

# Reincarnated as an Energy with a System

## - Chapter 313: Reincarnation Cycle

### Chapter 313: Reincarnation Cycle

Ender looked towards Ning in shock, but Ning acted like it was nothing.

Eleonora sneakily looked towards Ning too but didn't bring any attention towards him. She now understood why he had decided to lie about his name.

"I hear he is very strong. He should be a gold starred teacher in your academy, right sister Ely ?" Bradley asked.

"Uh... his and my department are different, so I've never come across him before," Eleonora said.

Ender was surprised why his sister was even lying. She was not the type to go along with another person's lie. She hated liars the most after all.

"Can you tell me more about what happened, father," she asked.

"Oh right, more news has come out than we expected. Apparently, the Gassain family weren't traitors or rebels by themselves. They were instead forced to be so because of the crown prince."

"He killed their heir and then perpetrated the whole thing to bring their downfall," Ember said.

Ning was surprised. 'So easily the information gets twisted so become something else,' he thought.

Badel had indeed planned it all to bring the downfall of the Gassain family, but it was never his intention to make them a traitor and rebels. That was something that happened because of his impulsive decision.

Ning decided to not speak on it, however. He could change the facts here, but there were thousands of people out there that knew the wrong info already, and he couldn't change it all.

Ember and Bradley spoke some more on what happened while Eleonora spoke a bit in between while looking towards Ning in shock from time to time.

Ender however couldn't keep his eyes off of Ning while he heard what his seniors said.

Eleonora looked outside and said, "Oh, it's dark already. We should go into our quarters now. It's been a long day today."

She stood up. "Ender, come show brother Bradley to the guest room. I will show teacher N— Jackie the other guest room," Eleonora said.

"Oh, Ender can show silver his room," Bradley said.

"Ender is shy around teachers. He won't do a good host around him. He will do better around you brother Bradley, Good night," Eleonora said and left.

Ning nodded towards the rest of the people and left as well.

Eleonora walked off to a different section of the manor and entered a room. "Come, this is where you should stay today," she said.

Ning walked inside and nodded. "Not bad," he said.

"Oh, you've seen better?" she asked.

"The Royal Palace hotel in the Golden Moon city was better," Ning said.

"Oh, right. You stayed there. I forgot," she said. "Was it all true? What they said?"

"Some of it was exaggerated, but the main crux of the matter was true," Ning said.

"Wow, you saved the country from two different threats. I'm surprised the Emperor didn't gift you another Medal of Honor," Eleonora said.

"I don't think the Emperor's mind was there at all. After all, he had just been crippled by his own son," Ning said.

Eleonora gasped. "The Emperor is crippled? Why did that information not get out?" she asked in shock.

"I don't know. Maybe they told the people not to," Ning said. "Anyway, let's focus on something more important."

"Wait," Eleonora said and brought out a rather large, oval-shaped artifact from her storage bag.

She dropped it onto the ground and suddenly it opened up to reveal 5 20 centimeters rods inside that flew out around them.

Then, the carving on the bottom of the plate where the rods previously stood started shining.

Suddenly, a blue film of light appeared around them touching the 5 flying rods, making a perimeter around them.

"Okay done. Say what you were about to say," she said.

"No, we need to talk about this first. What the hell is this?" he asked.

"Oh, this? This is my own little contraption. Its... a formation setter," she said.

"A... formation setter? Can you explain a little more?" he asked as he looked around at the flying rods.

"You know how formations work right? You carve the pattern on the rods and the rods have to be placed in a proper place for the formation to work, and if you mess up even a little, it doesn't work at all."

"When you are in a fight or a hurry, you can't set a formation in time, or even if you do, the chances of it failing to work is very high."

"So, I created this little artifact, that sets a formation on its own. At 6th or lower grade formation, the chance of the formation being set is 100%. The chance lowers a bit for 7th and 8th, and drops drastically for 9th."

"I couldn't find a 10th-grade formation, so I couldn't check the accuracy there," she said.

"How does this work?" Ning asked. He was truly fascinated by the weird little artifact.

"It will take some time to explain, and I don't know if you have any understanding about Artifacts to know what I say," Eleonora said.

"Oh, I can just buy some right now— Although, you are right. Let's focus on the important things first," Ning said with an awkward smile.

"We were born during the same generation back on earth, right?" Eleonora asked.

"From what information you have provided, absolutely. But... I came to this planet way before you. I think I was roaming the Southern Continent when you were born," he said.

"Which doesn't make sense given that we died around the same time, so we should be born at the same time," she said.

"Unless... you didn't get born right after you died. Maybe your reincarnation took some time," he said. "I know mine was immediate because that's what my system told me."

"Then... what? Does time move differently for the two of us?" Eleonora asked.

"No, but I do have a theory. I think... when you died, your soul went into the reincarnation cycle... and it stayed there for years," Ning said.

"By the time it was time for you to be born again, over 2 centuries had passed."

## Chapter 314: Duel

"That's... not a bad theory, I guess," Eleonora said. "Although, I thought the afterlife was... fake. I don't know why I think that though, even when I was reborn."

"I believe its real. Not because I was reincarnated, but because my system said Souls exist and leave a body after they die. I dont think afterlife exists in the same way as heaven and hell do as most people believe, but just as a stationary place where the souls are kept," Ning said.

"Hmm, if what you say happens to be correct, then it would make sense why we were born in different times despite being dead around the same," Elenora said. "So... where do you think the souls go after death?"

"I... let me look it up," Ning said.

"You can look up anything? Don't tell me you have a search engine in there," Eleonora asked with a chuckle.

"Pretty much," Ning said while focusing on the task at hand.

"Wait, seriously? Damn, my system is a joke by comparison then," Eleonora said.

"It can help me find anything aside from information on Energies itself. For example, I can't look up the types of different Energies, or best sources of said energy."

"On that note, soul is a form of energy too. So, the system has nothing on our question," Ning thought and closed the interface.

"Oh, that's disappointing," Eleonora said.

"Yeah, so... uh, are you not leaving?" Ning asked.

"You want me to leave?" Eleonora asked inquisitively.

"I mean, is there something else you want to talk about?" Ning asked.

"Of course! I finally met a person from earth. I want to talk all night long. Tell me, what year you were born in?" Eleonora asked questions after questions.

Ning smiled as the nostalgia of it all got to him too. He asked her some questions too.

They talked for a few hours, telling each other their depressing daily lives, and soon that talk came to an end too.

Then Eleonora started asking about his time on Kumia. Ning laughed and started the tale of his journey from when he met Freya.

He talked about Klavis, and how he foolishly acted as a god. Eleonora laughed hard when she heard how he nearly screwed it all up by not keeping his emotions in check.

Ning found it rude of her to laugh like that, but soon he was laughing at himself too.

He talked about his time in the Scattered Isles and how he became a physician. Then he talked about going to Vilmore, which truly surprised her.

"Wait, there is a planet that you can go to through the northern continent? I would like to visit there someday," Eleonora said.

"Yeah... but, if you go there you can't come back," Ning said. "It's a one way trip mostly."

"Aw, that sucks," she said with a disappointed face. "I don't want to leave my family. Tell me more."

Ning smiled and continued talking about his travels through the southern continent. He told her the beauty, the weirdness and everything in between in the southern continent.

"Wait, my brother was the first person you met in the Central continent?" Eleonora asked.

"Uh... technically not, but you wouldn't be wrong to say that," Ning said. "Now it's your turn, tell me about your life."

Eleonora described her life as well. Compared to Ning's it was simple and boring.

Ever since she was born, she had been different. It took her some time to get accustomed to the language, and once she was, all she did was try and learn stuff from the library to better her knowledge.

The only problem was, her parents were relatively poor at the time, so she couldn't really afford a lot of stuffs. It was only after she started making artifacts and secretly selling it through her father's merchant business did they grow.

Her family was given a noble title from the Emperor and the rest was history. Once the family grew to a sufficient level, they no longer needed her help to grow, and she could finally focus on making stuff for her own.

She started creating new designs and earned points. She got a decent cultivation method from the system and other handy tools.

Unfortunately, it was all for herself and couldn't give it to her brother. If she could, he would probably have a lot higher cultivation base by now.

"I see. I'm quite surprised you got the gold star so fast," Ning said.

"Yeah, my teaching methods were just... different, and it seemed it worked a lot better for the students. So they kept joining more and more," Eleonora said as she shook her head..

"Sigh, anyway. I will be leaving now."

She touched the base plate on the ground and the rods that were flying around them stopped projecting the white film of barrier. They came together and fell onto the plate, which then closed to form the oval artifact once again.

She got up to grab the artifact when suddenly a divine sense entered the room and washed over the two of them.

"Shit!" the two of them said in unison. Suddenly, they could hear a storm brewing outside as the loud footsteps got closer.

"Sigh, this is going to be a problem," Eleonora said.

The door slammed open as the lock on it flew everywhere. "Sister Ely, did this guy force you to stay here all night? Tell me what he did; I will kill him," Bradley shouted loudly.

"Go back brother Bradley, we were just talking," Eleonora said.

"Talking about what? Why was there a formation up such that my divine sense couldn't even enter?" Bradley asked.

"Because it was a secret talk," Eleonora said.

"Secret? With this Silver? That's a lie. From what I can see, you two are having an affair, aren't you?" Bradley loudly asked.

"Yes," Ning said without hesitation.

Eleonora looked back shocked, but then she heard his voice in her head. "Don't worry, I will make sure he leaves you alone."

"You..." Bradley started getting angry. "I demand a duel right now."

## Chapter 315: Duel Begins

"Duel? You mean actual combat right?" Ning asked.

"Of course. Why? Are you scared?" Bradley asked.

"Sure," Ning said. "But what's the point of this duel? You trying to show that you can beat me only?"

"Of course we will have a bet on it," Bradley said with a hint of confusion on his face. He couldn't understand why this weak guy was so willing to fight him.

Ning's eyes brightened when he heard that. "Alright, let's have a good bet. What's at stake for me?" Ning asked.

"If... If you lose, you will never meet with sister Ely again," Bradley said.

'Damn, why are people so p0ssesive in the Central Continent. First Gonez now him,' he thought.

"Oh, and my thoughts don't count here?" Eleonora looked angrily at Bradley. "Am I a tool you can decide if someone uses or not?"

"N-No, of course not Sister Ely. I was just trying to keep this good for nothing away from you. What do you even see in him in the first place?"

"He's not rich or strong. He's not even as good of a teacher as you," Bradley said.

"Oh, then what? Do you think I should get together with you?" Eleonora asked.

"I- I mean, I... I'm not... uhh... opposed to it, I guess. If you really want to... then I won't stop it," Bradley fumbled his way onto the answer.

"It's okay, my love. I will fight this demon for us," Ning suddenly said from behind.

Eleonora suddenly looked behind at Ning with angry eyes.

Ning winced a little when he saw those eyes. 'Yikes, I went too far.'

He made an apologetic face and looked at Bradley. "Very well, I agree to your bet. But, what about mine?" Ning asked.

"Say what your bet is?" Bradley asked.

"If I win, you will stay away from the Rigot family for at least 300 years," Ning said.

"Sure," Bradley didn't hesitate at all when he agreed. "Come, let's go to the backyard to fight.."

Ning nodded and walked out of the room. Bradley angrily walked off towards the back, while Ning followed behind him.

When he finally reached outside, Ning was surprised.

"Oh, it's morning already?" he said in surprise.

"I guess we might have talked all night long. I didn't notice the time go away," Eleonora said.

Ender and Ember had heard the shouts inside the house and quickly ran out.

"What's going on, sister?" Ender asked.

"Brother Bradley is going to have a duel with... the teacher," Eleonora said.

"Huh? Is he an idiot? Why is he trying to fight with nephew Bradley?" Ember asked.

Both the siblings didn't say anything and instead walked towards the fight.

"What is this about?" Ender asked using his divine sense.

"Bradley thinks teacher Ning and I have an affair, so he challenged teacher Ning to a duel," Eleonora replied.

"What? But he'll die," Ender shouted out loud.

"Right?" Ember said from the side, completely misunderstanding his son's response.

"Uncle Ember, please watch over our fight," Bradley said.

