dao of Sharpness to a certain extent now, but there was still something that he needed to learn that he wasn't able to get from here. He would have to mull over it on his own in the Dao mountain.

Aside from that, he had also glimpsed at something in the aura. Not only was the Dao of Sharpness there, but there was something else, something not a Dao or intent.

Alex had a hunch, but he wasn't sure if he was correct. But if he was, then whatever it was in there, was very much likely the next step after Sword Aura.

'What can it be?' he wondered.

He was curious, but the answer wasn't there. So, after 3 months of non-stop learning the sword, Alex finally decided to leave now to train on his own.

As for going forward, he could come back once his eyesight was back.

Alex stood up and felt himself a little exhausted from the constant battle that he was in for the last 2 months. He then swiftly walked away from the aura and intent, leaving it behind.

He felt a sense of relief not having to constantly fight it all.

A few people noticed it and looked up curiously. These were the people that had been here 2 months ago and had seen Alex reach Sword Aura.

Now, they wanted to see how far he had come.

One man stood up and immediately walked up to Alex. "Fellow Daoist, wait," the person said.

Alex moved his spiritual sense to the person and realized that this was a Saint realm cultivator.

"Can I help you?" Alex asked.

"I certainly hope you can," the man said. "I was hoping you would have a simple bout with me with the new knowledge you acquired here."

"You want to test my Sword Aura?" Alex asked. He was certain that people had seen him after trying it out for so long.

"I actually want to test my understanding I have received from this place by comparing it against what you've learned," the man said.

Alex remained silent for a bit in contemplation.



"Please do not worry, I will not sure my cultivation base for anything other than defending," said the man with a cultivation base in the lower Saint Condensation realm.

Alex smiled behind his mask. "Sure, why not? I wish to see what I've learned too," he said.

The two of them moved a little further away, and a few people felt dejected that they weren't there before him.

Alex took out a normal sword and stood in front of the man who took out his Saint-ranked sword.

"Let's begin," the man said and his sword shined brightly.

Alex's sword shined with the same bright light as the man's as well. In fact, his might have been brighter due to the sheer number of Sword Qi he was making.

Alex wasn't even intending to use Sword Aura, and only Sword Qi, but the amount he was producing was abnormal, to say the least.

Sitting inside that place for so long had affected his Intent so much that he now had to reel it in so as not to overdo it.

The man swung his sword and the white slash moved towards Alex. Alex sensed the weak attack and slashed his own.

If the man's attack looked like a stream of flowing water, then Alex's attack was a raging river. Nothing was going to stop it from keeping on going.

His attack devoured the Saint's attack and kept on going towards the Saint. The Saint realized the danger and quickly used a defensive technique to protect himself.

Still, he was pushed back by the attack he was just dealt. He looked at Alex in horror, only now understanding just how strong the young man in front of him was.

And he hadn't even used his Sword Aura yet.

With only Sword Qi, Alex had forced the Saint into giving up. If he had used Sword Aura, he would've likely killed the saint.

Alex himself was quite surprised by how strong he had been. He couldn't help but wonder just how strong his sword attacks were now.

"I see that I'm not your match," the saint said with clear shock written in his eyes. "Thank you for parting blows with me."

"Thank you too for letting me test my new strength," Alex said and bowed a little.

The Saint turned around to leave, and another cultivator moved past him.

'Hmm?' Alex thought. He had scanned the place a few times, but he hadn't seen this woman before.

'Was she one of the cultivators that stayed further away than me?' he thought.

"Young man, would you like to test your Sword Aura with me? I wish to see how strong you've become," she said.

Alex checked the woman's cultivation base and it was clearly in the Saint Foundation realm. She was far stronger than what he could hope to beat even normally.

Which meant, that this was the best person to train against using his full might.

Alex nodded. "Thank you, senior, for giving me this opportunity."

## Chapter 916: Breakthrough

Alex stood not far away from the woman and readied his sword.

The woman stood nonchalantly as she didn't sense any danger from Alex at all. "Attack whenever you want," she said.

Alex nodded. He flared his Sword Intent and his sword glowed alight with Sword Qi. At a certain point, the Sword Qi became so dense that his sword couldn't handle it, and instead, the Sword-shaped Qi started appearing all around him.

