

Alchemy 931

Chapter 931: Up the Mountain

"Ahhh! I'm so happy to see you!"

Liz hugged Alex tightly while Alex was too stunned to do anything else. He had not expected to meet his aunt like this. Rather, he hadn't expected to meet his aunt at all.

"Is that really you?" Alex asked.

"Of course it is me. Who else could it be?" Liz asked with a chuckle in her voice. She simply couldn't hide her excitement after finally meeting one of her kin after 16 years of being separated from them.

"It's been so long... and you haven't aged a day, aunt Liz," Alex said. A smile was starting to form on his face as well. He was happy.

"Meanwhile, you've grown up a lot. How old were you last time I saw you? 15?" she asked.

"I believe so. I didn't see you guys ever since sister went to University, I believe," Alex said. "Have you been all alone this whole time?"

"I have," Liz said. "Why didn't you show yourself sooner? Where were you this whole time?"

"I... I only came to this continent 3 years ago, aunt Liz. That too on accident," Alex said. "I—"

"Zhumei! Stop playing around. What are you doing?" the old woman's voice reached through the slowed down time. She was forcefully fighting the dao that grabbed her and was talking through it.

"Oops, let's talk later," Liz said as she pulled down her veil and removed the time shenanigan that was happening around them.

The air felt light once more, and the people started moving normally. The aura dissipated as it should as well.

Time flowed back at its proper rate, and Elizabeth went back to being the quiet Veiled Fairy.

"Let's go," she said and started walking. Alex nodded and followed them.

"What were you doing?" the old woman from the Blazing Earth sect scolded her.

"That's my nephew, master," Liz said. "I finally found someone."

"He is?" the old woman turned to look at him. "He looks older than you."

"No, he does not," Liz said. "He's nearly 30 years younger than I am."

"Well... he does look about the same age as you. Also, now that I look at him, he does look similar to you," the old woman said.

"He's my brother's son after all," Liz said.

"You sound happy," the old woman said. She then turned towards Alex and spoke. "Young man, when this is all over, wait for us at the bottom okay? You can speak with your aunt after she's out of the Dao mountain."

Alex smiled and nodded. "Senior is right. I do indeed need to focus on my advances in Dao this month, so I can't have a hearty talk with my aunt just yet," he said.

The colorful Dao mountain looked so much better through his own eyes than Whisker's. Which reminded him of what he needed to do. He brought out Whisker from his beast space and looked around.

"What's wrong?" Liz asked.

"I need to find a place for him to meditate on too," Alex said, and I don't think he can go as far up either."

"A Seeking Mouse with a cultivation base? How is that possible?" the old woman suddenly spoke out loud.

"He's a variant, senior," Alex said.

"And you want to help him learn Dao? Isn't he too weak for that?" the elder asked.

"He has entered that True realm, Alex said. "From what I can tell, that is more than enough." His senses suddenly spread far wide until he found elder Xuan.

"Elder, can you help me get any of the disciples to look after my mouse?" he asked Xuan who was already very far up.

"Sure," she replied. "See how far up the little mouse can go, and then ask a disciple there. Let me know if they are hesitant."

Alex smiled and continued up the mountain, carefully checking on Whisker's condition. After a few minutes of walking, as Alex was close to the 1 kilometer mark, Whisker finally showed signs of not being able to go on anymore.

"You did so much better than last time," Alex said. "You should stay here and try to understand any Dao you can, okay?"

Whisker nodded.

Alex found a girl who would take care of Whisker while he was gone. After Whisker was with her, he walked with his Aunt and her master as well.

The old woman's senses fell on Alex with a surprised look on her face. She was checking him, like he checked Whisker, to see if he was having trouble.

However, for some reason, Alex was no longer feeling any effect from the scent in the mountain at all. He had to force his body to stop from not being affected, in which case did he finally feel drowsy.

'Dammit, I hope that doesn't cause any problem.' He thought.

As he continued going further up, the old woman was losing her mind. She was already felling the effects of the scent, and yet the young man behind her wasn't slowing down at all.

He was only a Saint Condensation 1st realm cultivator too. How was he keeping up so well?

'What the hell is up with their family?' the woman thought and looked towards her disciple who had no problem walking up as well.

Finally, she simply couldn't keep the questions to herself and turned around. "Young man, are you fine? How can you keep on going?" she asked.

"Of course, I'm fine. Does elder not remember me being fine before?" Alex asked.

"I do?" the elder looked confused.

"Sigh, Elder Xuan was right," he said as he reached into his storage bag and pulled out his mask. "It really is my identity now. No point in remaining anonymous anymore I guess."

"AHH! It's you!" the elder finally realized who she was talking with.

"We shouldn't waste time, elder," Alex said.

"Yes, master. Let's hurry up. I want to be done with this already," Liz said and continued walking.

The old woman wanted to ask so many things, but it had been her who said they could talk later, so she kept quiet and turned around to walk.

After reaching high enough, Alex called out Pearl, and together they reached the hot spring that was at the top of the mountain.

Alex greeted the ancestors there who recognized him because of his mask and Pearl. He walked into the hot spring alongside his aunt, and sat down to let the vapors of the scented water flow into him.

He talked for a few minutes with everyone, but soon enough they all had to start cultivating once more or they would miss precious time.

Pearl too started cultivating, so Alex closed his eyes and let the scent affect him too.

As his mind slowly drifted to nowhere, Alex freely started thinking of everything he knew. Not long after, he ended up thinking of just one thing, over and over, and soon enough he was only thinking about it.

Half a day later, the Saint realm cultivators who had barely gotten into their cultivation were woken up as the worldly laws descended upon Alex and left not long after.

Not even a single day had passed, and Alex had already learned a Dao.

Chapter 932: Some More Dao

Dao of Fire gave one a very keen sense of fire. Not only could one understand any and every fire, they could also locate any Fire element treasure that was around them.

Furthermore, it also gave them the ability to create any type of fire they desired.

Alex was amazed when he learned that part of the reason why he had never managed to learn a Dao of Fire, despite working with Fire almost every day was that he never truly understood what Fire as an element really was.

While Fire was a singular element, it was rarely that way in real life. Every treasure, material, or ingredient that was said to have a Fire element in it would always in some capacity hold the rest of the ingredients as well.

Otherwise, if it was just Fire, it would be highly reactive and would combine with whatever other energy was around it.

Pearl's knowledge of Metal came from his instinct and bloodline, allowing him to know these things instinctively. However, as a Human, Alex had to learn it.

He had known this fact before, but he rarely gave it a thought. However, after learning what he had learned recently, the fresh knowledge helped him understand the intricacies of fire.

And if he was to go by the same knowledge for Metal too then...

The Worldly laws that had left just moments prior returned once again, shocking every single one that was trying to fall into a trance but had to wake up because of the commotion.

Even Liz was surprised when she saw her nephew bring down the heavenly laws twice in a single day.

Alex sat there in a trance, oblivious of the commotion he was causing, and swiftly learned the Dao of Metals because of how similar the two of them were.

His mind naturally tried to move on to Earth, Wood, and Water, but he simply hadn't had enough interaction with these element or didn't have enough knowledge about their properties.

So, once he was unable to think much, Alex's mind wandered once more.

It drifted through the many knowledge, searching for something to grasp onto, some pathway to walk down on.

It wasn't long before he found one.

His eyes had never seen it, but his mind saw what lay in front of him.

A man stood with a sword in his hands as he dared to cut light in front of him.