"I'm weaker than you... but sure. Let me be the referee. No killing or crippling and no use of forbidden techniques and items," Ember said.

Ning and Bradley got ready.



"Fight!"

Bradley suddenly ran forward to attack but suddenly, a golden light flashed in front of him.

As soon as the fight started Ning had brought out Aegis. While Aegis' cultivation base wasn't as high as Bradley's, his defense was still top-notch.

Even 5th realm Nascent soul cultivators would find it difficult to hurt him.

Ning took out a chair from his storage bag and put it on the ground before sitting on it with one of his legs on top of the other.

"Just block his attack until he is tired," Ning said and chilled back. All 3 of the Rigot family members were shocked when they saw Ning chill like that.

"Is he trying to kill his beast?" Ember asked. "That's a suicide!"

"Umm... Isn't the beast doing quite well on its own though?" Ender asked.

"It should be fine," Eleonora spoke. "The beast might actually be able to defend it all."

"Why do you say that? Do you see something we don't?" Ember asked.

"No, its cultivation base is indeed Nascent Soul 2nd realm, but..." Eleonora didn't speak and just thought back to the time in the academy when she was protecting the many students and this beast was left behind by Ning to protect them.

'He must've done it because it was good at defense,' Eleonora thought.

Bradley was raging mad right now. "Fight me yourself, you coward. Stop using your beast," Bradley said. "If you don't, then I will destroy this beetle into a million pieces."

However, no matter how much he shouted, Ning acted like he didn't hear anything and just basked in the morning sunlight.

Attack after attack, Bradley threw everything at Ning, but Aegis blocked each and every single one of his attacks.

Bradley was starting to get frustrated.

"Hey, can you hurry up? I got places to be. I can't spend my remaining life sitting here," Ning said.

This just agitated Bradley even more. "You bastard. I will kill you," he shouted and started attacking more and more.

Finally, after a while, Bradley started huffing and slowed down a bit.

Ning looked at Aegis who was doing all the work and asked, "Tired?"

"No," Aegis said as he shook his head.

"Rest anyway. You did good," he said and took back Aegis.

"Haha! Finally. Now that your beast is gone, I can easily beat you," Bradley shouted out loud.

Ning smiled and was about to bring out Blue to mess with him some more when he heard the door to the back of the mansion open up.

A servant opened the door and made the way for a person to walk through. The new man was an older gentleman wearing a greenish-yellow robe with light yellow hair.

"I was wondering why you guys weren't outside to welcome me. Turns out you were all back here."

## **Chapter 316: Duel's End**

"Oh, brother Tyander! You're here. I'm sorry I couldn't go out to get you," Ember said when he saw the new man walk in.

"It's fine, brother Ember. I have two legs and can walk on my own," Tyander said. "Oh, the kids are so big now. Sigh, why do they always grow so quickly."

"Hello, Uncle Tyander."

"Good Morning, Uncle."

Both Ender and Eleonora respectfully greeted the new arriver, Tyander Udler, head of the Udler family.

"So, what's going on here?" Tyander asked as he looked towards his son who was huffing quite hard. "Some form of morning sport?"

"Oh, I'm not sure either. The kids suddenly started fighting this morning and asked—"

"Brother Bradley requested a duel early in the morning and is now fighting," Eleonora cut her father off and told Tyander what was happening.

"A duel? Why?" Tyander asked as he turned to look at Eleonora once again.

"Uhh... it's better if you ask your son, Uncle," Eleonora said.

"Okay," Tyander said. He then looked over to his son and asked, "Bradley, why are you fighting with—"

Finally, he turned towards Ning and noticed him. Suddenly, he felt as though his world came crashing down, and his worst fear had come to fruition.

Tyander ignored everything and directly walked towards his son. Bradley looked to the side and noticed his father walk up too.

"Huh? When did you come back, father? I will be right there after I beat this as—"

SLAP

The backyard rang when Tyander slapped his son into the ground. "You bastard! Are you trying to kill yourself? Is that what you wish? Come, I will kill you myself!" Tyander said angrily.

"Wh-wha..." Bradley couldn't form any sentences.

"Brother Tyander... why are beating your son?" Ember walked forward, completely befuddled as to what was happening.

Ender had an inkling of what was going on and looked towards his sister who was the main perpetrator here. She knew what would happen, so she purposefully butt into her elder's conversation and forced Tyander to act.

Tyander looked towards Ning and finally spoke. "It's a pleasure to see you here, teacher Ning. I didn't get to thank you back there, so let me take this chance to thank you from the bottom of my heart," Tyander said.

"Saving... you?" Ember looked at Tyander in confusion. Tyander was quite surprised and his face got horrified.

"We-were you trying to keep your identity hidden, teacher Ning. I'm so sorry. I stupidly revealed it," Tyander said.

"It's fine. I wasn't really trying to hide it; I was just not using my name when it wasn't needed," Ning said.

"Thank you for your benevolence, teacher Ning," Tyander bowed towards Ning.

Bradley and Ember were both flabbergasted as to what was happening. Why was the head of the Udler family, one of the strongest families in the Galyra empire bowing his head to a simple teacher?

"Wait, did you say Ning?" Ember suddenly asked. "THE Ning?"

"You really didn't know, brother Ember? This is teacher Ning, the recipient of the Medal of Honor, and person who stopped the coup in the capital yesterday," Tyander said.

Both Bradley and Ember were shocked when they realized who Ning really was.

"So what about the duel?" Eleonora asked from the side.

"Duel?" Tyander asked. "Of course my son loses the duel. There's no way he can beat teacher Ning. Right?"

"I agree," Eleonora said. "Then what about the bet?"

Ember looked at her with a hint of confusion. "What bet? You guys had a bet in this duel?"

"Of course. Brother Bradley bet that he would never come to the Broken Soul city for nearly 200 years if he lost this duel," Eleonora said.

Tyander looked at his son and asked, "Is... is this true? You not only dueled with teacher Ning but also bet with him?"

"I... I didn't know who he was. So I accepted the bet, father. I..." Bradley was starting to get flustered.

"Why did you even duel him in the first place?" Tyander asked.

"Because your son thought that I had an affair with teacher Eleonora, so he came to fight me," Ning said.

"You idiot!" Tyander kicked his son. "Why do you always have to butt in other people's lives? Why are you like this? Are you acting arrogant just because you are an Udlar?"

"Bastard! I was the one who worked hard to make this family. All you do is sit around and make the servants do everything. Urghh! I'm getting angry now."

"Leave right now and go back home. You made a bet. Now you will have to be a man and stick to it. Never come to the Broken Soul city for 200 years," Tyander said.

"B-But father, I haven't lost yet," Bradley said.

"What? Do you think you can win just because teacher Ning went easy on you? Do you think you can fight against a dozen of the Emperor's shadow guards like he did?" Tyander asked.

"N-No," Bradley's head drooped.

"Then leave. Fulfill your bet," Tyander demanded.

"Y-Yes, father." Bradley stood up and walked ahead. "Goodbye uncle, brother Ender, sister Ely."

Bradley immediately flew and went away. Whether it be because of his father's fear or Ning's fear, he would forever stick to the bet and not come close to Broken soul city for over 2 centuries.

"Sigh, I let you see something unsightly, teacher Ning," Tyander said.

"It's alright," Ning said.

"Ah, you must be bored from our little father-son squabble. Please, let's go in," Tyander said.

The 5 of them went inside and talked for a bit. Ning answered whatever question he could of the 2 old men and asked some of his own.

Eleonora asked Ning to stay around until the academy started, which he happily accepted. Tyander was quite happy to be around Ning and make a friend of him as well.

The academy had 3 months before it opened back up, but to cultivators, that was but a blink of an eye. Before they knew it, it was time to return back to the Five Professions city and go back to teaching once more.

## **Chapter 317: 4th Grade Artifact**

Beads of sweat rolled down Ning's face as he put all of his focus on the cauldron in front of him.

The cauldron was different from his Hollow Jade cauldron. It looked much sturdier, was much wider, and had things that didn't look like alchemy ingredients inside.

Instead, the items inside looked like they were molten metal. Ning focused on the metal until he felt that the metals inside were at a certain equilibrium.

He immediately pulled out the liquid metal using his Qi and started forming it into different pieces of separate items.

Once they were all done, he started assembling them. He already had leathers from different beasts prepared as well as wood from a very strong tree.

Before he knew it, he had finished assembling the items. Next, he had to align the newly-formed item's Qi lines to do what he wanted them to do when he poured in Qi to the item.

Not every craft required Qi lines, but most did. Ning touched onto the item and started sending in his Qi to forcefully make new Qi lines. The better the Qi lines, the better the grade of the item would be.

His Qi ran rampant, but in an orderly manner as it entered the metal, leather, and wood. After nearly an hour of concentrating and more beads of sweat, he was finally done.

"Phew!" he wiped off his sweat and looked at the final Artifact he had created. The artifact was a chariot that could fly in the sky at incredible speed.

Unlike other flying artifacts, this one had seats in it for him to just sit down normally, instead of sitting on the ground.

Ning took the chariot outside and started using it. He got onto it and poured in his Qi. Soon, the chariot started hovering, and it started flying away.

"I did it!" he shouted and finally showed a smile on his face when he realized that he had been successful.

He roamed the back of the house for a few minutes and came back down to the backyard.

Eleonora was there waiting for him.

"Oh, he Ely. When did you come out?" he asked.

"Just now. You were in there for about 3 days; I see you've made a new one. What grade did it come out to?" Ely asked.

"4th," Ning said happily.

"Hey, that's not too bad. You can make 4th-grade artifacts in just 3 months, people would be jealous if they find out," she said.

Ning just laughed.

"What grade do you think you could make if you didn't try to learn it all on your own?" Ely asked.

"After a couple of days of practice, I would consistently make 8th or 9th grade, and soon reach 10th grade. Having almost all the knowledge is not that fun honestly," Ning said.

"Well, I wouldn't know. I had to learn most of it on my own," Ely said.

"Yeah, I'm trying to do that too. It's so much more fun. Every little advancement makes me feel like I've grown as an Artifact crafter," Ning said.

"You already know pills and beasts. Now, you are learning Artifacts. Are you going to learn about Formations and Talismans too?" Ely asked with a chuckle.

"Maybe. I do have quite a lot of years that I need to stay here. At the same time, I can't hurry up either. It's very annoying," Ning said.

"How long do you have to stay again?" Ely asked.

"Hmm... let me check," Ning said.

"Status"

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 168.48 Trillion

Separated Energy-

Heat Energy: 920 Billion

Sound Energy: 22 Billion

Qi Energy: 167.32 Trillion

Kinetic Energy: 218 Billion

Aether Energy: 0

Skill: ...]

"Sigh, I need close to 2200 years just to get the body," Ning said. As for the other stuff, I might have to forget about them for a while," Ning said.

"2200 years...that's not possible for even the strongest people to live. Unless one goes into closed cultivation, it should be impossible," Ely said.

"It's fine, I can add a thousand or 2 more years to someone's lifespan by simply giving them the new body cultivation that I will buy soon. In fact, I should look it up right now," Ning said and started checking his interface.

"Oh, it costs about 40 Trillion energy and needs you to be at least a level 37 body cultivator. I don't think neither Hyesi nor Anya and their families are at that level yet," Ning said. "Oh right, here. Take this is a form of payment for letting me stay here for the last 3 months."

Ning took out two talismans and handed them over to Ely. Ely caught it and read it. "These are the cultivation techniques? Ooh, I will gratefully take these. Thank you," Ely said with a chuckle.

"Alright, it's been a while so I will go check up on my disciples and their family. I will go to the academy in about 4 days," Ning said.

"Oh, you're not returning with us?" Ely asked.

"I don't know when I will get the next free time, so I will go now," Ning said. "Goodbye."

He disappeared.

"Shit! That ability always makes me jealous," Ely lightly said. She then looked at the cultivation techniques in her hands and was very surprised.

"Wow, these are much better than I expected. No wonder he is so strong. Once father and brother learn this, we won't have to keep staying low-key anymore," Ely thought.

Finally, Ely decided that it was time for her family to grow, to take on more business ventures, and do riskier things.