They moved randomly at first, which had absolutely nothing in common, but then Alex enforced his Intent that he had honed for years now, and suddenly the chaotic Qi came into Order.

He took a deep breath. "Here I come."

And then he attacked.

He slashed his sword casually, sending out a sword slash that followed the normal path. However, led by that slash was the many orderly Sword Qi.

They followed behind the slash and made their way toward the woman.

The woman looked shocked at the strength behind Alex's attack. She had expected it to be strong, but this... this was reaching the peak of Saint Condensation realm.

Just a little more and he would be touching onto the Saint Foundation realm.

'How is such a strong person only True Emperor 7th realm?' she wondered.

Alex's slash flew through the air, nearly 3 meters wide, and the Sword Aura that followed behind it was even wider.

As they approached the woman, the woman also attacked, slashing her sword at the Sword Aura.

Her physical sword clashed with Alex's attack, and she tried to destroy the attack. However, she was surprised that despite being stronger, she couldn't easily destroy the attack.

The aura kept on going, pushing her even after being stopped as if that was the only way.

They weren't here to cut her or kill her, and that surprised the woman.

'There's someone out there learning such unconventional truths about themselves to understand their sword aura?' she wondered. Most people, including herself, only chose to use their swords to cut everything in their path, destroy things, or kill the person they attacked.

However, Alex's sword aura wasn't trying to harm her. It would if she let it, but that was not its purpose. Its purpose was to never be stopped.

A small smile appeared on her face. She quickly slashed the rest of the aura away by overwhelming it, but even that took a split second more than she would've expected.

"You surprised me," she said. "Can you tell me how you came to learn the truth about yourself?"

"It was a long time ago," Alex said, not bothering to explain anything anymore.

"I see," she said. "With your current strength, rarely any Saint Condensation realm cultivators should be your enemy, given that they haven't learned their own Sword Aura or have some strong techniques."

"Thank you for helping me understand that," Alex said.

The woman smiled. "I'm curious. Were you the one they talked about?" she asked.

"They?" Alex was confused.

"My seniors," the woman said. "I'm an elder of the Nether Poison sect, and I heard them speaking about a young man that reached the top of the Dao mountain not long ago with a white cat of his. I heard the young man with a white mask on his face shock them quite a bit. You're that person, aren't you?"

Alex was surprised she knew him. "Yes, I am indeed that person," he said.

"Aren't you supposed to be in the Frozen Heart sect? Why are you not wearing their robes?" she asked.

"Senior isn't wearing the Nether Poison sect's uniform either," Alex said.

The woman narrowed her eyes and chuckled. "Fair enough," she said. "How do the Frozen Heart sect treat you? Is it not very sad being in the midst of all those girls, but never being able to truly interact with them?"

Alex could see where this was going. "I'm fine with how I am being treated by the sect at the moment," he said.

"I see. Well, if you ever do feel like you should be treated better, our sect will always have our doors open for you," she said.

"Thank you, senior," Alex said. "Now, if you will excuse me, I will be leaving."

"Sure, go on to do your own thing," she said and turned around to back to her cultivation as well.

The many people looked in shock, not just from what they saw, but from what they heard as well.

The young man in front of them that had just demonstrated his monstrous talent with his Sword Aura had also learned Dao at the peak of the Dao mountain not long ago.

They were certainly going to start talking about this now to everyone they met.

Alex called out to Pearl after walking a few minutes, and together the two of them continued their journey into the Ancient Battlefield.

Alex started making a few plans on what he wanted to do, but there was really just a single plan and a few other things that he would be happy about if he did, but he could skip them if he didn't get to.

However, before going on to do that one main thing he wanted to do, he needed to do another small thing that he had been pushing back for a while now.

Alex made pearl look for a place where they could set some resting area. They found a place in a rocky set of land where Alex pulled out a few rocks to make a small cave-like place where he could hide from the sight of others.

Once there, Alex made Pearl stand guard, and then he started cultivating. He was going to break through today.

He had reached True Emperor 7th realm a long time ago, but due to circumstances, he hadn't been able to break through at all.

His only time would have been in the month he stayed in Silvermoon city, but he didn't feel the time was right at that time.