This was the scene that Alex had seen back when he tried to look into the intent of the man that formed the famous gorge in the Ancient Battlefield.

Alex started learning about that specific Dao, understanding how one could cut things and what cutting was exactly.

This time, nothing happened instantly, and instead, it took him a few days before he was able to make sense of every single thing he had understood.

And as such, the worldly Dao returned once more and Alex learned the Dao of Cutting.

He proceeded to dwell on his understanding of the new Dao for a while. It was quite simple really. It allowed one to cut things, with or without a weapon.

Alex remembered Shen Jing cutting things with but a thought. He only now understood how he had really done it.

As he was about to fall back into a trance, trying to remember the next set of mysteries to understand, when suddenly the world dropped onto him again.

The worldly laws had descended once more, and Alex quickly learned who it was for.

'Pearl...' he thought.

He happily looked up to wonder what Pearl had learned. Anything would be good, but he hoped it was Sharpness since that was what he had made Pearl spend the most time learning.

However, when he felt an aura that fell from above, Alex panicked for a second.

"No... that can't be right," he spoke softly. He couldn't understand how Pearl was learning this Dao at all. After all, neither his primary Metal element nor his secondary Wood element had absolutely anything to do with Teleportation.

Alex felt the Dao of Teleportation fall and settle onto Pearl as he managed to fully learn it in a couple of hours.

When the Dao left for the sky, all that remained was Alex with his stunned face and the other elders that were even more stunned.

"Did... did you beast just learn a Dao?" one of them asked in surprise.

"How can a beast learn a Dao before reaching the Saint realm?" another person asked.

"Dear god, even humans are barely able to do that," another elder said.

Alex didn't say anything and continued staring at Pearl who was deep in thought. He wondered when Pearl had possibly learned about Space aura to understand Teleportation.

'Was it back in the Ancient Battlefield?' Alex wondered. 'No, it must be afterward. After I destroyed the Tribulation lightning with the Dao of Teleportation.'

Alex finally felt like he knew what had happened, so after a while, he went back to learning his own Dao.

His mind wandered, going back to the days when he learned to make artifacts.

The metals he put under fire expanded to the point where the solid metals became liquid. To do so, he had to give it a lot of heat. So much heat.

Alex understood that if he did so to anything else, more time than not, those objects would also show the same property.

They would expand, and could no longer remain solid.

They would melt.

A few days later, the worldly laws descended down onto Alex, and he learned the Dao of Melting.

The older folks had all but gone mad. It was surprising that a beast that had yet to reach the Saint Realm could learn a Dao, but what was even more surprising was that in the span of fewer than 2 weeks, Alex had learned 4 different Dao.

4 Dao was almost 4 more than what most Saint realm cultivators knew. It was double what these Saint realms themselves knew.

And yet the young man that had already learned 2 other Dao 2 years ago, and another Dao in the Ancient Battlefield half a year ago, had learned 4 Dao once again.

He had learned 7 different Dao, and that were only the ones that were public.

Lady Xuan knew that Alex had learned a Dao before he had even arrived in their sect 3 years ago. That was one of the reasons why she was so curious about him.

Their shock only increased when a few days later, the worldly daos descended once more, and Alex learned another Dao.

This time, he understood the Dao of Burning. Having learned so many Fire Daos, it was becoming easier and easier to understand the rest of the Dao that were affiliated with each other.

As such, Dao of Burning came quite easily to him.

A few days later, following Burning, he got the Dao of Boiling as well. The elders were numb to the feat at this point.

When Alex learned the Dao of Burning, he felt something unique, something he had never expected to feel before.

It was as if heaven itself was urging him to learn something. 'What is it?' Alex thought and continued searching for the answer.

Dao of Fire, Dao of Heat, Dao of Heat Conduction, Dao of Burning, Dao of Melting, Dao of Boiling, and finally, the Dao of Explosion, these were the Dao that Alex had learned, which were all connected by Fire.

So, he started thinking more about fire. He tried to remember what property of fire had he missed. What happened to something when it got hot?

Was it evaporation? Alex didn't think so. Evaporation happened when something boiled, but it also happened naturally even when there was no extra heat provided to something.

Then what was it? Destruction?

That was just something that was the aftermath of burning something. Besides, a fire wasn't the only source of destruction.

As Alex thought, he realized that everything he was coming up with was a result or a variation of all the Dao he had already understood.

'I'm focusing on the wrong thing, ' Alex understood. 'They're all connected.' The Daos were all connected to each other. Which meant, in a sense, the Dao he had learned until now could be considered to be a single mystery, a single law of a single Dao.

The world turned tumultuous as the heavenly laws descended with wrathful strength and fell onto Alex as he started combining everything he had learned, and everything he had understood into a single Dao.

Chapter 933: True Fire Dao and...

The Saint realm cultivators were scared. The aura they felt was not something they had ever felt before, and it terrified them.

They tried to peek into the mysteries behind the Dao that fell, but what they instead ended up with was doubt as to if the Dao they had learned themselves was real or not given that it was nowhere as vast as the mysteries behind the one Alex was learning.

Even Pearl was forced to wake up and move aside as the Dao all fell on Alex.

His clothes whipped, his hair astray, and yet his face remained calm and in deep thought. He found out questions he hadn't even known existed, and understood the answers to them too.

Slowly, the wall that stopped him from peering fully into the Dao crumbled and now he was thoroughly looking at the major dao.

The world remained as it was for many days before it finally started letting up.

A small smile formed on Alex's face as he learned the amalgamation of all fire-related Daos, the True Fire Dao.

Alex let out a deep breath as the worldly laws finally left him and the world returned to normal. He then took a deep breath and continued understanding the True Fire Dao.

He now had the ability to create, use, manipulate, and destroy fire and anything related to fire as he wished, and the world would help him do so.

Once he learned the dao, he mulled on it for a bit longer.

The saint elders looked at him and got abnormally serious all of a sudden.

"He's learned 7 dao in a single month," one of them said using their spiritual sense. Every one of the ancestor-level figures heard him.

"Even this little girl doesn't have that much potential," the red-robed female ancestor replied back.

"Do you think that perhaps he can help us?" another elder asked.

"This is something we will have to seriously consider. If we hide him well, he could be our savior," another elder said.

"He's only entered the Saint realm recently. It will take a long time for him to successfully help us," another elder said.

"Brother Wu, does your Heaven's Frost sect have any good alchemist that can help us? The young man will need a lot of help," someone said.

The man named Wu frowned. "Our Alchemists aren't the best. They can barely make any good pills," he said.

"We don't have any alchemists either," another person said.

"Sister Xuan did the same as us and outright forbid Alchemy from being passed down, so we don't have any good alchemists either," the green-robed elder said.

"The young man doesn't need any good alchemists. He only needs good resources. I'm sure he can grow on his own," elder Xuan said.

She was frowning on the inside now that she had seen the terrifying potential hidden in Alex. 'Why the hell did he have to be an alchemist? Such a good one at that too?'

"Send him to our sect. We will help him grow," the elder from the Nether Poison sect said.

"Later," the red-robed elder said. "He's my disciple's nephew, so I assume he's going to come with us for now."

"Speaking of which, why is he wearing a black robe, sister Xuan? Is he not your disciple?" Another elder asked.

"No longer," Elder Xuan replied. "He left the sect 2 years ago. He's only been using our name to remain out of trouble."

"So, we can have him join our sect right?" another elder said. Suddenly, everyone's eyes narrowed with greed.

Having a unified aid to help him grow so he could help them was one thing, but if they could also keep him afterward... that was just the cherry on top.