She walked back inside and quickly copied the techniques down into 4 more talismans and handed it over to Ember and Ender.

"Ning already went ahead, so we too will be going now, father," Ely said and walked outside.

A carriage was waiting for her, but she shook her head. Instead, she brought out a flying boat that could house both her and her brother.

Once the two of them were settled, they said their goodbyes and flew towards the academy.

## **Chapter 318: Fame**

Ning stopped cultivating. He had returned from the Northern Continent a few ago and had returned to teaching.



He walked out of his underground quarters and made his way out onto the Alchemy wing.

"Hello, teacher Ning," A teacher greeted him.

"Hello," Ning greeted back and went on with his day.

"Good morning, teacher Ning," another teacher greeted him. Ning greeted him back too.

When he finally reached the staff room, most of the teachers turned around to greet him.

Ning sighed on the inside but greeted all of them. He quickly set up his classes for the day and left.

He went to his class and waited for the students to arrive. It was barely a few minutes before the students started coming in.

"Good monring, teacher Ning. How was your day yesterday?" a student asked as she walked in.

"Good morning. My day was fine. How ab—"

"Teacher Ning!! Good morning," another student greeted him.

Ning was about to answer when another student greeted him again. And then another, and another. He was greeted all the way until the final student arrived and there were no more seats in his room for the others.

The students who arrived after the final students could only go back with a disappointed face.

Ning was surprised when he realized that one of the students that couldn't make it to the class was Reya, who just looked saddened as she walked away from the door.

Ning looked at his class and saw that more than half of these students were people he had never seen before. He wanted to ask a student to leave so Reya could come in and learn, but he couldn't play favorites as a teacher.

He sighed and finally spoke up. "Alright, today we will be learning about ingredients with Fire materials in it."

"Let's start with a few examples of Fire materials..."

Ning started teaching for the next 3 hours. He taught the knowledge he knew as well as he could, but he could see many of the students getting bored.

Some even yawned inside the classroom and that made Ning a little annoyed. There were students out there that missed this class because of these people, and yet they weren't paying any attention at all.

For the entirety of the 3 hours of teaching, maybe a thousand out of the 10 thousand students actually paid proper attention. The others were here for something else.

"Alright, any questions?" Ning asked.

Several students, including the bored ones, suddenly raised their hands. Their boredom seemed to have suddenly disappeared as well.

"You," Ning pointed at one of the boys.

"Teacher, is it really true that you are only at the 1st Nascent Soul realm?" someone asked.

"Uhh... yes," Ning said. He was surprised at the question, but perhaps he shouldn't have been. This had been happening for the last 2 days as well.

He pointed at another student.

"They say you turned down the opportunity to become an Emperor, is that true?" the student asked.

"What? Who's spreading such false rumors?" Ning was surprised.

Neither of the students he chose asked any proper questions so he called out one of the students that he remembered were paying attention.

"Can you explain more about this thing you said regarding Firemoss and us not being able to replace it with other ingredients? Is there a reason?" the student asked.

Ning smiled when he finally heard a question related to today's class.

"It's not that Firemoss can't be replaced at all. Do you know the energies found in the Firemoss plant?" Ning asked.

"Yes, Fire and Water," the student answered.

"Yes. You see, fire and water are opposite energies. In most cases, the one that has a higher quantity or quality will usually destroy the other when you mix those together."

"So, when making pills that require you to put water and fire in equal amounts at the same time, you could technically go with 2 different ingredients that have an equal

amount of both, but how do you tell if any ingredients have that amount in equal quality or quantity."

"The slightest mistake, which is very much possible, will ruin your entire set of ingredients."

"Firemoss are naturally occurring red plants in the ocean. They gather fire energy while keeping it from going astray with equal water energy. It's the only ingredient in this planet that will always have Fire and Water in equilibrium."

"So, that's why I say it's an irreplaceable ingredient. Understand?" Ning asked.

The student made a face of realization. "Ah, thank you for the explanation, teacher," the student said and sat back down.

Ning smiled and chose another student to ask some questions. "You!"

"Yes!" the student shouted out. "Teacher Ning, how can we become just as strong as you? Is there a secret?"

Ning nearly lost his cool when he heard that question. "I'm not answering any questions that have nothing to do with alchemy. If you have such a question, just put your hands down."

More than 80% of the students put down their hands and Ning felt horrible. These students weren't here to study at all.

They were all there to see and talk with the famed teacher Ning who defended the academy and saved the Emperor during the coup. Ning was a celebrity for these people, not a teacher.

This had happened for the last 2 days as well, but it was much greater today. And that made him feel horrible.

"You," he asked one of the remaining hands in the air.

"Um, is there a pill or something that we can eat to get as strong as you?" the student asked.

That was the final straw.

"Alright, class dismissed."

Ning immediately walked out and went out to find Principal Singeer.

The Principal was sitting in the underground looking at some talisman when Ning reached him.

"Oh hey, teacher Ning. Are your classes over?" Singeer asked as he walked in.

Ning walked up to Singeer and said, "Principal, I would like to ask that I be allowed to go into closed cultivation for the next few years."

## Chapter 319: Closed Cultivation

"Umm... is there a reason, teacher Ning? We can't allow teachers to leave their spots for no reason unless they are gold starred or haven't had a free time in years," Singeer said.

Ning sighed and explained everything.

"Ah... I see. That is indeed very... sad," Singeer said. "I didn't expect your popularity to be your one detriment when it came to teaching."

"I would be fine with it if only the ones that actually wanted to study could get a chance to enter too," Ning said.

"I get what you mean. There have been times like this when a teacher suddenly goes up to gold rank, and suddenly everyone comes to see how they teach. Fortunately, those people do care about the teaching, unlike the students going to yours," Singeer said.

"However, I don't think you need to go into closed cultivation for that," Singeer said. "How about you limit your classes to 2 classes every week? That way you can keep teaching and the students will leave you alone."

"Uhh... I'll try I guess," Ning said and returned.

Over the next couple of weeks, Ning lowered his classes to 2 classes a week. Each week he taught one class of Alchemy and one class Beast Masters. Every third week, he also taught one class of Physicians, and one class of Bug Handling.

In this way, he separated his time by teaching very sparingly. Even then, that didn't help at all.

Due to the limited teaching time, the students would use that one day to meet him, and it once again ruined his teaching experience.

'No, I can't let this keep on going,' Ning thought and went up to Singeer once again to confront him.

However, Singeer surprisingly agreed, making Ning very confused.

"Haha, don't look at me like that, teacher Ning. Remember what I said? Gold starred teachers can freely go into closed cultivation. Go and hide by yourself while your fame dies down."

"I'm sure the academy can wait," Singeer said.

"Thank you, principal Singeer," Ning said and left. He went back out and found a few of his students.

He met Reya and gave her a few books to study on her own. She expressed her thoughts about becoming a teacher once she was done graduating from the academy in a decade or so. He told her to do so.

He met Nilo and talked to him for a bit. He learned about how Nilo was very close to finding his cure on his own. Ning smiled and gave him a talisman with the answers so that he could learn what other directions he could've gone to find the cure.

He talked about how he was likely going to be the next Emperor of the empire and should learn about politics while he was at it. Nilo was a little sad about it all, but he accepted that as something he should do.

He was currently alone in the academy since his mother had already returned by his father's side to become the empress of the empire.

He expressed his desire to return back to the Capital once his studies were done and go and become the crown prince he had come to be by fate.

Ning then went to Ender and talked to him for a while. He also gave him some books to learn in his free time.

Ender had the opportunity to learn alchemy with Ning for 3 whole months, so his overall level as an alchemist had gone up by a few notches.

Although it wasn't to the same level as Hyesi or Anya, Ning considered Ender as his Psuedo disciple now.

Ning then went around to the various teachers and students to meet them for a while. He just told them what he was planning to do and they all supported his decision.

Finally, Ning went to Ely. It was getting close to evening time by now, and Ely was in the Artifact wing's staff room.

"Hey," he called out.

"Oh, hi. What's up?" Ely asked.

"So... I am going to a closed cultivation soon," Ning said.

"Oh, for how many months?" Ely asked.

"Um... for a few decades... at least," Ning said.

Ely stopped. The information was too jarring for her brain to understand in a single moment.

"Wait... a few decades? So long?" she asked.

"Yeah, it... just feels like the right thing to do. I need to get stronger as a cultivator and I also need energy. Staying awake for hundreds of years... it just feels dreadful," Ning said.

"We have to do that too," Ely said.

"Haha," Ning chuckled, "it's a little different... in a way. I am immortal, you guys are not. 2000 years is an eternity for a mortal, and a lifetime for a Nascent Soul cultivator."

"But for me, there will come a time when 2000 years will go by in the blink of an eye. There will be times when I will go to sleep during the birth of a child, and wake up when that child is dying of old age. It's... a haunting thought, really," Ning said.

"You're talking about this like you will be gone for centuries," Ely said.

"Haha, I won't. But, it's just that... I'm afraid everyone, everything around here will change when I come back out... and in a sense, this is goodbye for the current world."

"Although, I guess that's the life of an immortal. I will have to say goodbye to things a lot from now on and welcome the changes whether I like it or not."

"So, uh... I will hopefully see you later. Take care," Ning said and turned around to walk away.

"Don't worry about it when you come out," Ely said from behind him. "Even if everything changes, I won't. I will be here for you when you come out."

Ning stopped and looked back before smiling slightly. "Thank you," he said and went back to his room.

Ning properly closed the door and fortified it before sitting down on his bed. He was a little nervous about going into closed cultivation, but he still closed his eyes and breathed. Soon, he was cultivating.

## Chapter 320: A long time.

Over the course of the next few years, Ning continued his closed cultivation. Since he entirely focused on his cultivation, in just a couple of years, he broke through to the next realm.

Once he broke through, he started going into timer-based energy absorption. It was incredibly mentally exhausting to go in and out of the body every single time, but slowly, after a few years, he got used to it.

Once enough time had passed, he left the closed cultivation. He went around the sect, met the old people that were there, and met the new people that were there.

Reya and Nilo had already left the academy, along with many, many of the students Ning knew. Similarly, many others had come to join as well. The world was vast, and there would always be enough students to fill the academy.

Ning's name was remembered, but it wasn't revered as it was during the first few months. When he started back his classes, only students that wanted to study joined it and he was happy.

Also, being a Gold Starred teacher, Ning started helping out the academy by making high-grade pills for them. However, he always made sure that the pills were 8th or 9th grade in quality.

As for 10th grade, it would create chaos, so he kept those for himself. Singeer was pretty happy with just that.

His teaching was great, and he was a gold starred teacher, so soon enough, his past fame caught up to him, and he was starting to get students that only came there because of him.

So, once Ning taught for a few years, he went back into closed cultivation again. His only regret during this time was that he didn't get to meet Ely who had also gone into closed cultivation.

The next time he left was about 2 decades later. Once again, he taught and helped the academy. He looked at the change and accepted it. There were a lot of new teachers and students around him, but he didn't let that bother him.

After a few more years, once he felt it was time, he went into closed cultivation again.

The next one was 30 years long.

Then 50.

Then 80

Then 120.

Then 40.

Then 68.

He went in and out of closed cultivation for a lot of time, and in these times many things changed.

Singeer had died of old age by now. The Principal of the academy was Maeve.

Jezeere had gone into his final closed cultivation wherein he would try to break through to the Spirit Transformation realm or die trying.

He learned the news of the 2nd Gold starred Alchemy teacher in sect dying of old age as well.

On the Beast Masters side, teacher Keng had retired of old age. Gonez was the 2nd best teacher in the whole Wing, behind only Ning.

Ender had at some point graduated as well and left the academy. Ning was quite saddened to hear all of this.

However, there was also good news. Many teachers had joined the academy to teach once again. One of them was Reya who was doing incredibly well and was already a silver starred teacher.

Daisin, one of the best students from his Physician classes had also become an Alchemy teacher that started focussing only on being a physician as well.

Ning learned of Nilo's name being rung about as the next Emperor of the Galyra empire.

Ning taught for a few more years and went back to closed cultivation once more.

However, during all of these years, he kept having that one regret. He never got to meet Ely at all.