However now, 3 months later, it did feel right, so within an hour of entering cultivation, he broke through to True Emperor 8th realm.

Alex stayed in cultivation for the next day or so, slowly stabilizing his new cultivation base in this world where nothing moved.

It took him not long before he was able to stand up and leave. However, Alex didn't leave.

He instead started training his Sword Aura. Now that he was away from any Intent that he had to constantly fight against, his Sword Aura appeared far quicker than he was used to while he was learning it.

It was also strong, maybe even a little stronger than when he used it against that woman, but not by much.

He experimented with his Sword Aura a bit, learning just how far he could send it without losing much of its destructiveness, how long he could hold it without attacking, how many Sword Aura attacks he could send out before his mind started feeling fatigued, etc.

He trained for a day or two, while Pearl stood to watch.

Finally, after 2 days he stopped as he had trained the same thing multiple times and came to a conclusion.

His sword skills were now his strongest asset, followed by his Qi attacks, his physical body, and finally his mental attacks.

## Chapter 917: Bells Ringing

Alex used his Flame Mastery Scripture to try and create a ball of water in the air.

That obviously didn't work, but he had really intended to do that. And yet, somehow what came out was still fire.

Alex wondered why that was. Why didn't his Intent change the type of Qi that was coming out? That worked normally.

He tried it again to bring out some Water Qi, and it did, but for some reason, when using techniques, he could never determine what Qi he wanted to bring out.

Alex was very curious as to why that was. Was Intent not capable of changing Qi when it came to changing a technique? Or did pathway have an influence here?

Such instances of trial and thought occurred multiple times throughout the next few months as Alex made his way through the Ancient Battlefield with Pearl.

From time to time, Alex could come across a location with a thick aura, and sit around there to understand the mysteries hidden behind it.

When he was not, he tried using his techniques and understanding why they worked the way they did.

After all, understanding the Dao of techniques was for now his most important mission. If he could do that, he could do many things.

However, it was hard. Way harder than he was expecting.

While not as ridiculous as the trillions of nerves in a human body, there were still thousands of meridians in a cultivator's body.

Some were small, some were big. Some weren't used as much, while some were used quite a lot.

However, perhaps the most annoying thing about the meridians was that they were connected to Spiritual Roots. So the more Spiritual roots one had, the more meridians one had in their body.

With all 7 spiritual roots in his body, Alex had to keep track of the most number of meridians one could possibly have in their body.

Since pathways were made up of those very tens of thousands of meridians, Alex was having a hard time understanding how techniques worked.

He was starting to see just how massive of an endeavor he had.



"No, Shen Jing knows Dao of Techniques, and he's only a Saint realm cultivator. Surely I will learn it very soon as well," Alex thought. He was certain he could learn it very soon.

So, he wasn't disheartened at all and continued practicing.

He went through many locations, learning from the aura, but there was no place that was as potent as the one from over a month ago.

That was until Alex came across another place with a similar situation. There was a rock that was cut into two.

Alex felt a sharp intent coming from the area and could tell that there was some Dao of Sharpness he could obtain from here.

So, both he and Pearl got as close to the rock as possible and started trying to understand the mysteries hidden behind the cut.

However, it wasn't long before they realized this was different. The rock wasn't attacked by someone that knew the Dao of Sharpness, but rather the Dao of Cutting.

While the two Daos were quite similar, the Dao of Cutting was barely connected to the Metal energy, making it harder for Pearl to understand.

Still, the two of them sat there and tried to understand the mysteries. They went closer together this time and learned as much as they could.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much he could learn from this place. From what he understood, the person who cut this rock didn't have much understanding of the Dao himself and only used bits of what he knew in his own attack.

But, given that the Intent here was quite potent, Alex decided to stay here and help train Pearl as best as he could.

Alex knew he would have to stay for a very long time if he wanted Pearl to improve his Intent to a high level. But he couldn't do that and had to go improve himself.

As such, he had to settle between the two and stayed there just long enough for Pearl to improve enough, which turned out to be around 3 weeks.

After the 3 weeks were over, Alex went away, searching for better places to train and cultivate around.

He found a scorched ground with thick Fire Qi and learned as much as he could about the Dao of Fire from there in a few weeks.