Alex slowly opened his eyes to see 7 different pairs staring back at him.

"What did you do, young man? That was quite the commotion" the Blazing Earth sect's woman asked.

"I... learned a dao, of course," Alex said.

"Yeah, but which one? I've never seen such an intense Dao before," Another elder said.

"It was a sort of combined Dao," Alex said. "Made by mixing two different Daos, which was why you probably found it the way you did."

The saints desperately wanted to know what two Dao Alex had combined, but they didn't voice it as that was not something one could ask so easily.

"Somehow, our time here was both wasted and worth it this time around," one of the blue-robed elders said.

"Yeah, I haven't even managed to fall into a trance yet," another elder said.

"Still, we did get to see what is it now, 7 different Dao at the same time," the next elder said.

"Well, it's time to leave now," elder Xuan said.

"Yes, it is," the others said. "Would you like you to leave with us, young man?"

"Is it time already?" Alex asked. He had been so invested in learning Dao that he had forgotten every concept of time.

"It's been 28 days. We only have 2 more days, so we are leaving," Liz said.

"28 days... I didn't realize," Alex said. He felt amused at how easily time had passed. "We still have 2 more days right?"

"Yes," the elders said. "But there is not much scent remaining in the pool anymore, and it's impossible to learn a Dao in just 2 days."

Alex smiled. "I would like to stay until the very end then. If seniors are going to leave, then farewell."

The Saints that were about to walk out, stopped. "Wait, what do you mean you want to try again? There are only 2 days left. Do you think you can learn more Dao?" one of them asked.

"I can always try," Alex said. He wasn't confident about most Dao, but he was confident regarding a single one he had been pushing back for a long time.

"If that is so then we will wait and see how far you go," the elders said and didn't leave.

"I am really curious if you can learn 8 Daos at once now," another elder said and sat back down in the hot spring.

Alex closed his eyes and began his process to learn another Dao. This time, he had a hard time falling into an assisted trance as there was almost no scent remaining in the mountain anymore. It had all been used up.

However, Alex didn't need a scent to fall into trance for this one. Previously, thanks to the scent and assisted trance, his mind had wandered on its own, thinking of whatever it wanted to.

However, now that he was without any trance, Alex could think of whatever he wanted. And he knew exactly what he wanted to think about.

His mind fell into a trance on its own as Alex began thinking about the day 3 years ago.

The day when he died 100 times.

This was a traumatic event for Alex, one that he had tried to keep at bay ever since he had obtained the Undying inheritance.

The pain he felt when his body burned alongside the lava, the horror of suffocating under molten rocks, and the terror of death was a feeling he would rather never remember feeling.

Or at least, that was his thought previously. His will had strengthened from the repeated deaths, such that he could hold on to his thought even when multiple memories invaded him.

Still, the thought of having died had terrified him, and what terrified him more was that he understood it.

He understood what death was. To lose your body, to lose your spirit, to lose your soul.

Death was the end, and he has seen it. Both by himself, and through the memories of the First Undying god.

He avoided thinking about death as much as he could, as that was not something he thought he could handle thinking about. However, after improving his Intent for so long, his will had improved as well, and he knew he could handle it all now.

So, he revisited the night he died, he revisited the memories of all the Undying gods and their constant death and revival.

Half a day later, the Saint realm cultivators remained stunned as the worldly laws dropped once again, dark and terrifying.

The few ancestors felt the aura that to them meant the signal for something. When the worldly law left after some more time, Alex had done it.

He had learned the Dao of Death.

Chapter 934: Leaving the Dao Mountain

Godslayer was stirred awake inside of Alex as he felt the aura that permeated throughout the world outside.

He could feel the death of Dao slowly settling onto Alex as he learned it and couldn't help but be both surprised, and confused.

Death was half of what he was, while Darkness was the other half. So, he was very attuned to the Death aura, which only made him question the situation even more.

'When did this kid learn about death?'. After a while, the aura disappeared, and Godslayer went back to sleep.

Alex opened his eyes to the stunned look of the elders. They were always stunned when he opened his eyes after learning Dao these days, but this time it was a little different.

They weren't just stunned, they were scared.

"Young man, what did you learn?" one of the ancestors asked.

"I... learned another Dao, senior," Alex said.

"No bullshit this time please," Elder Xuan said. "We need to know what that aura was."

Alex frowned. These people were entirely too serious about this one particular Dao for some reason when they kept their mouths shut for the last 7.

"It's the Dao of Death, dealing with Death aura," Alex said.

"Death aura?" elder Xuan asked.

Alex nodded. "It appears around people or animals, or sometimes even plants that are slowly dying," he said.

"Ohhhh... so that's what it was," one of the elders said.

The other ancestors nodded as well.

"What was what?" Alex asked.

"Nothing. We should leave now. The time is over," the elders said.

Alex thought of further asking some questions but it didn't look like they would be answering.

"Yes, let's leave," Alex said and stood up. Pearl turned into a bunch of light and disappeared back into his beast space.

"How'd you do it?" Liz asked as she got out of the hot spring as well. "How'd you manage to learn 8 different Dao in a single month?"

"I had prepared in the Ancient Battlefield for the last 2 years, and I was waiting for this time," Alex said.

"Hmm... I see," Liz said. "Well, congratulations. You'd make your parents proud."

Liz ruffled his hair and pat him on the back.

The girl who had kept Whisker had stayed behind, waiting for them to come down. Alex thanked her and wanted to give her something in return, but the only thing he could give her was pills, and that was not something he could randomly pull out in this situation.

So, he had to let her leave empty-handed.

They walked down the slope, with the elders continuously trying to make Alex come with them so they could show him how great their sect was, but Alex refused.

For the foreseeable future, he would stay with his aunt in the Blazing Earth sect.

And as it just so happened, the sect was right below the volcanic mountains with the Fire aura and treasures where Alex could improve his Fire Spiritual roots.

And just above that was Silvermoon city, which was just below the Ancient battlefield.

The Blazing Earth Sect was also very close to the Intercontinental Teleportation formation, which he wanted to check out on his own.

When they walked out, the old woman that was his aunt's master, whom he knew was named Tai Guan, immediately took him and her disciple onto a small flying ship and took off.

She did not want to spend a single moment more in which time the other old foggies would try and dissuade Alex from remaining in the Blazing Earth sect too long or even make him stop going there altogether.

Alex could only chuckle when he saw that. He said his farewell as they were leaving, and soon he was far away from the Dao mountain.

"Alright, tell me now. Where were you all this time?" Liz asked.

Alex contemplated on whether to answer with the old woman watching, but he decided to do so anyway.

"I was in the Western Continent all this time, which is why you never saw me before this," Alex said.

"Ah, right. You were on the Western Continent? How did you get here?" she asked. The old woman also listened curiously. As far as she knew, there should have been no way for him to travel here.

"I accidentally triggered a teleportation formation while running away from some people trying to kill me, and ended up here for some reason. I'm trying to search for a way back, but the only thing I have

come up with is the Intercontinental Teleportation formation, but I'm not sure if anyone can use it or not. I hear it costs a lot of resources," Alex said.

He looked at the old woman, trying to discern her expressions to see what she thought.

"Oh, people were trying to kill you? Are you okay?" Liz asked with a concerned tone in her voice.

"Yes, I'm fine," Alex said. "I managed to escape successfully."

"Good," Liz said. "You don't have to worry about them now. You're here, and you can stay here forever. Forget about the Western Continent."