"Sigh, let's just go on a long one," he thought and entered his room once more.

Time flew by but Ning felt none of it. With most of his days being spent asleep inside his spear, he couldn't feel the passage of time at all.



He cultivated outside for a while, but after every single breakthrough, he only focused on his energy gathering.

Thanks to this, his body hadn't grown much at all. In total, his body was currently less than 300 years old right now.

If he were to tell people that he reached the 7th Nascent Soul realm in 300 years, people would probably start getting ill out of jealousy.

He had also changed his body cultivation technique by now, and it was incredibly effective. Although, it was so painful that he wanted to get rid of his pain receptors at some points.

However, he realized the problems that could cause and didn't do it. Instead, he just fought against the pain with sheer force and finally jumped the hurdle.

He had also passed along the cultivation technique to Hyesi and Anya and told them not to give it to anyone that wasn't already at the 36th level of Body cultivation, or they would die.

Now that he knew they would live for quite a long time, he freely went back into his energy absorption task with no longer a need to care about anyone, mostly.

He went in and out of the spear so many times that he lost count of it. He couldn't tell if it was day or night, or how many months or years had passed.

His mind was numb to the things he was doing and at one point he started doing it on just simple instinct.

Since he was gathering energy through just Qi, he was also in a way cultivating, and before long, he broke through to the final realm possible on this planet as well.

He could tell, his time on this planet was coming to a close very soon.

Finally, Ning stopped the process. He didn't know how long it had been, but it had been many years for sure.

He decided to no longer do the closed cultivation for a while and instead simply live life a little, after all, there wasn't much longer for him.

So, with that decided, he opened the barricade on his door and walked out.

## **Chapter 321: New**

Ning walked out of his room. Walking itself felt very weird to him. He felt like he hadn't walked in a long while, but they weren't deformed from not being used either.

'It's such a weird experience,' he thought. Ning didn't want to attract any attention, so he quickly took off his nearly 10 different gold badges and kept them in his storage.

Ning heard a sound coming from behind him and turned to look. The person coming towards him looked young and was someone Ning had never seen before.

'A new teacher?' Ning wondered.

The teacher had a bronze badge on his chest and a look of confusion as well as disgust on his face. He quickly walked around him and went outside.

'That... was rude,' Ning thought for a second. 'Why was he staring at me like that?' he wondered.

'Am I dirty?' he quickly checked his appearance and soon realized just how much his hair and beard had grown in the last many years.

"Oh, I forgot to cut these," Ning thought and took out a blade. Using his divine sense, he quickly cut all the excess hair and destroyed them.

"Hm... I don't look that bad," he thought as he checked himself out. He looked a little older, but not by very much.

He made his way out of the underground and walked up to the open.

"Woah!" he said in surprise to see a very different building on the outside. They were the same building as before but more and more stuff was added around the outside.

"I wonder how long this closed cultivation went on for," he thought and went around checking the different things.

He saw many students and teachers, but almost all of them were different. He made his way to the staff underground on the other side so he could find the principal.

Nobody stopped him since he was wearing a teacher's robe, so he quickly reached the room.

He finally found the principal, but... it was a woman he had never seen before.

"Who are you?" the middle-aged woman asked him.

"Oh, uh... I'm a teacher who was gone for a while. I came to check if the principal had changed at all, and turns out you were," Ning said.

"You were gone? Under whose approval?" she asked.

"Oh, the previous principal," Ning said.

"I see, then that's fine," the woman said. "Still, you were gone for nearly 40 years, that's not very good. Please try to come back to the academy every few years if you can."

"Oh, sure," Ning said. "What's your name, by the way?"

"It's Yola," the girl said.

"Nice to meet you, Principal Yola. I will see you around," Ning said and walked away.

"Hey wait, what's your name? I need to look up your information," Yola said.

"Oh, it's Ning Ruogong. Goodbye," Ning said and left. Yola then brought out the previous principal's documents and looked for Ning in those documents.

However, no matter how much she tried, she couldn't find his information at all.

Ning walked out of the underground and went to the Alchemy wing's staff room. He walked in to find it to have completely changed.

There were many teachers here that he didn't recognize at all. The desks and benches seemed to have been shifted around. The room was redecorated, and the shelves certainly had a lot more books now.

He walked up to them and saw a few books of his own that he had casually wrote out of boredom a few times.

"Are you new here?" an elderly voice came from behind him.

"Oh, sorry. I'm not new, I was just gone—"

Ning turned around and stopped when he saw the gray haired old woman with a gold star on her chest. The woman was mostly unrecognizable, but her eyes were still the same as when she brightly used to look at him with reverence.

The girl saw Ning and felt like she knew him. Slowly, memories started coming back to her and her eyes started tearing up.

"Teacher Ning?" she asked in surprise.

"Hello Reya, how are you?" Ning asked.

"Teacher, yo-you are still alive? Ho-how?" she asked.

"Huh? Why wouldn't I be alive? I was just in closed cultivation. Didn't I tell you?" Ning asked.

"Y-Yes you did, but then you didn't come out for so long. I, we all thought you died in closed cultivation. We thought you failed to—"

Reya stopped speaking and emotions overtook her.

"Hey, hey. It's alright. I'm fine. I was never in trouble during cultivation," Ning said.

The other teachers in the room were starting to get drawn to the commotion as they looked around at each other wondering why their teacher, and senior was crying so much.

"Anyway, congratulations on becoming a gold star. It's... still the same requirements right?" Ning asked.

"Yes, of course," Reya said as she wiped her tears.

"Anyway, things seem to have changed a lot since I went missing. I will go around and look at the different things. You do what you have to for now," Ning said.

Reya nodded. "I'm happy to see you doing so good," Ning said as he patted her head and left.

Ning walked over to the beast master's wings and saw that things had changed quite a lot with noone he knew still there. He asked around about Gonez and most people didn't even know who he was.

He then walked over to the artifact wing and looked around. He walked inside and saw the same thing. Different room and different people.

"Sigh, things really did change around here, huh?" he thought. He turned around to walk back out when he bumped into someone at the door.

Ning was pushed a little back, which surprised him given his body cultivation, but the other person was pushed back even more.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, I didn't see you—"

Ning stopped when he finally saw the person he had bumped into. His mouth opened up as he barely spoke out the word.

"Ely?"

## Chapter 322: Total Years

"Ely?" Ning asked in surprise.

Eleonora looked up and saw the relatively young face of Ning. "I-is that you, Ning?" she asked, unsure of herself.

"Yeah, it's me. I just came out of my cultivation an hour ago," Ning said.

"You... You are finally out," she asked in surprise.

"W-what? Why are you still here? Didn't you go back to your house?" Ning asked.

"YOU ARE FINALLY OUT!" Eleonora shouted. "Haha, I thought you were never coming out until I died."

"No, I... I'm not sure what I would've done myself," Ning said. "Weren't you in closed cultivation yourself? Also, how come you've not aged a day? Aren't I the one immortal?"

"Haha, I bought a skill from my system that gave me eternal youth. I stopped aging physically since that day," Eleonora said.

"I-I came out so many times, but missed you every single time," Ning said. "I'm glad I finally got to see you."

"Don't say that," Ely said. She was starting to tear up by now. "I will cry if you do."

"Haha, it's good to cry once in a while," Ning said, as he teared up a little himself. "Anyway, what are you doing here?"

"What do you mean?" Ely asked.

"Why are you still at the academy? I thought you would've left by now, improved the Rigot family, and gotten a better life out there," Ning said.

"I-I love being a teacher here. It gives me the freedom to work on my craft. Besides, Ender is back at home with father and sister-in-law. He's handling the family now," Eleonora said.

"What about you? Don't you have a family of your own now? A husband, or what is it they say? That's right, a Dao companion," Ning asked.

"No," Ely sighed a little. "I waited for the right time but... never mind."

"Oh, right, when did you come out?" Ning asked.

"I've been out of cultivation for nearly a century. You are the one that took forever to come out. If it weren't for me knowing you were immortal, I would have suspected you to be dead by now," Ely said as she chuckled a little.

"I took a really long time, didn't I?" Ning asked.

"Of course. You were gone for—"

"Excuse me, teacher Eleonora," a student walked up to her.

"Yes, Hareen. What is it?" Ely asked.

"I needed some help with my project. Can you tell me what metal I should use if I..." the student asked some questions and Ning watched Ely answering the question?

He smiled when he realized that he had missed it quite a bit. Once the student walked away, Ely turned around and said, "Let's get away from the staff room, or more people will come to bother us."

"Sure, let's go outside," Ning said and started walking.

They talked a bit as they walked out. Ely started telling Ning about how the students and teachers basically didn't know her anymore after coming out of the closed cultivation.

Ning also spoke about his experience of seeing nothing but changes everywhere and how incredibly bizarre it was for him.

"Wow, I can't imagine how you must be feeling," Ely said. "Honestly, I was so close to forgetting about you many times. It was only when I saw the system's panel that I was reminded of your existence."

"Wow, was I gone really that long? How long wa—"

"You! Stop right there," someone screamed from the top of their lungs while flaring their cultivation base to try and stop Ning.

However, the aura was of no concern to Ning. "What's she doing here?" Ning wondered as he turned around to face Yola.

"Hey, principal Yola. What's going on?" Ning asked.

"Teacher Ely, catch that intruder," Yola shouted from further away.

"What?" both Ning and Ely were super confused. They waited for Yola to reach them so that she could explain herself.

"What's going on, Yola?" Ely asked.

"Teacher Eleonora, do you know this man?" Yola asked.

"Of course," Eleonora said.

"Alright, then. Since teacher Eleonora knows you, I won't make it hard for you. Why did you come to this academy?" Yola asked.

Ning was super confused now. "What do you mean why I've come to the academy? It's obviously to teach," Ning said.

"No, you are not a teacher. Tell me when you are here?" Yola shouted.

There was a crowd of people gathering around them by now and they were looking at the commotion with quite a lot of interest. It wasn't every day that the principal got this angry.

"Are you confused, Yola? Ning has been a teacher here since a long time ago," Ely said.

"Huh?" Yola was confused now. "But I checked the previous records that were left behind for me, but I couldn't find his name there at all."

"There are no records of him? That shouldn't be the case," Ely said. "Did you really check it properly?"

"Of course. I checked it 3 times, but I couldn't find any name called 'Ning Ruogong' anywhere," Yola said.

"That's weird," Ely said. Ning was also confused as to why his records wouldn't be there. He had clearly asked for permission and was given it quite easily.

If not for the permission to go on closed cultivation for as long as he wanted to, he would have been expelled from the academy.

"Oh, I might know the problem," Ely said after thinking of something. "Yola, did you check the archives?"

"Archives? No, I haven't entered the treasury in ages," Yola said. "Why?"

Ely then turned to Ning and asked, "who did you request the leave for closed cultivation?"

"Huh? Who else would it be? Obviously Maeve. She was the only one with permission to let me do that," Ning said.

"Sigh, I knew it," Ely said and brought out a formation setter, before setting a concealing formation between just the two of them. "Maeve died 600 years ago. We had 2 other principals after her before Yola."

"Huh? 600 years ago? Wait, how long was I in cultivation then?" Ning asked.

"Sigh, I wanted to tell you this earlier, but was interrupted," Ely said. "From the time you joined this academy up to right now, it has been a little over 1800 years."

## **Chapter 323: Teleportation Formation**

Ning thought he heard wrong at first, so he asked to confirm, "Sorry, did you say 1800 years?" he asked.

"Yes, it's been 1800 years since you joined the academy, I'm around 2100 years old right now. Although, most of it was in closed cultivation, so I don't know if I should call it that," Ely said.

"Wait, that's... I was inside for so long. You were here for so long," Ning said. This was the most time he had skipped ever in his life.

"2100 years... that's a lot of time for a Nascent Soul cultivator. How many years do you have left?" Ning asked.

"I should still have a Millenium before I die," Ely said. "Thanks to the books you gave me of course."

"I will give you something else to improve it even more," Ning said. "Anyway, I think we should fix this misconception."

Ely nodded and cleared the formation setter and took it into her item box.

"Teacher Eleonora, what are you doing?" Yola asked.