He found a gouge on the earth that could have only come from someone pulling it out of the ground, and thus there were heavy Earth Qi still hanging around the edges of the crater, where Alex learned for a few weeks.

He fought a man that wanted to test his skills and defeated him rather harshly after realizing that he was trying to use him as a training puppet instead of a partner.

He fought a woman who seemed to be starting to grasp some knowledge of Dao of Ice, and fought her multiple times such that he too started to understand what she was learning.

He found a place where walking became abnormally hard due to the randomly shifting gravity all around him. He sat there for a long time, trying to learn the mysteries behind gravity itself.

To his surprise, he was getting somewhere.

During this time also came the day he applied the paste to his eyes for the last time. Now, he was all out of the paste and he would finally gain the first stage of Demon Eyes not long after.

Some days later, while Alex was training with his 21 Sword array, trying to figure out a way to add more swords onto it, he heard loud ringings from the south.

He looked towards the origin of the sound in surprise, wondering what it was. It was only after a while that he realized that it was the sound that noted them of the gate's opening.

"6 months have already passed since we came here, huh?" he thought. He couldn't believe how he had so easily spent away his 6 months.

'It felt like I came here yesterday,' Alex thought before going on his own way. The gate might open, but he wasn't going to leave right now.

He wasn't going to leave for quite a while.

Alex then fought some more people and found a few places to cultivate in, all the while training his Dao of Techniques.

He wasn't getting anywhere, but he kept practicing.

Everything started happening quickly now that he had less need to stay somewhere. Not only was there no need to improve his Intent as much, but the mysteries were also not very hidden for him after learning so many different ones.

However, that wasn't to say that he never came across a place that didn't stump him.

One did, and he was happy to find it.

He had felt the location when he was close and had Pearl look for it, but Pearl didn't see any weirdness here.

However, Alex knew what was up there, so he ran quickly and arrived next to it. He sensed the area and could tell that there were mysteries here, mysteries of a Dao that he had been looking forward to learning for a very long time.

Dao of Space.

Chapter 918: Space and Matter

"Pearl, go back inside. I will have to remain here for a while," Alex said.

Pearl nodded and went in without any question. After Pearl went in, Alex got as in as he could before he felt as if the aura was going to overwhelm him.

Then, he sat down and started meditating.

Alex's senses spread wide, trying to see if he could notice anything different with the space that he could feel. However, it didn't look like there was anything wrong.

No matter how much he tried looking with his spiritual sense, Alex saw that the space was normal, and not twisted or split in any way at all.

He realized that his spiritual sense couldn't sense space at all. 'Is this because I haven't learned the mysteries behind Space, or is spiritual sense just not capable?' Alex wondered.

He kept his senses as they were and instead focused on the aura he could feel. It was still a mystery to him as to why he could feel the space aura, but since he did, he would try to master it.

He sat there, meditating, trying to feel space. The first step to understanding the properties of space was to figure out what the property of the current aura belonged to.

He needed to figure out if the current space was enlarged, shrunken, twisted, or cut off from the rest of the space.

Alex was sure this space wasn't cut off. If it was, it would be similar to the secret realms where the space would feel cut off from the rest of other space.

Alex knew that feeling, and due to that reason, he knew this aura did not belong that that property of space.

So, it was something else.

Alex felt the aura for a while and left the place. He had spent a week there and he could see no result from just sitting there.

So, he decided to be proactive about it.

Once far enough away from the place such that the aura didn't affect him as much, but it was still affecting the space, Alex used his Flickering Shadow's Technique to teleport to a close by location.

When he did, he tried to feel his effect on the space around him. He tried to understand why he was teleporting.

Until now, he had never tried to understand the mysteries behind how he could do anything, and that was for a good reason.

As he was right now, Alex had no way of manipulating or even feeling space unless something else was affecting it. He had thought of using formations or scripts to make a place where space was affected, but that required Saint-ranked spirit veins, and it was basically impossible to find such a thing in the Northern continent.

No one in their right mind would find a Saint-ranked spirit vein and let it be. They would either take it away, or create a city, sect, or clan around it.

The only place Alex could think of that had a Saint-ranked spirit vein without any owner was the Demon realm of this side where the ruler lay.

And with the ruler hiding there from the Heavenly Judgement there, there was no way Alex would be allowed to wantonly manipulate space there.