Alex gave an awkward smile. "I'm afraid I can't do that," he said. "Mother should be waiting for me back in the Western Continent."

Liz's eyes went wide. "You found your mother?" she asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "About 10 years ago. Have you not found anyone?"

Liz's eyes teared up. "At least you found sister, Helen. Your father would be able to take care of himself, but your mother would have trouble. It is good that you found her so fast," she said.

Alex looked at his aunt. "Have you not found anyone? What about uncle Rob?" he asked.

Liz shook her head. "I neither found Rob, nor Hannah. I have been stuck here for the last 16 years, with no one. I finally found you. I hope the others are doing well," she said.

"Hmm, I don't know about Uncle Rob, but from what I heard, Sister should be doing fine. Apparently, she was doing well enough to appear on a TV show," Alex said.

"Oh, did she?" Liz asked.

"Yeah, mother told me. She said she watched the TV show multiple times before preparing to come here," Alex said. "She also said that sister is in the Eastern Continent."

"What?!" Liz's eyes went wide. "You know where Hannah is?"

Liz immediately turned towards the old woman. "Master! Can we go to the Eastern Continent any time soon?" she asked.

The old woman, who had been listening to the conversation, frowned. "We can't," she said. "You're too weak, and I'm too old to fly alone. And we can't take many of the sect members, so we're not going."

"But master, it's my daughter. I need to find her," Liz said.

"We can't. It's just impossible right now," the old woman said. "You can go when you're strong enough on your own. Besides, how will you even find your daughter in the Eastern continent? It may be small, but the Eastern Continent is the most densely populated continent of all, with only a small land dedicated to the Kings of beasts. We don't even know if your daughter is alive or not."

"Of course she's alive," Liz shouted back. "Look at me, and look at my nephew. Do you think my daughter will be any less capable?"

The old woman wanted to say something, but she couldn't. There was no retort to that, not after what she had seen.

"I'm sorry, Zhumei, I can't do anything about it. You'll have to become strong to do so yourself," the old woman said.

"Don't worry, aunt Liz. I will soon find a way to go back to the Western Continent. Once I do, I'm certain I'll find a way to the Eastern Continent as well. Besides, I need to go to the Southern Continent as well," Alex said.

"You do?" Liz wiped her tears as she spoke. "Why?"

"Because Father might be there," Alex said.

Liz's eyes widened. "You know where your father is too?" she asked.

"I'm all but certain at this point," Alex said. He turned towards the old woman and asked, "Senior, do you know any place that is a desert and also lacks Qi?"

The old woman didn't even have to think. "No, that's the Southern Continent for sure. More accurately, the Wastelands. If it's anywhere, it's there for sure."

Alex nodded. There was no information about the Forbidden Fields having any humans appearing there. Alex had even scoured the land not long ago, and found not a single human bone there, aside from the old man that he killed.

His father must've been sent to the Southern Continent after all.

'I need to find a way for sure,' he thought.

"So you found brother and sister-in-law. And now I know where Helen is too. If only I could find Rob too," Liz said.

"I'm sure you will find him soon, Aunt Liz," Alex said. "I will help you find him."

"Yes, I don't have any doubts," she said.

The group flew through the high mountains, before slowly approaching the lowlands with fewer and fewer mountains, which got even more flatlands as it went along.

Alex and Liz talked for a while about their life, before Alex eventually got curious and asked, "Your Dao, it's time-related right?"

"Yes, it's time-related," she said.

Alex had guessed it, but it still came as a surprise. "How did you do it? How did you learn the time dao? I must say, it was very similar to how the Ancient Battlefield feels like."

Liz chuckled a bit. "Of course it would, silly. That's where I learned the Time dao after all."

Chapter 935: Liz's Story

"You learned the Time Dao in the Ancient Battlefield?" Alex asked curiously.

"Yeah," Liz said. "I went there about a dozen years ago and managed to learn it. Well, I didn't learn the Dao exactly, but more so just the mysteries. I had to come to the Dao Mountain actually to be able to learn the dao."

Alex nodded in understanding, but he was still confused. Given how similar both his aunt's dao was and the Ancient Battlefield's environment, he came to understand that his aunt did in fact learn the Dao from there.

But the question still remained. How? He wasn't wondering how she learned the dao, but rather how she understood the aura.

After all, as far as he understood, Time and Space were not something one could easily sense, let alone look into its mysteries.

"How did you sense Time Dao's aura in there?" he asked. "I never felt anything like that."

"I'm a special case in that regard," Liz said.

"Special case?" Alex was even more curious now.

"Yes," Liz said. "Remember how I never aged?"

Alex nodded. That was after all one of the things his Aunt was rather famous for— Staying in her 20s even when she entered her 40s.

"Turns out, the reason is that I have a special body constitution," she said.

"I would've guessed that even if you didn't say it," Alex said. After all, his father's side of the family was what gave him his current body constitution. "Wait, is your body related to time?"

"Yes," Liz said excitedly. "The game said it's called something like Profound Temporal Celestial body. It's a Celestial grade body."

"A celestial grade?!" Alex's eyes went wide. That was quite good. In fact, it was the same grade as his. "Temporal... so you have a connection to time through your body, huh?"

"It seems so," Liz said. "I only found out after I went into the Ancient Battlefield and could sense that there was something wrong with it. I realized that whoever was responsible for that situation was a very high-ranking Immortal with an incredible understanding of the time dao."

"And more likely than not, when he was about to die, he used his Dao of Temporal Stagnation to slow down everything around him to a crawl. He was successful, but he must've died in the process."

"So, the world in there is still stagnated, while here outside it's moving normally," Liz said. "It should stop soon... but from the perspective of everything caught in the Temporal Stagnation, soon is still a very long time later."

"I see," Alex nodded to himself as things started making some sense. He understood why Ancient Battlefield was the only battlefield since ancient times that remained, and he understood why his Aunt was able to learn the Time Dao.

The only thing that still remained unanswered was why he was able to learn Space dao. In fact, now that he thought about it, why were both he and Pearl able to feel the space aura?

Was it really because he spent a lot of time inside the Beast realm, and thus they were both able to sense the aura? Or was there a better answer to his confusion?

Alex had no way of finding out at the moment, so he stopped thinking about it and looked outside the ship at the scenery that passed by.

He called out both Pearl and Whisker, who he introduced to his aunt, and continued talking to her about her life here on this continent. As for his own life, he kept as much as he could to himself. He didn't want the old woman to learn too much.

The environment changed slowly. From snow-filled mountains to snow-filled plains, the land changed a lot, and as they went further, the snow slowly melted too.

Liz talked about how she came to be where she was.

When she first played the game, she had arrived at one of the southern cities of the State of Re.

After arriving, she had found herself a small sect to join, and cultivated there until she was strong enough.

She took part in a competition under her elder's orders and was there scouted by the Blazing Earth sect, whose elders were the guest in the competition.

She had then gone to the Blazing Earth sect and had become its disciple for a few months until the old woman had found her during one of her years when she left closed cultivation.

Liz's body was good, but her talents weren't that far off either. Even at the worst, being a pure-blooded human, she would be very talented.

However, as luck would have it, she had a Divine grade talent as per the system she checked it through.

With her body helping her too, she was able to quickly rise through her cultivation realms until she caught the old woman's eyes.

It was only after the old woman properly looked at her cultivation base and told her to stop improving so quickly did Liz finally stop and worked on building her foundation better.

One of the things she had to do for that was to enter the Ancient Battlefield and improve inside.