"All of your, go away," Ely said to the students, who immediately dispersed.

Some of them showed courage and stayed behind, but they immediately left when Yola followed Ely and shouted, "Disperse."

"What is happening?" Yola asked.



"You should go to the treasury and look up his name. Believe me, he is a teacher," Ely said.

"If you say so. I will go and check," Yola said and left.

"1800 years huh... the last one must've lasted over a thousand years too," Ning said softly. "So long."

"Don't fret much," Ely said. "That's the life of a cultivator. In search for a few hundred more years, we waste away thousands inside a room."

"Sigh, what's happened has happened, let's go somewhere else and talk," Ning said before walking away.

Along with Ely, he went down to the city which had broadened itself by quite a lot. All the buildings seemed to have been changed or renewed. The culture in the city was also a lot different.

Ning just walked around in silence as he watched. "Where are we going?" Ely asked.

"I don't know. I'm just... walking around, I guess," Ning thought as he walked with Ely behind him.

They walked for a few hours as Ely followed behind Ning. Ning strayed off the path and walked into a forest too. He looked around talking a lot.

When he reached the middle of the forest, he called out his beast. None of his beasts looked different, not even Blue who was supposed to be evolving.

However, their cultivation base was certainly reaching its peak. In fact, Ning could feel that they were about to break through to the higher realm.

'Huh? But I thought breaking through to Spirit Transformation was impossible aside from the Origin. Or is it that the Beast space's feature with Qi gathering made it a good place for them to breakthrough?' Ning wondered.

"They're quite strong," Ely said as she too could feel their cultivation base.

"Aren't they?" Ning asked with a chuckle. "Guys, go around and have fun. I will find you guys in a few days."

"You are giving them free rein?" Ely asked.

"They've been couped up in the room along with me. I can understand what it feels like now. So I think they deserve at least this much," Ning said.

"I see," Ely said.

"Anyway, I'm planning on going around to meet a few of my people. Can you go back by yourself?" Ning asked.

Ely was about to say yes when she thought of something else and asked something else.

"Can I not come by?" she asked.

"Oh, of course, you can. Although only I know them, so I don't know what sort of time you will have," Ning said.

"It's fine. It's in the Northern Continent, right? I've been dreaming about going there. They fixed the teleportation formation to the Southern Continent, so I've been there. But they are still struggling to do anything for the northern continent, and it's quite annoying," Eleonora said.

"Wait, they fixed a Teleportation formation? When?" Ning asked.

"A few centuries ago. Two formation master brothers worked all their lives and managed to finally learn enough about the teleportation formation to fix it."

"The Sephyr Empire has been quite a busy place thanks to that. They were called by the Emperor of the Noetra Empire to do the same for their broken Formation too, but it seems there is something really wrong with that formation and they can't seem to fix it," Ely said.

"Hmm... a Teleportation formation to the Northern Continent huh? That's... not bad, The people there can do well visiting the other continent too. " Ning said. "I wonder what the two brothers would do if the answer to their problems were to, say, mysteriously fall on their lap."

Ely chuckled a little and said, "Wouldn't it be better if you use that information to make one for the Galyra empire? I'm sure Nilo would be quite happy."

"Nilo? He's still the Emperor?" Ning asked in surprise.

"No. He gave up the throne to his son a few centuries ago after reigning for nearly 700 years. Knowledge of alchemy helped him a lot during those times, so I'm sure he would be quite flabbergasted to a certain teacher that helped him during his young years," Eleonora said.

"It's been so long that I missed his coronation as well as retirement, huh? Well, I guess I can go meet him. As for the formation, let's talk with the folks over in the Northern Continent before we make any decisions of our own. Is that okay?" Ning asked.

"Yeah, that sounds good to me," Ely said.

"Great. Let me ask my beasts if they want to go to the Northern Continent. They were all born there, so they should be quite thrilled, honestly," Ning said.

Just as he said that the sky dimmed as Night arrived right next to Ning. After that Blue arrived and finally, Aegis came back as well. They all went back into the beast space for a moment, and Ning brought his hand forward.

"Let's go," he asked.

Ely smiled and held his hands. Then, they disappeared.

## **Chapter 324: The Saint's Inheritance**

Ning taught a class full of now familiar students. It had been a few days since he returned from his few months long adventure and was getting back to teaching.

Yola had learned about Ning, but chose to keep it on the low for now. However, she did one thing that confused Ning a little.

She took away all of his gold stars. So now, he had no stars and would have to start back again.

Her thought process was that since it had been so long since he left closed cultivation, he should have forgotten most of the stuff. If he remembered it, then he could surely get his badge back.

Ning happily handed his badges as they would be nothing more than eye magnet for him, which he didn't want. Beside, being a badgeless teacher had a few perks of its own.

Ning finished teaching his class of merely 40 students and left.

He walked to the artifact wing and met up with Ely. During the last few months, the two of them had been together for essentially always, and had since then grown together.

However, Ning never made any advances into elevating their relation to anything other than friends. He felt sad even thinking about being together with someone who would surely die.

Even with his body cultivation, Ely would die in less than 2 thousand more years.

So, Ning just decided to keep the feelings to himself forever. He didn't want to be heartbroken about it, ever.

Ely seemed to have realized something about this by now, but chose to say nothing about it. Ning was very thankful about that.

Ning had just met up with Ely when he realized that many teachers and students were rushing somewhere.

"What's happening?" Ning asked.

"I think... they said that the Saint Alchemist has shown up," Ely said.

"Oh, that guy isn't dead yet?" Ning asked.

"He might have eaten a pill or something," Ely said.

"Maybe," Ning said. "But those sort of pills are usually bad for you. It hampers your advances in cultivation. Although, I guess that doesn't really matter to people on this planet."

The two of them walked front and saw the crowd circle around a few people. Most of them were either staffs or teachers from the Alchemy wing. They were all bowing to an Elderly looking man who seemed to be at the end of his age.

"It's a pleasure of this sect to have you, senior," Yola said.

"You don't have to show such a response to a dying, old man," the saint alchemist said. "I have come with a request."

Yola's eyes shined. A request from someone who could make 10th grade pills was a big thing. "Please, tell us your request, senior," she said.

"When is your next Alchemy competition?" the old man asked.

"Uhh... in just a year, we will have our Decennial Competition that will take place in the Sun Empire. Students from all the 5 empires will gather there. Alchemy will be a part of that competition too," Yola said.

"Hmm... make the Alchemy portion of the competition big. In fact, I'm planning on calling the people from the Southern Continent as well as the Northern Continent too," the old man said.

"What? Senior, a competition between students of the 3 continents? That's... why go that far?" Yola asked.

"I'm dying, and I'm in need for someone to succeed me. In all of my years, I never took on a disciple. I focused on my work more than anything. Now that life had caught up to me, and I'm dying, I'm starting to realize just how pointless it all was."

"However, even as pointless it is all to me, I'm sure my knowledge can help others. So, I'm trying to find the best person to succeed me. For that, I decided to choose the best alchemy student from the next competition," the old man said.

Gasps rang around and the crowd was stunned. Yola immediately agreed with zero hesitation, and got to work.

Soon, information hit the street at an extremely fast pace. It was not just people from the Galyra Empire that knew the information, or even the Central continent.

The information traveled around the whole world, and every single one of them learned the same thing, then same information.

The Saint Alchemist, one of the only known alchemist to ever create a 10th grade pill, was now looking to pass his entire inheritance to one single student.

And that was very tempting.

Soon, the whole world was in a fire of ambition as everyone made their way to the teleportation formations.

"I can't believe that old man is dying too. We really lived a long time, didn't we?" Ely asked.

"Yes, we did," Ning said. 'Although, it's just a beginning for me,' he thought.

"Well, at least you got the formations working in time. Now the people from the Northern Continent can join the competition as well," Ely said.

"Haha, yeah," Ning said.

"What's wrong? You aren't talking as much," Ely asked.

"I'm... I'm just thinking about stuff," Ning said.

"Like?" Ely inquired.

"Like how I can help you all. Hyesi is getting old. Although he can live for a while longer, his prime age for cultivation is already coming to a close. If I delay even much longer, it will be Anya's turn next," he said.

"Sigh, I could help you by finding the Origin, or whatever it is called, but I can't seem to find that either. I hope I get some information about it all soon," Ning prayed.

"I'm sure you will," Ely said as she held his hand. "Even if you can't, you don't have to feel guilty about it. You already gave us all something the others in this planet could only wish for. That alone is priceless."

"My father wouldn't be alive right now if it weren't for you. My brother and his family wouldn't be as happy or successful without you either. I'm sure Hyesi's and Anya's life is the same," Ely said.

"We are all thankful for what you've done. So, don't feel guilty about it at all. Even if life catches up to us, and we die of old age, that just means our regular cycle ended."

"Remember, we will all return to the reincarnation cycle at the end of the day. Even if we die, you will surely be there to find us again."

## **Chapter 325: Sun Empire**

"Teacher Ning, are you coming too?" Reya asked.

"Halfway through, I guess. I'm going somewhere else though," Ning said as he showed up to the gathering of the students in the fields behind the academy.

A year had gone by, and it was time for the Decennial Competition.

The students were all happy and excited to be going on this small adventure. Not only that, the Alchemy students were particularly jumpy due to what was at stake in this Decennial Competition.

"Wow, so many people," Ning said as he looked around.

"Why are you here? I thought you said you weren't coming," Ely asked from the side.

"That was just because Anya said she wouldn't be coming, so I didn't really care about it, but then I recently remembered something I heard a long time ago and thought that it would be a good time to visit that place," Ning said.

"Oh, ok. Will you be flying with the Alchemy wing? I have to take care of the artifact wing's students," Ely said.

"Nah, the students don't really know me. I'm sure the Old man will hog all of their attention. So, I will fly with you. Besides, I want to see how that artifact came out," Ning said a little too excitedly.

"You really do get childish when you remember about Earth, don't you?" Ely said with a chuckle.

"What's wrong with that?" Ning asked.

Yola brought out a massive ship that Ely had made for them and all the students started boarding it.

A few of the teachers remained behind who took out their own boats. Ely brought out her own too.

This boat was very... weird. It was nothing but a 1 by 2-meter block of metal that was about 20 centimeters thick. The only thing separating it from a normal block of metal was the numerous holes in it.

The metal boat started floating in mid-air and both Ely and Ning got on it. The boat suddenly started releasing steam that stuck around them.

The steam then condensed and gathered around the boat like mist.

Yola's boat flew off, and so did everyone. Ely moved her boat as well, as soon she was leaving behind a trail a mist as she flew.

Ning looked around him and sighed, "So, my blueprints failed, huh?" he said.

"I told you. We should use leather instead of metal," Ely said. "You should leave coming up with ideas to me."

She looked at him and said, "Hey, be cheerful. Even if it doesn't feel like one, it sure looks it,"

Ning saw the students looking at him in awe. More accurately, they were looking at the flying cloud he was riding on.

"Haha, it does indeed look like it, doesn't it?" Ning got a little happy.

The group of them flew over the vast forest behind the academy towards the sun empire.

It would take the lot of them about 5 days to reach the Bright Red academy that was located towards the eastern portion of the continent.

Stronger teachers got cautious and started looking out for beast attacks from down below. The forest surrounding the Sun Empire was massive and lasted for tens of thousands of kilometers.

They didn't have to worry, however. Ning already had Night fly down below lookout for such attacks. Night was roaming around checking for dangers before they actually arrived.

So, the lot of them had nothing to do but wait. Ning conversed with Ely about the different things and told her where he was going.

Ely didn't really show any reaction as Ning himself wasn't expecting to find anything there. He was in fact worried he was going there for nothing.

"Why didn't you teleport there?" Ely asked.

"Eh? What's the hurry? Besides, I'm getting to spend some time with you by staying here," Ning said.

Ely chuckled.

Days turned into night, and night turned into day again. The cycle repeated for one more time before the day started to turn into the night again.

They had safely left the forest and were now fully in the desert.

"Oh," Ning said when he saw a mountain range in the desert. He looked around for a bit and shook his head.

"It seems we are a little off course from where I need to go. So, I will leave now. I will come to see you later," Ning said.