Even if he could, returning to the State of Xue was not something he had planned.

As such, he had been without a place where space was affected and now that he had found it, he was using it to try and learn whatever he could.

Alex teleported again and felt the space move around him. There was one question he had thought about for a while that he wanted to be answered.

Did an object occupy space or did they displace it?

Could an object move through space like a spiritual sense moving through walls by both existing in the same location at the same time? Or was it like water where it was pushed aside as one moved and returned back when the person left?

Normally, it was impossible for Alex to find that answer. However, in this affected space where the aura was just right enough for it to not overwhelm his feelings but still help him feel them, Alex found his answers.

When he teleported using the Flickering Shadows technique, Alex felt some disturbance in space. He quickly caught on to the disturbance and tried to understand what had happened.

He did it multiple times and each time he got closer and closer to the answer until finally a day later he understood what the answer was.

Space existed alongside matter. Space wasn't water or air that was displaced by something appearing inside it.

Space was an emptiness. It was the lack of something. In the area where matter existed, space couldn't exist. In the area where space existed, matter could not exist.

However, those two couldn't exist without each other. If no matter existed, there would be nothing to validate the existence of space.

If no space existed, there was nothing to validate the existence of matter.

When he understood this, he teleported, again and again, to figure out how the teleportation was happening. As he continued doing that, he understood how it worked.

When he teleported, he simply stopped existing in one space and started existing in another.

Of course, it didn't just happen because he felt like it. His Qi worked to connect two different points in space as a single one and then separated them again.

However, during the separation, the other space took him and the space where he was existing all along, started existing again.

When Alex understood that, he couldn't help but frown. He had just learned that matter and space were hot and cold. One existed to define another.

But if that was the case then how was his matter being teleported around through space? Surely there were some problems in his understanding of what was happening.

So, Alex spent weeks trying to understand it all over again and he came to the same conclusion.

Matter and Space existed side by side, but never together. Where matter existed, space didn't. And where space existed, the matter didn't.

But then, the teleportation clearly connected his body to a point in space, shrinking the space until it was nothing for him and then releasing it while also taking his body there.

How was there a point in space in a matter when space didn't exist when the matter was around?

It hurt Alex's mind for a while trying to figure out what was happening, but at some point, a thought came into his mind.

A piece of trivia that he had learned so long ago that he was surprised he still remembered it.

Back when he was still a young teenager, his mother had taught him something about science. It had to do with atoms and molecules and how they formed an object.

Atoms were made up of small particles that were so small that they only occupied about 0.01% of what was considered the entire atom.

So, an atom was 99.99% empty. In other words, every single atom was filled with space for about 99.99%.

Meaning that everything that was then made up of atoms was also subsequently mostly just space.

A human being was mostly just space.

Alex's eyes went wide. He realized that his entire body was practically all space and barely any matter. So when the two points in space were connected, they were in fact connected to his body, because his body was space.

However, even when his body was space mostly, it was the matter that was the body. After all, space was technically just emptiness.

Alex felt enlightened. With this new knowledge, he started to teleport again, trying to figure out how one could possibly teleport.

He teleported for a bit and felt the aura of space around him change as he did.

Slowly, but surely, Alex came to understand what was happening.

When the two points in space were connected, the space in his body, and the space where he was meant to become one thanks to his Qi.



When they did, they swapped places. Now, the space where he had been was free of the matter that made up his body, and the space where he was supposed to become the space in his body.

Then, when the Qi no longer affected the space, the two spaces went back to where they were. However, when they did, the 0.01% matter that made up Alex's body was taken away by the 99.99% of space that was his new body.

As such, while he thought he was moving through space, disappearing in one location, appearing in another, what was truly happening was Alex was changing the space that made up his body and as such the new space became his body, making it appear as if he had teleported.

Alex sat down to quickly meditate on what he had just learned.

The Flickering Shadows technique used Yin Qi to affect the space around the shadow where the Yin Qi affinity was high.

However, one didn't need Yin Qi alone to teleport. As long as one could affect space with normal Qi and force them to swap with the space in themselves or any objects, the teleportation would be successful.

As Alex sat there, gaining this new understanding of space, the worldly laws descended from the world, unaffected by the weirdness of the Ancient Battlefield, and fell onto Alex.