Fortunately, she was able to gain a rather large insight into a dao, which made the old woman take her disciple to the Dao mountain.

After that, Liz defeated the others to find herself a spot there, entered the Dao mountain until she reached the top, and gained her first-time dao.

After that, she continued to improve. She was given all the resources in the sect, and it didn't take long before she was ready to break through.

Having had precedence, Liz went to a different section of the sect where no one would be around and broke through to the Saint realm despite her inner demons and the lightning tribulations.

After that, she was the sect's greatest talent and as such was still spoiled to this very day.

Alex couldn't help but smile at how easy his aunt had. His mother had it easy as well.

Now, he hoped the rest of his family had it easy too.

The scenery changed even further as the mountains continued to disappear even further, only rarely appearing anymore. The snow was all but patches on the ground, and the sun shined through the clouds brightly.

The more south they went, the hotter it got. As such, after a few more hours, Alex stopped seeing snow completely.

It was at the same time that he realized that he had entered the State of Re, the only state in the entire Northern Continent where it didn't snow the whole time.

Night had fallen by now, and he could see some volcanic mountains in the distance. In fact, it was a bunch of them. 12 to be exact.

"Is that where the 13th Volcanic mountain lies?" Alex asked.

The old woman didn't even look as she nodded. "Yes," she said.

"I hear entering it is free. Do you think I can go in?" he asked.

"Of course," the old woman said. "I remember sensing Fire dao amongst the ones you learned. You must wish to learn more in there, huh? Don't worry, after we return to the sect, I will arrange for someone to take you there."

Chapter 936: Blazing Earth Sect

Alex and the rest arrived and flew into the Blazing Earth sect.

Situated in a barren land, the Blazing Earth sect was a massive city-like sect surrounded by 18 different pillar-like plateaus from the outside.

Each of those plateaus was a couple of hundred meters tall, and about 3 hundred meters wide. They looked natural, but Alex wouldn't be surprised if they were man-made either.

Alex saw light on top of those plateaus and could see a bunch of disciples training on top of it.

As he went further, he finally saw the sect itself.

Like the Frozen Heart sect, the Blazing Earth sect was surrounded by walls and could be easily mistaken for a city. He guessed why the two sects would look similar, as they had once belonged to the same Super sect, but it was still surprising that they hadn't changed in the least.

The old woman flew into the walls, and despite being nighttime, Alex could see hundreds of thousands of disciples on the streets.

"How many disciples do you have?" Alex asked.

"Hmm... last I recall, we had about 350 thousand disciples, with over 250 thousand in the outer sect alone," the old woman said.

"And the core disciples?" he asked.

"About 5 thousand," the old woman said.

"Wow, that's higher than the girls from the Frozen Heart sect," Alex said.

"Of course," the old woman said. "They have a disadvantage when it comes to core disciples when compared to us. Not only do they not have as many disciples simply due to the fact that they only take females, but they also only accept core disciples from amongst those that cultivate their Frozen Heart Scripture."

"It would be scary if they had any more Core disciples than they do," she said.

"I see... that makes sense," Alex nodded. "So, are you still a disciple or an elder now, aunt?"

"I'm somewhere in between. I'm a disciple with the authority of an elder, I would say," Liz said.

'Ah, like I was,' Alex thought.

The buildings in the Blazing Earth sect were simpler than the ones in the Frozen Heart sect. They were tall with multiple stories and could house more disciples at once in a single building.

Instead of there being a massive tower in the middle, the sect facilities were different buildings with a massive building in the middle for the sect leaders and such.

Alex was sure there were more buildings underground for the Ancestors to live in, closer to the spirit vein.

"Zhumei, take your nephew around the sect. I will have to go and report to the sect master about what happened in the Dao mountain," the old woman said.

"You're going to talk about Alex?" Liz asked. Alex turned to look at her as well.

"I will have to," the old woman said. "Even if I don't, someone else will."

She then turned towards Alex and said, "I'm sorry if you wanted to live a life without much hassle, but with what you did at the Dao mountain, I'm afraid your name will be spread throughout the continent. At least the upper echelon for sure."

Alex nodded. "I understand," he said. "I was ready for it anyway."

He wasn't worried about his name being spread wide as along with the name, the thing that would be spread would be his description.

He didn't know if his black robe would be a descriptive feature, but his White Mask would definitely be something that gets spread as well.

As long as he took off his mask, he would lose his identity and would thus be able to go back to being a nobody in everyone's eyes.

After the old woman left, Alex went around the sect with his aunt, looking at the various places.

He was introduced to the Formation hall, Painting hall, Puppetry hall, Talisman hall, Artifact hall, and everything else that could be considered a profession.

Alchemy hall existed as well, but Alex only sensed the disciples inside medicinal pastes instead of pills. He searched for the ones that made pills, but he couldn't even find a formation where one could place their cauldron at.

"What's the punishment for people making pills in this state, aunt Liz?" Alex asked.

"Punishment? There is none," she said. "Only thing I would really consider being a punishment is that if you are an alchemist, you can never associate yourself with the Blazing Earth sect."

"Meaning?" Alex asked.

"Let's see... Pill makers can't join the sect, and if you're ever found out to be one, you will be expelled. The sect will do nothing to help you if you are an alchemist that makes pills, the sect won't do any business with you, or sell you ingredients," Liz said.

"Well, all in all, the sect just acts like you don't exist and lets you do whatever you want. Although that is very discouraging for people that want to become an alchemist," she said.

"That's a shame," Alex said.

"Are Alchemists prevalent in the Western Continent?" she asked.

"Yes, very," Alex said. "In fact, that is the only thing we even have. It was only a few years ago that medicinal pastes were even discovered."

"Only recently? You people exclusively made pills beforehand?" She asked in surprise. She could count on one hand the number of times she had eaten a pill since she entered the True realms.

"Yes," Alex said. "Medicinal pastes are reserved for medical problems only. Everything else is solved by pills."

"I see. It's a shame that the Northern Continent hates Alchemists so much, or we would have gotten a lot of pills too," Liz said.

"Do you know why that is?" Alex asked. He had tried asking this to many people, many times, but he had never gotten any answers.

Elder Xuan especially refused to speak of the topic at all whenever he tried to inquire about her, and the rest acted oblivious in front of him.

"Honestly, I don't know. I simply treat it as some cultural thing that causes them to hate pills. Like maybe some sort of superstition? If you make pills, a monster will come and kill you... that kind of thing," Liz said.

"Have you heard these superstitions?" Alex asked.

"No, just my guess," Liz said. "Why? Can you make pills too?"

"Somewhat," Alex said. "Don't tell anyone though. I might get in trouble."

"Oh no, I won't tell anyone," Liz said. "I don't want to lose the only family member I found."

Liz proceeded to show more of the sect as they talked. They walked around as the first light of dawn shined through the east and Alex saw people rushing out of their buildings.

"Where are they going?" he asked, seeing them in such a hurry.

"Oh, these are the body cultivators. They train themselves in the sun, so they are rushing to find themselves a spot in the plateau where they can train," she said.

"Wait, body cultivators?" Alex was a little surprised. 'That's right, this sect does have body cultivators. I forgot.'

He looked at the red-robed disciples rushing through the streets.

"Do you think I can go watch them?" he asked.

"You're interested?" Liz asked. "If so, then we have to leave at once."

Chapter 937: Body Cultivation

Alex flew along with his aunt to the outside of the city and went to one of the plateaus in the east.

He landed at the edge and saw over a thousand different disciples there ready to train.