"Alright, bye. Good luck on whatever you may find there," Ely said.

Ning smiled and stood. Then lightly jumped from the flying cloud boat and the wind pushed him back so that he stayed where he was in mid-air.

He waved his hands and said his goodbye. He waited for a bit so that the group of people flew off into the horizon where they could no longer make him out.

"Get in," Ning said as Night finally came out of the shadows too. "Alright, let's go."

Ning teleported from where he stood and appeared on top of a massive lake. He was really high in the air, so the people down below didn't notice him at all.

"Ok, so the map doesn't tell me about the buildings. I will have to find those on my own," Ning thought and flew down to the top of a dune and started walking down.

There was a small city where normal people lived. When they saw Ning, they acted with a sense of apprehension.



Ning smiled and didn't bother with the people. 'I guess they are the same as Hyesi and the others. They rarely see white skinned people, so they are a little scared,' Ning thought.

However, these people seemed more used to different people, so they didn't come to attack him.

The small town was built with mostly bricks and cement. It seemed that with the sands in the desert the people here didn't need to worry about housing.

The people were either fully clothes from top to bottom hiding every part of their skin from the sun, or mostly naked since coldness wasn't a problem here.

Ning walked up to one of such men and asked, "Hello, I am looking for a tomb around here. Do you happen to know where it is?"

## **Chapter 326: Pattern**

Ning stood in front of a giant row of white, marble pillars leading into a giant door. This was the place that the resident showed him when he asked for the tomb.

"So... this is the tomb?" he wondered.

He was currently in a place known as the Grime Oasis. He didn't know why it was named that, nor did he care about it.

The only thing he cared about was this one tomb.

Ning looked at the opening to the tomb and was both confused and surprised. These new emotions of his had nothing to do with the tomb itself, however.

It had everything to do with the people that were entering and exiting the tomb.

"It's a tourist spot now?" Ning thought. He didn't remember Keng talking about this when he spoke about the ShadowGod Buttery.

"He found a ShadowGod Butterfly here, so there must be something unique about this place," Ning thought. "But it's nearly 2 millennia since Keng was here, and now it's turned to a tourist spot."

"Is there really a way that the uniqueness of this place from that time was still preserved?" Ning wondered. Still, he decided to go in.

He looked around the perfectly built walls, the drawings upon them. Every single thing he saw around here looked... new.

"Did someone draw these all after the fact when someone realized they could get rich from turning this into a tourist spot?" Ning wondered.

He walked around the tomb looking for something, but he couldn't find anything special about it.

He visited the room that was at the center of the tomb and looked around. He saw some broken pieces of stones that seemed to have been kept there after the fact.

Ning then noticed the sunlight entering the room. He look up and saw that there was a circular glass on top with a weirdly patterned metal cage around it.

"That's strange," he thought.

"Hello, sir. Have you seen around the tomb? Do you need any help?" A black-skinned woman walked up to him and asked.

"Hm, sure. Can you tell me why that is there?" Ning asked, pointing at the metal bar up above.

"Oh, It's always been there, sir. Same as these walls, and these floors," the woman said, showing the weird-looking patterns on the ground as well.

"Is there any meaning to this?" Ning asked.

"I'm afraid not, sir. It's just decoration," the lady said.

"Hm, tell me more about this tomb, who is it for? How long had it been here? Since when was the tomb available for public viewing?" Ning asked.

"Oh, we believe the tomb to belong to a rich merchant who wanted to create a place for his dying wife to remain here eternally. At least, that is what the story on those walls says. We can only interpret as much as the coffin where the body was buried in was long stolen away."

"All we have left is this empty room with a broken coffin where the corpse should have been," the woman said. Ning looked around and could clearly tell how bullshit the story was.

"Since when was this tomb available to the public?" Ning asked.

"This tomb was secretly visited by many before, but it was truly public when our chief decided to make the tomb into a tourist attraction 300 years ago."

"We don't have much to show in the Grime Oasis, aside from this. Given that our oasis is quite dirty, we have to use this," the woman said.

"Oh, so it wasn't visited by people before that, huh?" Ning said.

"Yes," the woman replied.

"By the way, I have another question. Have you heard of any news of anyone finding butterflies around here?" Ning asked.

"Butterflies? No, I don't think so. There has been news of people finding weird beasts in the area that should not be in the desert, but no butterfly," The lady said.

Ning fell into contemplation. "Sir, if you don't need me, I will attend to the other guests," the woman said.

"Yes, yes, please go," Ning said.

"The woman smiled brightly through the sunlight that fell on her through the ceiling and left.

Just as the woman left, the sunlight fell down on the floor once more. However, it had slightly shifted away from him this time.

"Hmm?" Ning suddenly got curious. He looked up to see the pattern of the metal rail on the ceiling, and then the floor.

Things started clicking in his mind. "Could it be?" he thought.

"Everyone, leave," Ning shouted out loud without prior notice. The people were surprised to see someone shout in the tomb for no reason but quickly ignored him.

Ning looked at the sunlight and realized that he was running out of time for today.

"I said everyone get out," Ning shouted once more.

"Oi, who the fuck do you think you are to shou—"

Ning released his entire cultivation base suffocating all the people inside the room. Not a single one of them had ever before felt this strong of an aura.

"LEAVE!" Ning said calmly this time and took back his aura. Without a single moment wasted, the people ran out in droves in fear of the madman.

Once everyone was gone, Ning picked up the fake coffin and threw it out of the room. Now, the room really, truly didn't have anything.

Ning just stayed where he was and looked at the shape of the light and the shape of the ground started being the same.

Ning took out a single gold coin from his storage and tossed it. The coin flew through the air and landed on the center of the room where all the patterns converged, which was previously hidden by the fake coffin.

When the sun reached the zenith and the shapes finally properly overlapped each other, blue light started shining out from the shadows.

"So devious," Ning thought when he saw it all. "Just what could the tomb's owner be hiding by making the only key to the riches be a formation made using the shadows and patterns on a marble."

## **Chapter 327: Statues**

Over the 2 thousand years, Ning had never bothered learning how to make formations or the formation flags. Creating a formation was never something he thought he required.

However, he did learn deconstruction of formations. He learned how to stop a formation, dismantle it, or if required, destroy it.

So, when he saw the shadows about to overlap and form a perfect formation on the pattern below, he quickly tossed a gold coin in it to open it.

Once the formation was filled, it lit up and opened what looked like a portal to a secret realm.

Ning stepped forward and disappeared. He felt a slight tug on his body as if he was being pulled down instead of teleporting.

"Hmm... interesting," he thought as he let his body free fall. It took him what felt like 3 minutes to finally reach the bottom with a bang. He only had to bend his knees slightly to absorb all of the force of the impact, however.

"So... what's happening here?" he thought and started looking around. He was in a dark cave, but he could clearly see the carvings on the rocks.

'That doesn't look like it was made by a human,' Ning thought as he stared at the deep lines on the wall. They were about 40 centimeters deep, 15 centimeters wide, and about half a meter in between each of the carvings on the wall.

"What sort of tool did the maker of this tomb use to make these?" Ning wondered and walked forward.

The marks ran all along the wall until it reached a massive open space in the cave. When Ning finally walked into the open room, he was stunned.

In front of him were hundreds of statues all over the room, and all of these statues were looking towards a single thing in the middle of the room, a giant coffin.

Ning looked at the statues in more shock than he ever had when he realized just what he was looking at.

"That's... that's a Water Drake, and that's a Wildfire Phoenix, that's a Light Roc, and that's a Black-Horned Qilin."

"That's a Dark-emperor Crow, and the Golden Shelled Beetle's statue is here too."

Ning looked around as he started recognizing all the beasts that were in the room.

A White Puma descended from the White Tiger, a green Turtle descended from the legendary Black Turtle, a seven-tailed Fox descended from the Nine-tailed fox, a snake descended from the hornless dragons called Chi, a fire breathing dog descended from Huodou.

Every single descendant of the legendary creatures was here.

Ning looked in shock at the statues. "Just who carved these statues? How did they know what the extinct beasts looked like? Who the hell made this tomb?" Ning thought.

Finally, he reached the main question that started bugging him more and more as he thought about it.

"Who is in that coffin?" he thought. Since the answer wasn't gonna come up to him, he walked forward.

He gently touched the statues as he walked forward. He checked to see how well made they were and what they were made of.

Ning suddenly stopped when he felt a few of them. He looked at the dirt on his hands and thought, "That's just normal dust. Were these incredible statues really made with something so ordinary?"

He checked a few more and realized that the material that was on the statue was the same one as the one in the cave.

'Going so far as to create a tomb then sealing it away, and then making a fake tomb on top of it. How did the person who made such an incredible tomb, not find a single better material for the statues? I'm sure the sculptors themselves would go out of their way to ask for better materials.'

'So weird,' he thought.

Finally, he left the statue and walked towards the coffin itself. He was a little surprised when he saw the coffin, however.

'Is this where he spent all the money?' Ning wondered. 'Even a small piece of Primordial Holy Jade would cost anyone 5 generations of fortune. I'm surprised the person was even able to afford one, let alone such a large piece of it.'

Primordial Holy Jade was a very strong and resilient piece of jade, far stronger than the small marble Ning had made years ago.

Ning remembered reading that the Primordial Holy Jade could also block all forms of Qi, aura, and even divine sense.

Ning sent in his divine sense up to the slab of jade and was pleasantly surprised to see that his divine sense didn't enter there at all.

"So it is true. It's very heavy too isn't it?" Ning thought and touched the cool, but the dusty surface of the jade.

"Let's see what's inside," Ning thought and tried to push it from the side of the slab.

Just as he was about to push it, a divine sense entered his mind.

"You do not belong here, Human," something spoke into his mind. Ning immediately turned towards the direction of the voice but saw no one.

"Who's there?" Ning asked trying to see if they were hiding behind the statues.

"Go away," a voice entered his mind. Ning turned around again. This time the sound was coming from the opposite direction, and the voice felt very different too.

"Do not open it," another voice made Ning turn to the right.

He still couldn't see anything, but by now he had a sinking suspicion on what could be happening.

Immediately, he spread out his divine sense, but he didn't stop at that. Instead, he started sending those divine senses into the statues themselves to check if his suspicions were true.

"HOW DARE YOU!" many divine senses bombarded him at the same time, but none of them could make Ning falter at all.

"Heh, so that's what it is, huh?" Ning said as he looked around him.

The statues he believed to be just statues were in fact beasts that seemed to have been plastered from outside to make a statue.

"I'm surprised so many of your kind are still alive."

## **Chapter 328: Wound**

"Human, do you know who we are?"

"This is disrespect."

"The humans have gotten arrogant."

"Let's give him a lesson."

Auras emanated from the surrounding statues as they started crashing down on Ning to punish him for his insolence.

Ning's knees caved in a little when the aura of so many beasts in the 9th Nascent Soul realm fell upon him at once.

However, that was only because Ning was caught off-guard. Once he realized what was happening, he slowly stood back up straight and contested the many beasts' push.

"You can go on as long as you like; I can do this all day long," Ning said. "Although, given how much you must have sacrificed to live for so long, are you sure you want to fight me right now?"

The aura disappeared as soon as it came.

"Who are you, human? The humans alive in our time were in no way this strong. Are all humans like you now?," one of the beasts said.

"No, I am an exception for sure," Ning said.

"I see. Then would you say who is the strongest in your world right now?" the beasts asked.

"Hmm... I'm not really sure, but I should be considered one of the strongest ones now," Ning said.

"Is that so?" one of the beasts said.

"The world is not ready yet."

"They need more time."

"We don't have more time."

"We must endure."

"For our children."

"Yes, for our children."

The beasts suddenly started talking amongst themselves and Ning just stood there listening to everything.

"What do we do now?"

"Send the human back."

"Should I ask him if he's seen my descendent?"

"Everyone, don't forget to focus. You're getting distracted."

"Yes."

"Brother Drake, please tell the human to leave."

Ning listened to the beasts continue speaking. He was curious as to what exactly they were talking about.

"What's going on?" Ning asked.

"Nothing, you should go back that way and fly out of here while you have the time, human. The seal doesn't stop you from leaving out," the Drake spoke.