Alex meditated for an entire day with the worldly laws on him, and by the time the worldly laws went back to the heavens, he had learned the Dao of Teleportation.

#### Chapter 919: A Property of Space

Alex stood up from his meditation session. He had been so thoroughly invested in learning about teleportation that he had forgotten to put Pearl on guard.

Alex sent his senses flying out all around him and sensed several people that were standing all around him, watching him.

He couldn't help but frown a bit when he realized that his learning of Dao had ended up becoming a spectacle for these people.

Alex ignored them and turned to go deeper into the aura to learn more, but some people started calling for him.

"Brother, wait a moment. We want to talk to you." Some said.

"Hey, did you learn a Dao? Can you tell us what you learned?" some younger folks asked.

A few of them even asked for a battle to test out what he had learned.

"Please excuse me. I don't feel like talking about what I have just learned," Alex said and went deeper into the space aura. However, unlike the other places, this space aura wasn't as dangerous at all.

It was just a manipulation of space and as such, it wasn't as dangerous around here. There wasn't any intent to stop people from coming either.

"Brother, what did you learn? I can't sense anything around here," the people started speaking as they got closer.

As they got closer, they also sensed Alex's cultivation base and were surprised that a True Emperor had learned a Dao here.

"Woah, you're just a junior?" some of them asked.

"Hey, come on! Tell us what did you learn?" they asked.

Alex sighed. "If you can't even feel the aura then certainly you have no chance of learning it. Please go to other places," he said and continued moving.

However, the people didn't like the answer.

One of the men quickly dashed up to him with his cultivation base flaring to threaten Alex.

"Stop right there," he said as he arrived right next to Alex. "You think we will just let you go after you start being disrespectful to us?"

He grabbed Alex by the shoulders and tried to stop him. However, Alex moved before he could do anything else.

Alex's right palm landed on the man's chest with a rather hard thrust, but the Saint was stronger than his physical body.

However, what came afterward was not something the man could endure. Alex's Qi flowed into the man, completely overwhelming his own Qi.

At the same time, the world moved on its own to produce Qi at the distance, which quickly made the space there connect with the space in the man's body.

At the next moment, the man disappeared, appearing nearly 500 meters away.

"What?" the people freaked out.

"Did he just—"

"He teleported that man. Did that young man use a skill?" someone asked.

"I think that was the Dao," another person said.

Even the man that had been teleported away looked in shock. He had never seen a technique that could do that for another person.

'I need to learn this,' he thought. They all thought.

Just then, Alex brought out his sword and suddenly his Sword Aura flared to levels he rarely took it to.

"Another person that is up to 5 meters around me will have to face my sword aura," Alex said.

The people were shocked and even more surprised now. Not only had Alex shown a shocking Dao, but he had also shown Sword Aura, all before even entering the Saint realm.

"Wait, isn't that the young swordsman that went from barely learning Sword Qi to learning Sword Aura in just a few minutes a few months ago?" someone asked. "I swear people by the split gorge were talking about him."

"White mask and black robes... yes, he does fit the description," another person said.

"If that is indeed true, then I hear that he can defeat even Saint Condensation realm cultivators," the first person said.

People who heard that started getting a little scared. If what they had just heard was true, then there was no way they would ever try to bother him.

Even if he wasn't the person in question, who would dare try to bother a person that knew a Dao and had a Sword Aura?

Alex waited for people to move, but after what they had just heard, nobody did.

So, he turned around and went a little deeper toward the origin of the Space aura and started cultivating again.

He wanted to test out his teleportation capabilities, but that would have to wait for now.

Still, sending that man away, he had learned a few things.

"500 meters... that's not a bad range," he thought. When he used his authority over space to use his intention to send the man away, the world responded just 500 meters away.

He wondered if it was anything different if he was the one teleporting. He didn't see how it could be any different, but he would have to test it later on.

"Hmm, I thought I would have an easier time understanding what is happening here now that I've learned about space a bit, but it doesn't look like it," he thought to himself. "What exactly is this aura about?"

Alex tried to understand how the space here was being manipulated. The space wasn't confined or separated from other spaces, that much he could tell just from feelings.