As soon as Liz landed on the plateau, every single one of them greeted her. After all, she was the highest-ranked disciple of the sect and everyone looked up to her.

They all returned to their task, and as soon as the sun was up, they brought out a bunch of staff and before Alex's eyes, started striking at each other.

They stayed in pairs and while one of them hit the other, the other one took the attack without flinching. Alex could see the signs of pain on their face as most of the ones being hit took the swing to their body while biting on their own lips.

"What... are they doing exactly?" Alex asked. "Trying to hurt themselves?"

"Have you never seen someone cultivate their body? Keep watching," she said.

Alex focused on a pair not far away from him. His spiritual sense landed on the two men as he checked what was happening to them.

Aside from getting hurt, Alex really didn't see anything in particular that changed. But of course, they weren't doing it for no reason so he waited.

Getting hurt was part of the requirement for improving one's body, but surely there were better methods than this right?

Also, getting hurt was half the task from what he could understand. Aside from getting hurt, you needed to be able to heal quickly too.

That was the part Alex was curious about more than anything. 'They don't have pills, and excessive uses of medicinal pastes should have diminishing effects if they use it too frequently. And if they do heal slowly, taking their time, that will overall slow down their body cultivation, right?' he thought.

He continued watching as the group hit themselves continuously. At some point, Alex and Liz had to sit down and talk about various things as it took a very long time.

"I heard there weren't many disciples that were willing to body cultivate, but from what I see, that's not true," Alex said.

"Where did you hear that?" Liz asked.

"Elder Xuan, from Frozen Heart sect," Alex replied. "Was she wrong?"

"No, she just had outdated information. It was true about a decade ago, but once the players started taking the spotlight slowly, the others needed to show them they weren't any worse too, so everyone started to body cultivate after that."

"Ah, that makes sense."

Finally, after a few hours, after both of them were beaten and battered, the two disciples put away their staffs and sat down in a meditative posture.

They pulled out various different natural treasures and started cultivating them.

Suddenly, Alex could feel the energy from the treasures being drawn into their body, slowly healing their wound. It was a slow heal, but quite definite.

"That's... are they using a technique to heal?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Liz said. "It's a sect secret though. You will need to speak an oath to never reveal the technique."

"It seems they require quite a few ingredients though," Alex said and he looked at the items that were being siphoned off.

"Hmm... do you need a source for every single one of the 5 elements?" Alex asked. From what he could see, that was most definitely the case.

"Oh, is it?" Liz asked. "I never realized. I never really bothered about improving my body. It seemed pointless and too painful too."

"It most definitely is painful," Alex said. He looked at the thousands of disciples in front of him and wondered how strong their body cultivation actually was.

"Who's the strongest body cultivator here?" he asked his aunt.

"I... don't know actually. I don't really mingle with the disciples much," she said.

Alex nodded and walked forward to one of the disciples and asked them the same question. Feeling his saint aura, the disciples who were merely True Lord realm cultivators could not refuse at all.

"If you count elders, then it will have to be elder Jiang over there," the man pointed to a rather buff man towards the center of the plateau.

Alex slowly treaded through the group of people and appeared in front of the man.

"Greetings brother, I hear you're the strongest body here," he said.

The man, who was way older than Alex, opened his eyes. He sensed the Saint aura coming from Alex and was confused. When he saw him with his black robe and white mask, the man was even more confused.

"Can I help you?" the man asked. Seeing a masked man looking for the 'strongest' person in the place wasn't something he had expected to see this day.

"Would you mind hitting me?" Alex asked.

"... what?" the man was confused.

"I was hoping you could help me understand how strong the body of a normal body cultivator can become," Alex said.

Alex sensed a few spiritual senses landing on him, each one of which originated from way deep in the sect, close to the outer ranges of his own spiritual sense.

He smiled but ignored them.

"What are you doing?" Liz quickly walked up to the two of them. "Why are you trying to get hit?"

"Is he with you, little sister?" the Saint asked.

"I'm sorry if we disturbed you, elder," Liz started apologizing.

"No, it's fine it—" the man stopped speaking and his head shifted a little to the left, looking towards the sect with a confused look.

He then looked back towards Alex, who was unreadable thanks to his mask, and sighed. "You want me to hit you?" he asked.

"Yes," Alex said.

"Without my cultivation base, right? Just my body?" he asked.

"That is what I want," Alex said.

"Okay, then get ready."

The elder stood up while taking back the entirety of his Qi from his body back into his dantian, as his body became the same as that of a mortal.

Of course, it wouldn't be exactly the same as a mortal, as the man had body cultivation after all.

Alex stood with his arms behind his back, seemingly on guard, waiting for the man to punch him.

"Well, here I go then," the man said and wound up his arm before violently punching Alex directly on his stomach.

Alex had put up a 'guard' of Qi to block the man's arm with soft Qi so that it didn't actually strike his body and get hurt.

So, by the time the man's punch landed on his stomach, most of the power behind the punch had already dissipated.

'True Disciple... 3rd? No, 4th,' Alex judged the power behind the punch.

"Do you want me to punch you once again?" the man asked.

"No, that's alright," Alex said. "I must congratulate brother on having such a good body cultivation base on top of being a Saint. If you don't mind me asking, how many years have you been body cultivating?"

"Let's see... about 5 centuries now, I think," the man said.

Alex paused for a moment. "Sorry, did you say 5 centuries? You meant 5 decades instead right?" he asked.

"Hahaha! You can't become this strong with your body cultivation without putting in a few hours," the man said. "Of course, I could've done it faster had I focused on body cultivation, but I had to focus on my own cultivation too."

"I see," Alex said. "Thank you for answering. Have a good day."

Liz walked forward at the same time. "Let's go, Master is calling for us," she said.

Alex nodded and left the plateau.

They soon arrived in front of a rather large building with multiple stories and entered.

Liz took him to one of the rooms on the upper floor of the building that was covered with red carpet and curtains.

Inside were 3 people waiting for them. The first one was Tai Guan, Liz's master.

The second one was a man with white hair, braided along the side of his temple.

The third person was also a man who wore glowing red robes. His short hair with a shaved face made him look younger than he was.

"Come on, let me introduce you," the old woman said.

"This is the Grand Elder of the sect, Yuan Chi," she showed the white-haired elder. "And this is Bai Qiyi, our Sect Master."

Chapter 938: Alchemy; Bad

"Greetings, seniors." Alex cupped his hands as he bowed a little toward the two men in front of him.

"I hear that you're disciple Li's nephew, is that true?" the sect leader asked.

"That is indeed true, sect master Bai," Alex replied.

"Then... you must be quite young. Disciple Li herself is very young, not even 65 years old, and already a Saint Condensation 3rd realm cultivator. I suppose you are much younger than her?" the Sect Leader asked.

Alex frowned a little. He didn't think they would realize his age so quickly. He had wanted to not draw any attention to that. But then, they would've tested his aunt, and using their relationship, it was easy to figure out he was young.

"Yes, I am," Alex replied seeing as there was no reason to lie anymore.

"Would you mind telling us how young you are?" the grand elder asked.

"Hmm... time's hard to keep track of right now, but I should be about 35 years old," Alex said.

"My god! 35 years old and you've already entered the Saint realm," the sect leader said. "Would you mind telling us how you cultivated so fast?"

"Lots and lots of pills," Alex said. If the old woman had delivered any information, then the fact that he was from the western continent would definitely be it.

"Pills? They can help you grow that much?" the Sect master asked. He seemed genuinely curious.