"Okay... what was that about the world not being ready though? What is the world not ready for?" Ning asked.

"Huh? Where did you hear that?" the Drake asked in surprise.



"What do you mean? That silver-horned Deer just spok— Oh, right. I forgot I can easily understand the beasts. So, I sometimes forget that you are speaking a different language altogether," Ning said.

"You can understand our language, human?" the beasts asked in surprise.

"Yes," Ning said. "So, do you mind telling me what is happening in here?"

"That's... not something we can reveal," the beasts said.

"Okay... then tell me how you are alive. I remember learning that you were all killed by this one beast that came out of nowhere with the power of many legendary beasts. Was that false?" Ning asked.

The beasts went silent for a few moments after hearing Ning's questions. Finally, one of the beasts asked, "Where did you hear about this?"

"I have a beast of my own with some knowledge about it," Ning said and called out Aegis, Night, and Blue.

The three of them looked around and were surprised that nothing was there. They were fully expecting to fight someone right now.

"Why is one of my brethren out there?" the Golden Shelled Beetle's statue suddenly spoke.

Aegis looked to the statue that just spoke and was even more confused. "Master, that thing jus spoke," he said.

"Junior, don't call me a 'thing.' I am your ancestor," the Golden Shelled Beetle statue said. "Also, did you just call him master?"

"Yes, he is my master," Aegis said.

"INSOLENCE!" the beetle statue cried out. "How dare you enslave my kind?"

"Hey, don't speak about my master like that," Aegis's aura exploded when he got angry. His peak Nascent Soul realm cultivation base exploded.

"My child, are you brainwashed?" the beetle statue asked.

"Brother Beetle, I don't think that is the case," one of the other beasts spoke. "He seems to genuinely care about the human."

"So do they all," another beast spoke.

"A flood dragon... but you have the bloodline of the True Dragons. How is that possible? Your aura is stronger than mine. Has the world healed?" the Drake asked.

Blue looked around, not answering anything immediately.

"You!" the Dark Emperor Crow cried out when it saw Night. "How is that possible? How do you carry that bloodline? It should have gone extinct long before me."

"What are you talking about?" Ning asked.

"Can you not see it, human? That kin of mine has the bloodline of our ancestors," the Dark Emperor crow statue spoke.

"Oh, yeah. I knew that. Is that so surprising? I thought you all had it," Ning asked.

"We do... but the amount in him is way too high," the statue spoke. "But how? Are our ancestors back? Has the world truly healed again?"

"You guys keep saying that. What do you mean by that exactly? Was there something that happened in this world that wounded it?" Ning asked.

"We don't know," the beasts that. "These are just memories of ours from our ancestors. All we know is that our world was wounded and that counteracted the Origin,"

Ning's eyes suddenly went wide. "The Origin! What is that? I read about it somewhere. Someone wrote a book that said that the only way to break through to the spirit transformation realm is in the Origin."

"A human did?" the beasts asked.

"Yes," Ning said.

"Did he happen to be a bald man with a yellow and red cloth?" the beasts asked.

"Uhh... I don't know about what he wore. I only know the book he wrote," Ning said. "His name was Nergo Vansmith"

"Oh, so that human lived to tell a tale huh?"

"That weakling actually wrote a book, haha."

"Who is he?" Ning asked.

"The creator of this seal and the person in charge of creating the tomb outside," the beasts said.

"Since the world was favoring the Humans, we decided to give one a very important task."

## **Chapter 329: Will Of The World**

"And what was the important task?" Ning asked as he looked at the many statues.

"To seal this place," one of the beasts spoke.

"Right, what exactly is this place?" Ning asked.

"It's a prison, human. A prison to hold one of the strongest evil creatures ever to exist on this planet," the Drake said.

Ning suddenly had an epiphany. He looked towards the coffin in the center and slowly asked, "Is that the coffin of that Legendary beast that was said to have killed you all? Is that where its corpse lies?"

"Yes."

"No."

Ning got multiple answers at once, each contradicting the other. The confusing mess resulted in Ning learning nothing.

"Umm... can you guys just let brother Drake talk, please? All of you talking at once is hard to understand," Ning said.

"I alone shall speak then, human," the drake's statue said. "That coffin is in fact keeping Jha'Akim, but it's not his corpse that lies in there."

"then what?" Ning asked. he wondered if it was perhaps just a Nascent soul that managed to barely escape away.

"No! Jha'Akim was never defeated. He's still alive," the drake said. "He's sealed inside that coffin right now."

"What? You guys didn't defeat him at all?" Ning asked in surprise. From what he remembered, Night's memories never had anything aside from the fact that the war favored the lone beast with the bloodline of many.

He remembered there being no end to the story, but because the world was safe and every information about that beast was gone, he had naturally assumed that it was killed.

"So it never died," Ning asked. "How did you guys manage to seal it? I heard its cultivation base was close to if not in the Spirit Transformation realm."

"No, it was definitely in the Spirit Transformation realm. The Jha'Akim had found his way to the Origin that many were struggling to find and cultivated there for a while and entered the Spirit Transformation realm," the drake said.

"Sorry for changing the topic right now, but what is this Origin? I keep hearing it, but there is no information about it at all," Ning said.

"Origin as we call it is the place of origin for all Qi on the planet. It's the one location where Qi is created," the drake said. "Due to it being the origin, it has much higher Qi concentration than any other location."

"Hm... I had a suspicion. It's good to know that for sure though. Do you know where it is?" Ning asked.

"No. The ones that learned that Jha'Akim was cultivating in the Origin were killed before they could relay us the information of its whereabouts."

"However, we are sure that it was in the ocean for sure," the drake said.

"I see," Ning said. "Getting back on topic, how was he sealed exactly? Did you guys manage to overpower him in any way?"

"Yes," the drake said. "It's a little underhanded, but we found him alone when he was breaking through and brought him here before sealing him."

"You didn't kill him when you had the chance?" Ning asked.

"That was impossible. His body is stronger than anything we've seen before. It would have been impossible to kill him."

"We saw no other choice at that time, and we bet it all on the humans that were favored by the planet and came here with all of our people to seal Jha'Akim," the drake said.

"What do you mean by the humans are favored by the planet? Can you explain?" Ning asked.

"It's... I'm not sure how much of this is true since it's something I've learned from my memories, our memories, but it says that the planet has a will too. All of them do. It's an amount not enough to call the planet conscious, but there is definitely some form of cosmic will that a planet has. "

"Most planets that don't want life on them do whatever they can to stay barren and unpopulated. Those that do are the ones that want life."

"And of that, the planets also start biasing over which life they like more. Our planet previously preferred to have every beast among them."

"But slowly, once the humans emerged, the planet's preferences changed. It started favoring the humans, and slowly the beasts got weaker."

"The wound on the planet didn't help either. Soon, humans were starting to get as strong as beasts," the drake said.

"Wait, humans were that strong during the age of beasts too?" Ning asked.

"Yes. They were little in amount, but due to the planet's favor, the humans were getting stronger and stronger," the drake said.

"And yet, it was Jha'Akim that nearly destroyed you all, huh?" Ning asked.

"I don't believe that is by any coincidence either," the Drake said.

Ning was confused now. "Sorry, what do you mean?" he asked.

"It was not a coincidence that Jha'Akim was so strong," the drake said. "After all, he was a humanoid beast too."

"What?" Ning was surprised. "That beast was humanoid?"

"It's would be incorrect to call Jha'Akim a beast. He was many, but he was none. Jha'Akim was in fact a half-beast, half-human, born to a low leveled beast after a human copulated with it."

"From a young age, Jha'Akim was said to walk on two legs. Being half of both, he was ostracized from both the beasts and the humans. That was what we believe to be the reason he went to war against the world," the Drake said.

The new information he was getting made Ning more and more surprised. The beasts he thought were extinct were alive, Jha'Akim was alive, the Origin was revealed to him, he learned that the planet had a pseudo-will, and now he was learning that Jha'Akim was in fact born between a man and a beast.

"Wait, wait, wait," Ning paused for a moment. "Something doesn't make sense here."

"What doesn't?" the Drake asked.

"Wasn't Jha'Akim born with the blood of many legendary beasts? But you said he was born to a lowly beast," Ning asked.

"Ah, right. No, Jha'Akim was not born with the blood of the legendary beasts. However he did have the blood of the legendary beasts, all thanks to his powers," the drake said.

"His powers?" Ning asked.

"Yes. Jha'Akim had the power to devour blood of his enemies and integrate their bloodline onto himself."

## **Chapter 330: Promise**

"The power to devour blood and gain their bloodline? That doesn't sound like a normal ability someone should have," Ning said.

"Yes. We believe he was born with a heavenly constitution, one that allowed him to do all of that. After all, no ordinary beast should be able to reach the peak of Nascent Soul realm in mere 2 centuries," the Drake said.

"Still, it's been over 10 thousand years. Are you sure he's still alive?" Ning asked.

"We are alive, aren't we? We're sure he's alive too. We can feel him pushing on our powers to undo the seal. Each day, he grows stronger and stronger. Even when we sealed him the furthest away we could from the origin, and even siphoned away most of the Qi, his power still grows."

"It worries me that soon, we won't be able to stop him at all," the drake said.

"You... siphoned the Qi away?" Ning asked in confusion.

"Yes, we sealed him in the middle of this forest and also made a formation to take away the surrounding Qi to... somewhere," the drake said. "You must've felt the lack of Qi in the forest above right?"

"Umm... there is no forest outside... It's all a desert now," Ning said.

"Desert? No, it's a forest young man. You seem to have been mistaken," the drake said.

"No, it's a desert. It has been as such for the last thousands of years. It's a desert that spans thousands of kilometers and is surrounded by a massive jungle," Ning said.

"You aren't lying, are you?" the drake asked.

"No, that's the truth," Ning said.

The Drake went quiet for a few moments. Then, another beast spoke from the side.

"Did we... destroy our own home?"

"Is our home truly gone?"

"Where do we return to now? Where do our children return to?"

"No wonder the planet stopped favoring us. We are someone that would eventually destroy our own home."

The beasts started lamenting the fact that there was no longer a forest above where they were. The forest used to be their home, the majority of the Central Continent used to be their home.

"Is it because you guys took away the Qi that this desert came to be? Is that why a desert has such high mountain peaks? Because it wasn't originally a desert?" Ning asked.

The beasts stayed quiet for some time longer. Finally, the drake spoke again.

"It seems in our pursuit to quickly take care of Jha'Akim, we forgot to understand what adverse effects we might have been leaving behind in this world."

"Oh ancestors, forgive us. Your descendants have destroyed that which you loved," the drake cried out.

"Forgive us," every other beast cried out as well.

Ning stood there as the beasts started lamenting and asking for forgiveness. He had never been in such a situation, but he wondered how it must've felt for the beasts.

He was a little saddened by such thoughts but quickly stopped himself from getting any more emotional.

"So, where is the Qi going? I hope you've put it to good use," Ning asked.

"Yes, we've done the best we could with what little time we had. We knew we couldn't leave our children outside, so we brought them with us. So, we had to make a small place for our children to live in," the drake said

"Human, do you have malice in your heart?" a beast spoke from the back. The beast was a Heart-Scouring Cyclops. It looked like a single ball of an eye floating with two massive wings on its back, and a single tail floating down behind it.

"I don't harm those that don't harm me. Not anymore," Ning said.

The beasts remained quiet for the Cyclops to speak.

"He's good to go," the Cyclops said.

"Great! Human, go beyond those doors. You can meet our children. The Qi there is quite high compared to other places too. However, in return we hope that you can do something for us," the drake said.

"What do you want?" Ning asked.

"I will tell you when you return," the Drake said.

Ning got a little suspicious and didn't move. "Can you not tell me what you want? I can't make promises on things I do not know about," Ning said.

"Don't worry, it's not something you should worry about. Just go and come back; we can talk about it later," the drake said.

Ning got even more suspicious now. "I'm not leaving until you've told me what it is I am going to do. It feels like you are going to guilt-trip me into accepting whatever you are going to make me do by letting me go in there," Ning said.