It wasn't certain about teleportations either. The only two other things he knew about space were being able to expand or shrink, but he had no practical experience with any of them to learn which it was.

Alex thought for a bit and brought out one of his empty storage bags.

A storage bag was created by shrinking space into a small pouch and confining it there.

Considering that, Alex tried to see if he could feel that aura behind the storage bag.

"No, that's not it," Alex thought and put back the storage bag. "Space isn't being shrunk here. Then is it an expansion? Or is there another property of space that I don't realize yet?"

Alex sat there, trying to figure out the mysteries of the aura in front of him. It was hard, but he persevered.

He sat there, trying to figure it out, and as such time passed rather quickly for him.

Alex moved from time to time in between and finally arrived at the location where the aura was the strongest. At this place, there was intent as well.

So, he meditated on the intent and aura and tried very hard to figure out what was happening.

A month went by and he learned nothing. People tried to learn here just like him too, but they truly couldn't feel anything, so they had to leave.

Two months went by and he realized that it was indeed not space expansion that was happening here and it was something else.

Three months went by and Alex started understanding something about what was happening in front of him.

Also, at this time, he broke through to the next realm. Finally, he entered the True Emperor 9th realm. At this point, Alex had such a dense Saint Qi, that he could very likely rival most Saint Condensation realm cultivators with just his Qi alone.

As soon as he was done breaking through, Alex returned to cultivating and learning the Dao here.

Between the third and the fourth month, the bells rang again, denoting the opening of the gates again.

1 year had passed since Alex came here. Which meant that the Dao mountain had already opened and closed by now.

In the fourth month, Alex showed some progress in his understanding of whatever was happening in this space.

In the fifth month, he noticed a crack in space that had yet to heal.

Alex stood up after finally noticing it after months and slowly sent his senses to see what the crack was about.

His spiritual sense wasn't able to notice anything around the crack, so Alex used his Qi to see if he could influence it.

The moment Alex's Qi touched the crack, he felt fear that he had never felt before.

The crack opened up wide to reveal darkness inside that tore up his spiritual sense the moment they entered.

The inside of the hole he had just formed in space was full of turbulence and chaos, and it was very terrifying.

Alex stopped using his Qi immediately and pulled back his sense, and the crack disappeared on its own.

He remained there, in his own pool of sweat as he breathed in and out hurriedly.

"What the hell was that?"

## Chapter 920: Revelation

The sudden reveal of the darkness, of the thing hiding behind in the emptiness that was space— it scared Alex in a way he would have never expected anything he couldn't feel to do.

It wasn't that the darkness had no aura. It very much likely did, considering he understood that there hid chaos and turbulence inside the darkness.

However, that had been due to the slightest peak he got before his senses were completely shattered.

Alex wondered if it was truly dark or if his senses had been lied to. He wouldn't know since his eyes hadn't healed back just yet.

He could tell that they were still accepting the medicine despite having stopped using it ages ago.

However, there shouldn't be that long a period left before he could see again. When he did, he wanted to look into this darkness and see what hid behind it.

For now, Alex had nothing else to do in this place, so he decided to leave.

He wandered off, shocked that not only could you cut off space, but you could also tear it wide open as well. But what lay beyond a torn space?

Alex wondered who could answer that question. The Tortoise maybe? Or was there someone else that was capable of such a thing?

Alex called out to Pearl now that they were leaving this area, and once he was out, Alex used his Dao of Teleportation to grab onto Pearl and himself, and teleported the both of them nearly 700 meters away, at the edge of his Spiritual sense.

Alex felt his mind hurt a bit from having to use his will to push the distance of the teleportation away.

After understanding something, he moved his hands to the left, and a piece of debris about 100 meters away burst into flames from his using the Dao of Heat.

Ice formed in another area where he took away the heat from that place.

In another location further away, Alex created an explosion, the damage of which didn't reach him.

Intent could do many things, and Alex was starting to learn it slowly. Using Intent, he was now capable of changing the distance up to where he could affect it.



It took considerably more time to use the Dao as the Qi that left your body would take some time to reach the location, but Alex was very much willing to suffer the delay rather than take the brunt of the explosion himself every time.

After that, Alex didn't find any place where he could learn a lot about the mysteries behind the aura.