"Yes," Alex said. "Once you stop caring about your foundation and start munching on them, yes. I was lucky that someone stopped me early on, or I would've ruined my cultivation. Still, by that time I was quite far ahead, and stayed that way."

"I see, pills can help you so much huh," the sect master fell into thought. He seemed to be quite interested in them.

"Pills are bad, sect master," the grand elder said from the side. "You cannot think just about the good things that will come with it. You have to think about the bad things too."

"You keep saying that but you never tell me what's so bad about it," the sect master asked. "It's been a decade since I took station, so as a Sect Master I should be privy to these things, no?"

The grand elder and the old woman sighed. "You will find out soon enough, sect master," the old woman said. "You will learn soon enough why Alchemy is the bane of our society."

Alex wanted to ask why that was too, but if it was so serious that even the sect master himself wouldn't know why, then there was no way they were going to tell him at all.

The sect master turned back towards him and said, "anyway, I hear you left the Frozen Heart sect. Is that true?"

"Yes," he said.

However, before he could continue, the sect master asked, "Then you surely have no reason to refuse to join our sect, do you?"

"I do have a reason, sect master," Alex said. "I simply don't want to. That was the reason I left the Frozen Heart sect as well. I didn't want to remain in a sect."

"Do you hate sects?" the old grand elder asked.

"Hmm... Hate is not the right word, I suppose. It's more like I don't like being tied down by duty and responsibilities. At least ones I don't want to take on for myself. Besides, I have too many other things to worry about than worrying about the sect," Alex said.

"But the benefits you get from being in a sect is unimaginable, young man," the old woman said. "All the free cultivation techniques, skills, elders' knowledge, and the various resources you get are simply too great to miss out on."

"I don't think that's true," Alex said. "At least, not from my experience. You can do quite well as a rogue cultivator so long as you are talented enough."

"If you join, we will give you unlimited access to our sect's library. You can learn any techniques you want, including our prized body cultivation technique. We will also include free resources for you to use for body cultivation," the sect master said.

"I'm sorry, sect master. I will have to refuse." Alex's response left the three elders confused. They were sure that after seeing the body cultivation of the other elder, he would have been more than happy to join them, but it seemed they were wrong.

"Do you really not want to become a body cultivator?" the old woman asked. "Our sect has the best body cultivation method in the entire continent."

"I hear that, and I suppose that it is true, but I'm still underwhelmed," Alex said.

"You don't understand, young man," the grand elder said. "You only felt the elder's body cultivation. If he were to attack using both his cultivation base and his body, he would beat anyone above his own realm."

"Can he beat me?" Alex asked.

"That's..." the 3 fell into thought. There was no way to come up with a 'yes' as an answer to this question. After all, what sort of person could possibly fight against someone with 10 different Daos, and a Sword Aura?

Not to mention, they had heard of him being able to fight incredibly high above his own realm.

"No, I suppose no," the sect master said.

"I thank seniors for their intentions, but I have no reason or interest in joining any sect. And if you are worried about me joining the other sects, then you can stop fearing about that as well, as I truly have no need from any of the other two sects either."

"I neither need any knowledge about how to take better care of my own beasts nor do I want to learn any more about poisons than I already do," Alex said. "And I'm perfectly contented with my current cultivation speed."

"I... I see," the sect master said. "Then I suppose there is no reason to keep asking you. Although, I hope you will stay in the sect for a while, enjoy our hospitality."

"I will," Alex said. "I thank you for that, sect master."

Chapter 939: Minor Training

The 3 seniors tried very hard to provide any sort of incentive to get Alex to join their sect, even if it meant having Liz ask for it herself. However, Alex refused every single time.

The next week or two of his passed quietly. He spent the majority of his time with his aunt, learning more about her and how life was for her in the sect.

Aside from training every day, Alex didn't see anything else she did. So, he decided to teach her something so she could pass her time and be a little productive herself.

Since he was not very good at making artifacts yet, and with Alchemy simply frowned upon, he gave her the choice between Formations and Talismans.

Liz had heard about the development of runes outside of talisman, so she asked if she could learn that instead. Alex agreed and taught her about it.

Liz was talented enough that she learned anything Alex threw at her with relative ease. She wasn't as fast as Alex or his mother, but she was plenty talented to throw most of the geniuses in the Northern Continent for a loop.

Aside from teaching her about talismans and runes, Alex also gave her the various skills he had gathered over the course of his life here.

She wasn't able to use quite a few of them however due to her only having 3 different spiritual roots, Earth, Water, and Metal, of which only Earth was Superior.

Alex couldn't really help her there. Liz tried giving some of her own techniques to Alex, but there was nothing he wanted from her in regard to techniques and resources.

What he did want her to do was use her Dao to make a room full of time Dao so he could see if he could possibly sense them.

He had no hope himself, but there was nothing wrong with trying.

So, every day, Alex would cultivate in a room where time passed at a very slow speed compared to outside where he forced himself to try and sense the aura.

It wasn't just him either. He had brought out both Pearl and Whisker to see if they could sense it too. He was particularly hopeful of Pearl who had managed to learn a Space dao somehow and hoped he could sense Time dao too.

However, even after 2 weeks of doing this, Alex wasn't able to learn anything at all.

In the end, he had to give up on it. He had managed to learn Space aura for some reason. So if he learned time aura somehow as well, he would be able to learn it for sure.

Alex left the room and went to talk to his aunt.

Liz was working on some talismans in her free time. She still spent most of her time cultivating, but she had more than just that to do for now.

"Are you busy?" he asked from the door.

"Hmm, come in. Do you want something? Did the aura disappear already?" Liz asked.

"Ah, no. It's fine, but I don't think I'll be using it anymore," Alex said.

"Oh! Did you learn it?" Liz asked happily.

Alex shook his head with an awkward smile. "I was unable to," he said. "I'm simply here to tell you that I'm going over to the volcano now. It's been a while since I came here and it's about time I do what I've been meaning to."

"Oh, okay. Wait, let me come with you," Liz said as she started to pack up her things.

"No, you don't have to," Alex said. "I will be fine all by myself."

"Are you sure? I haven't been to the secret realm myself, but I hear it's quite treacherous. There's fire everywhere, and weak Qi sometimes gets overwhelmed and doesn't work the way it should. It's always better to have someone by your side," Liz said.

"Don't worry, aunt Liz. I have learned the Fire Dao. Fire is the least of my worries at the moment," Alex said.

"If you... say so, ok," she said. "Wait let me tell my master. She should arrange something for you."

Liz used her talisman to send a message and not long after, the old woman arrived.

"You're going to the 13 Volcanoes?" she asked.

Alex nodded. "I was about to leave right now," she said.

"Not alone, I hope," she said.

"I... was actually hoping to go all alone," Alex said.

"Absolutely not! You're too important to go in all alone. Even if you know the Dao, there are still many treasures in there, some of which can even poison you," the old woman said.

"Huh? What do you mean by important?" Alex asked. 'Were they still expecting him to join their group?'

"Nothing that concerns you," the old woman said. "You're going right now, right? Good, let's leave. I'll take you there."

The old woman turned around and got ready to leave.

Alex hesitated a little bit. He really wanted to do it all alone. But how was he to refuse the words of a Saint Soul realm cultivator?

He sighed in the end. "Alright," he said. "I'll be back soon."

"Take care," Liz said and waved the two of them away.

Alex walked out with the old woman and then flew his way out of the sect, going beyond the many plateaus, on their way towards the volcanoes nearly 10 kilometers away.

That sort of distance to a saint realm cultivator was nothing. In fact, Alex could already see the mountain from where he was.

They glowed orange even in sunlight due to the volcano constantly remaining active.

Alex's eyes worked fantastically in that he could see countless figures around the mountain even from this far a distance. He could see up to hundreds of kilometers without any trouble. Although at some point everything would be too small even to make sense of it at all.

Alex could see the tiny particles of dust in the air, moving slowly in front of him even when he was moving quickly.

There was absolutely no delay between him seeing things and his mind realizing what he had seen.

As he had expected, the first stage of Demon Eyes was quite good. But still, it wasn't good enough.

The real fun started when he reached the 2nd stage. Alex wondered if he could reach that within the next few years.

Surely in the next decade right?

As the two of them got closer to the volcanoes, his sense was already on top of the people there, and he saw quite a few people working with pickaxes.

"Are they mining for some ores?" Alex asked curiously.

"Ores or any fire treasure," the old woman said. "Fire treasures usually grow around the volcanoes, but there are also times when they form inside the volcanoes themselves and are quite potent with Fire energy."

"One of the most well-known treasures that come out quite frequently is Fire jade, which is quite dense with fire Energy. If they can't get that, then the people make do with ores. The metals that come out here are already infused with fire energy, so they make for some of the best Fire attribute artifacts," the old woman said.

"I see," Alex said and looked towards the people who struck the ground with their pickaxes. The lava continuously flowed down the side of the mountain, but at some point, it froze enough that people didn't need to fear them.

At that time, they started breaking through the semi-frozen lava and harvesting it.

It wasn't just a single mountain too, but rather all 12 volcanoes had the same thing happening. However, it only happened on the outside.

When Alex arrived, he saw that the inside of the 12 massive volcanoes was an island surrounded by hot lava on all sides.

There were people at the center, harvesting more Fire treasures, and even some plants that grew from the heat.

He could see almost all of them have some sort of item on them, protecting them from the heat as they worked on it.

The two of them slowly landed on the island, and people started staring at them, primarily because of the old woman.

They all greeted her, but she gave them no heed at all.

Alex looked around the area and asked, "So, where exactly do I enter the 13th Volcano from?"

Chapter 940: The 13th Mountain

The lava from the 12 volcanoes flowed inward as well, but due to the immense heat in the valley, they never froze as soon as they did on the outside, and instead created a ring around the massive valley.

The valley itself was close to 5 kilometers in diameter and was mostly barren apart from the few plants that did grow.

Aside from that, there were many other resources that were mixed into the valley itself. If Alex wasn't wrong, the valley itself used to be a pool of lava that later froze to be what it was at the moment.

Multiple sources of fire energy bombarded Alex's senses as the Dao of fire, not even the True Fire dao, allowed him to locate almost every Fire energy treasure nearby.

Not only that, but he could also tell their potency and type to some extent.

Many people around the inner ring were working to freeze the lava that flowed in the ring and took from it what they could get.

Since this was a free place for anyone to enter, hundreds of people were there, trying to get their hands at getting something valuable for themselves.

As Alex felt the fire energy in the air, he also sensed something in the distance and turned around.

Towards the center, but a little to the left, there was a massive rock that was about twice the height of Alex. It was red in color and even from afar it was easily visible.

Also, Alex could sense some manipulated space from there.

"Where's the final volcano?" Alex asked, wanting to confirm.

"Don't you want to stay around here, do what you came to do?" the old woman asked. "There's plenty of fire energy to go around."

Alex shook his head. "It's too weak. I need stronger energy. Let us enter the secret realm, senior," he said.

"Sigh, very well. Come with me," she said and took him over to the red rock. As they got closer, Ning could now clearly see writings on it that looked like runes.

"Who wrote those runes?" Alex asked curiously.

"It was always here," the old woman said.

'The demons then,' Alex thought to himself. He placed his hands on the stone as he approached it, and even before the old woman could stop him, he vanished.

Alex appeared in a very hot environment, surrounded by glowing lava all around him.

He saw a few people working in here too but compared to the number of people that were outside, this number was terrible.

Although, why would it not be? After all, the amount of Fire energy that was here was enough to kill anyone, not in the True realm. If they were in the True realms, it would be easy to get negatively affected by the absurd amount of fire Qi in this place.

Even the Saint realm cultivators could barely get by here.

The 13th volcanic mountain was a massive volcano over 5 thousand meters in the sky. Even looking at it from far away, it was bigger than the other 12 without question.

The old woman appeared behind him and scolded him, but Alex only apologized for a little and stopped caring for her.

His senses were on fire as the many different fire attribute treasures in the area were calling for him through his dao.

Even if he didn't have a Dao, he would still have been able to sense such a thing through his Flame Mastery Scripture.

He looked towards the top of the volcano and sensed quite a lot of fire aura emanating from there. "I have to go there," he pointed to the location.

"To the top? But it's extremely hot," the old woman said.

"I'll be fine," Alex said and started walking.

The old woman tried to stop him, but Alex didn't hear her words. She was way too cautious for the wrong reasons.

Alex would understand if there were beasts here that were dangerous or lava randomly jumped out of the mountain and threatened to kill you.

But from what she was saying, Alex could only assume that she didn't think that his newly Saint ascended body could handle the flame aura.

Alex shook his head and continued on his path toward the top. He went past a few people, all of whom were searching for treasures around the location or digging for them from the volcano itself.

Alex reached next to one of the lava trails that the men were digging on with their pickaxe. He looked into the lava for a few seconds and reached out his hands.

Suddenly, something flew out of the fire. It was a small rectangular piece of translucent red stone, that was otherwise more commonly known as Fire jade here in this place.

Alex fished out 3 more Fire jades before leaving the place.

The old woman stared at Alex with a surprised look on her face. She had the dao of Fire too, but she was nowhere near as capable as him at distinguishing different fire types when they were close to each other.

The fire aura in the lava was different from the fire aura in the jade. It was such a small difference that when one was covered by the other, it would take the old woman at least a few minutes to properly grasp the differences in the fire and understand that there was more than one.

However, Alex had only used a few seconds and did in that time what would've taken the old woman at least 5 minutes.

While the old woman was lost in her own little world, surprised to no extent, Alex had already found his way to another free spot in the lava where he got some more stuff.

The woman quickly followed him, while Alex took his sweet time finding fire resources.

Compared to the outside, this place was amazing. The entire atmosphere was full of a Fire aura of such strength that it would leave one's lungs burning if they breathed in too much.

And yet, Alex continued going up fearlessly, employing absolutely no techniques whatsoever as he believed that was not needed.

He arrived next to a small branch of the flowing lava and pulled out some more Fire jades from there. He clawed his hands through the ground where he stood as he pulled out more fire jades.

He also found a few hidden herbs that weren't plucked just yet. They were either hidden incredibly well in the rocks and grounds or were simply something that wasn't thought of as resources by the people here.

"That's poison, don't take that," the old woman said from behind.

"Thank you for the knowledge, senior. I will be more careful," Alex said. He continued walking up the mountain, with only a few stops for adding more resources.

Finally, after more than half an hour, Alex arrived at the top of the volcano and looked at the scenery in front of him.

The entire crater was just a massive pool of magma, with the only seating sites being the edge of it.

Alex looked around and felt the intense fire energy coming from the volcano.

"This is perfect," Alex thought to himself with a smile on his face. "With this, I should be able to improve my fire spiritual root."