Not everyone that had fought in this war knew a lot about the mysteries. Sometimes, the aura was just there because someone used a technique they knew.

Their understanding of why such a thing was happening would be shallow and thus there wouldn't be much for Alex to learn from.

There were maybe 2 or 3 more places that Alex was certain had aura where he could learn from. Unfortunately, those places were heavy with Wood, and Water aura.

As such, even if he did go, the chances of him understanding anything were highly doubtful.

There was only one other place he could go to, where he was certain there was a lot of Intent and Aura, where he was certain to find the mysteries of Dao he didn't even know existed.

However, he simply didn't want to go there because of how dangerous it was. After all, the Sky on this battlefield was not a place where you simply went to.

As such, since there was nowhere else to go, Alex took Pearl and went to 2 or 3 locations.

Along the way, he stopped wherever he found places where Pearl could improve his Intent, and from time to time, when the aura and intent around him was almost nothing, he also brought out Whisker to try and handle it.

Unfortunately, Whisker wasn't able to handle it as much and was forced to go back to his beast space.

Aside from that, Alex focused on just one thing. The Dao of Techniques.

He wanted to learn it so bad that even when he was trying to figure out the mysteries in the aura that he got around to, he would try and look into the Dao of Techniques.

And to his surprise, due to his constant attempt at gaining insight into the Dao, he was actually getting somewhere.

As he tried learning more about it, Alex came across a shocking revelation that he hadn't even thought about at the very least.

One needed to have an intent to use a technique to be able to use it... or so Alex had thought, but that was wrong.

He was surprised to learn that you didn't have to use your Intent to use a technique.

That was not to say that you could use a technique without Intent, but rather YOU didn't need to have the Intent.

As long as someone else had Intent on you using it, and you allowed their Intent to take effect by helping them use your Qi and Pathway, just like a Dao would, you could have others use techniques through you as well.

The concept of someone else using techniques using your Qi and Pathway felt bonkers for Alex at first, but the doubt all disappeared when he realized that was how his Pill-Splitting Qi worked.

Alex knew the technique by now and could use it himself, but he always let it happen automatically as that meant he had one less thing to think about when making pills.

However, it wasn't happening automatically. Alex was allowing someone else's Intent to make use of his Qi and meridians.

That certain someone was most likely the Alchemy God. After reading the Alchemy God's Knowledge, Alex had imprinted onto himself the Alchemy God's Intent, and through that Intent was how he came to do many things.

It was likely due to that Intent that he could learn recipes with a single peek. It was likely due to that Intent that he could recognize Alchemy ingredients without even knowing what the ingredients were.

It was likely due to that Intent that he had such an easy time becoming a doctor, easily learning about illnesses and diseases. It was likely due to that Intent that his Pill-Splitting Qi worked in the first place.

As Alex considered this, he understood something more important than just that.

He understood that it was very likely due to this very Intent why there was a lot of information still hidden in his mind, making him incapable of learning it all at once and instead was given to him in batches every time he broke through to a Major realm.

Was he to try and fight that Intent, could he remove the block and learn it all at once?

Alex doubted he would be capable of fighting against the Intent of someone called the Alchemy God, but even if he could, would he want to?

There had to be a reason why the Alchemy god had used his Intent to stop him from learning everything at once, so Alex decided to not tempt fate and fight against his Intent right now.

Still, it meant that the Alchemy God's Intent wouldn't last forever, so maybe it was about time for him to stop relying on it so much.

After he learned that, Alex got deeper into learning about the Dao of techniques.

Since he had learned more about the Intent aspect of it, he really needed to pull up the slack on the Qi and Pathway too.

He didn't know if there was anything else he could learn about Qi, but there was a lot to learn about Pathway still.

Alex went around the Ancient Battlefield, going to the three places he wanted to, gaining insight into a few more mysteries, improving Pearl's Intent.

He fought people to see what he had learned and had Pearl fight others as well. Slowly, the news about the True realm cultivator that could defeat Saint realm cultivators reached such popularity, that people were starting to recognize him just by his white mask alone.

Meanwhile, Alex continued learning about the Dao of Techniques, and finally after months had some sort of breakthrough where he understood a few things.

These were small, but pivotal things to help him learn the Dao of techniques in the future.