"I... alright fine," the drake gave up. "I... We, wanted you to bring our children back to us. Every once in a while, a child of ours gets curious about the outside world, and despite our caution, they leave to the outside world."

"Since the leaving aspect of the seal is nonexistent above, they easily get out of this tomb. I do not know what dangers there are above. The world is overrun by humans now as that is the will of this planet."

"We are worried that our children might have come across dangers that they were not ready to face at all. Or even those that wanted to return couldn't find a way to do so because of the way the seal was created."

"So, we all wanted to ask you to help those lost children reunite with us. That is all we wanted you to promise," the Drake said.

The other beasts didn't make a single sound either, but Ning could tell they were very expectant.

"Very well. I don't know if many could've remained alive because of how small their lifespan would be. But, I will try to get as many of them as possible. I promise you that," Ning said.

"Thank you, human. That is all we wanted. If you wish to, you can go visit our children outside of those doors now," the drake said.



"Okay. I will see you guys later then," Ning said and walked towards the door to see what lied beyond.

## **Chapter 331: The Beasts' Secret Realm**

Ning stood in front of the nearly 20 meters tall stone door and pushed it open only to realize that it was just an illusion. The door was in fact a portal that teleported him the moment he walked in.

Along with him, Aegis, Blue, and Night also walked into the portal and got teleported.

When they reappeared they were still inside a cave, but just a little ahead of them, they could see the path lead to a way outside.

Ning walked forward with the three beasts and went out of the cave. The moment they reached outside, they were welcomed by some bright light.

When the bright light finally went away, Ning could see a massive jungle down below with hundreds of birds of different colors flying in the sky.

The 4 of them were on top of a mountain, looking down at the beautiful green scenery down below. "Woah! look at that. That looks amazing," Ning said as he looked at the unending forest with beasts running about everywhere.

"The Qi here is also very concentrated. It's about the same, if not higher than that one beast island up," Ning said. "What do you guys think?"

"It... it really is amazing, master," Aegis said.

"I can see my brethren," Blue said as he saw many flood dragons far away in the distance.

The night however remained quiet, not answering anything.

Suddenly, 2 beasts flew up through the air and arrived in front of Ning. Once they reached close to him, they sent out divine sense towards all 4 of them.

Ning didn't mind and let them check him as much as they wanted. The two beasts, one a Seven tailed fox, and another a Mind Flaying Moth, were both surprised when they saw their cultivation base and started getting cautious.

"Seniors, who might you be?" the Fox asked cautiously. Suddenly seeing 4 different strong individuals arrive had them scared.

Soon, more and more beasts started appearing around them as they seemed to have noticed something was happening. Most beasts here had been born inside this secret realm, so they didn't even know what a human looked like.

The newer generation curiously checked out Ning, while the older generation nervously stood around waiting for Ning and the others to answer.

"Don't be scared, we aren't bad company. I found the seal to back there accidentally, and your ancestors told me to come here to see you guys," Ning said.

"The ancestors allowed you inside?" the beasts asked.

"Yes," Ning said.

"Why would they do that?" the beasts asked amongst themselves. They saw no reason why their ancestors would ever send someone so strong to them.

"Well, they probably wanted to guilt-trip me into helping them. They didn't know whether I would help them out otherwise or not," Ning said.

"So, your purpose of the visit is... nothing?" they asked.

"Pretty much. I guess I will just look around and leave," Ning said. The beasts were still quite cautious and didn't immediately accept the answer.

Suddenly, Ning fully unleashed his cultivation base, drowning the entire group of beasts in his incredibly strong aura. The beasts could barely use their cultivation base to not get crushed.

Then the aura disappeared. It disappeared as quickly as it appeared. The beasts got back up and immediately put up a fighting stance.

"Can you guys defeat me if I were to fight you?" Ning asked.

The beasts looked around at themselves, trying to look for a positive answer to that question. Unfortunately, there was none.

"No, right?" Ning asked. The beasts couldn't help but nod in agreement.

"Then you guys should stop being too untrusting of me. If I wanted to come here for any malicious reasons, I wouldn't have to fake an act in front of you guys," Ning said.

The beasts looked at themselves. "I guess... that's true," the Seven Tailed Fox said. "We're sorry for showing such a disrespectful side of us senior, but we could never be too careful. I hope you can forgive us, Senior."

"It's alright. Let's go and see what your little realm is like. I'm really curious what the ruler of the past made of their final gift to their children," Ning said.

"Yes, please come, senior," the beasts started taking them down below. Ning nodded and flew down. Night, Aegis, and Blue followed him and flew downward too.

The beasts kept on looking at Ning as if he was something they had never seen before. Ning chuckled a little since that was true.

They also kept on staring at his beasts, especially at their aura. Aegis was normal. He was strong and had a very high cultivation base, but he inherently wasn't any different from the other beasts here.

However, Night and Blue were different. Their unusually domineering aura kept attracting the gazes of the many beasts.

The 3 of them too felt quite weird about the entire situation. Aegis was surrounded by a few of the Golden Shelled Beetles as well as the other beasts and was talking about them.

Blue had started acting all high and mighty in front of the many beasts that were surprised by his aura that included the aura of his True Dragon's bloodline. That was especially effective at pulling in the gazes of the beasts with dragon bloodlines in them.

As for Night, he tried to remain by himself but was also getting surrounded by other beasts. They were asking him about the unique bloodline he had, but unfortunately for them, Night still had no clue he even had something unique.

The powers he had were something he instinctively knew to use since he was born. It was only now that he met with the other Dark Emperor crows that he finally learned that was not the case.

Ning looked at the 3 of them and started getting a bitter feeling in his heart regarding the fact that the three of them had been stuck with him for so many years, unable to live a life of their own.

He was starting to feel very guilty about it.

## **Chapter 332: Choice**

The secret realm lasted for hundreds of kilometers. After a certain while, the forest would end, and a sea would start where the other aquatic beasts would live.

Ning visited all of that and was shocked that such a secret realm was actually created by the beasts.

"It's hard to believe that the beasts the world thought had gone extinct were actually just chilling here," Ning said.

"Yes, our ancestors thought that we couldn't survive on our own in the changing world, so they made this for us. I don't know how much of that is true though," one of the beasts said.

Ning looked around and said, "they're certainly correct. There are many people that are way stronger than you that would love to enslave you out there."

"Just look at me. In my attempt to get stronger, I got the three of them too. Fortunately, I haven't done anything wrong to them, but not everyone is like that."

"That's why your ancestors are worried. The world was changing, and they had enough foresight to see what could have happened if they left you guys out," Ning said.

"I see," the beasts said.

They started talking amongst themselves regarding how bad the situation was out there.

"Senior, does that mean we will have to worry about our child?" the beasts asked.

"My son left this place a few years ago? Is he okay?"

"My child left not so long ago too. I hope to see him soon."

"Grayback Bee's child left this place too quite a few years ago."

"Oh no, if the world is so bad, will our children still be okay?"

Ning looked at the beasts that started getting worried and panicked. "No, no, don't think like that," Ning said.

"While it is true that not everyone outside is good, it's not like there are bad people either. Just because someone tames your children doesn't mean they will do horrible things to them."

"There are quite a few of them that treat their tamed beasts like their brothers and sisters, and would die for them."

"Or, maybe your children were smart enough to avoid the humans too. After all, your ancestors out there will tell them what's wrong and what's right before they get to leave."

"So, stop worrying about it all. Besides, I'm going to get as many back as I can," Ning said.

Finally, the beasts started getting relieved and stopped worrying about their children so much. Ning stopped talking as well, as he thought that saying anything anymore would only lead to more worrying from the beasts.

The beasts asked him some more questions about the outside world, and Ning answered as much as he could. In just a few hours of being in this realm, he had explained to them everything about the outside world.

'The competition must be starting soon. I should leave now,' Ning thought and looked around to call back his three beasts.

But then he stopped.

He saw Aegis with his own people talking like they were friends. Aegis was very much having fun in a place where Ning didn't believe he could have fun. As shy as he was around others, he seemed to have lost that around his own people.

Ning smiled when he saw that. It was finally like Aegis was starting to live his life for himself.

He then saw Blue out there showing off his great achievements and how he would soon become the strongest being on the whole planet.

Ning chuckled when he saw that. Blue really loved being respected, and thankfully he wasn't annoying. The other beasts seemed to love him very much immediately too.

Night who loved staying alone and in silence was also opening up to the other beasts who constantly asked him questions. He got flustered when a female Dark Emperor crow started getting closer to him and nearly stuttered when he spoke.

A warm feeling emerged inside Ning. 'Finally, they are somewhere where they can belong,' Ning thought.

A conflicting feeling started brewing up in his heart. He wanted to take them away now that he was leaving, but that felt really wrong for them.

However, he also wanted to let them stay, but if he did that, then all the work he had put into getting them to become stronger would be wasted for him. Although, it wouldn't be wasted on them.

'I should let them make the decision,' Ning thought and called all of them over.

"Yes, master," the three of them arrived in front of him.

"How is this place? Do you guys like this?" Ning asked.

"This place is amazing, master. I really like this," Aegis said in a child-like manner. He seemed really excited about making new friends.

"Master, we should have come here earlier. I would've loved fighting against them when I was just getting stronger," Blue said. "Although, I doubt they could've to beat me even when I was weaker than I am now. After all, I have the blood of a True Dragon."

Ning smiled and waited for Night to answer, but Night chose to remain quiet.

"What? You don't have anything to say?" Ning asked.

"It's... It's fine. It's not a bad place," Night said.

"Really? It's only fine?" Ning asked with a scrutinizing look.

Night got flustered and said, "I guess... it's better than that. I don't mind being here."

"I see, so you guys really like this place huh? But unfortunately, it's time to leave," Ning said. All 3 of the beasts showed signs of reluctance on their face.

"Can't we stay a little longer, master?" Blue asked.

"Do you want to?" Ning asked.

Blue and Aegis furiously nodded. Night looked away not wanting to answer.

"Okay, since the intercontinental competition will be starting soon, I want to go there to see what sort of talents are there," Ning said. "Since it's a month-long competition, it will take quite a while to end."

"So, you guys have a choice to make. I can leave with you three right now, and we only come back once in a while to return the lost beasts."

"Or... you could stay here for the next month, or maybe even more while I am out living a slow life."

## **Chapter 333: 6:1 Difference**

Ning flew back up to the cave once more. He stopped before entering and looked back to see all 3 of his beasts happily interacting with the rest of the beasts.

'If that's what they want then who am I to say otherwise,' Ning thought.

Without any more consideration, he walked back into the portal in the cave. He was once more teleported and arrived outside, back in the tomb of Jha'Akim.

"You're back already?" the beasts were surprised.

"Yeah, there wasn't really anything for me to do there. I don't even really know why you sent me there, because I would have gone out to search for your descendants despite not going there," Ning said.

"But... we didn't send you there for yourself," the Drake said.

"Huh?" Ning was surprised. "Then why else would you se— Oh, I see," he said. "Yeah, well... your plan worked. My beasts love the place, and I've even left them there for a month before I return."

"You will return back in a month?" the beasts questioned.

"Oh yeah, I will take the information about which-which children of yours have left at that time too," Ning said.

"Oh, that's fine... but which month are you coming back on?" the drake asked.

"What do you mean which month? I'm coming back in a month," Ning said.

"Yeah, but which one?" the drake asked.

"How many different types of 1 month are there? I will return in 30 days," Ning said.

The beasts didn't speak for a moment before one of them spoke once more. "Yeah, but which one?"

Ning was confused now. "What do you mean by which one?" he asked.

The beasts went silent once more. Due to most of their body being encased in stone, Ning couldn't even see their emotions. Finally, the drake asked, "Did you not realize it when you came here?"

"What didn't I realize?" Ning asked.

"That the time moves differently here," the drake said.

Ning stopped for a second. "What's that supposed to mean? Is there a time dilation in this cave?" he asked.

"Not just this cave, but for the secret realm as well. Why else do you think we could live for thousands of years while constantly keeping Jha'Akim in check?" the drake asked.

"It's because... time moves slower in here," Ning asked as if he understood something.

"Yes," the drake said. "The time dilation is about 6 hours in the outside world for every 1 hour in here. That is why we've lived so long. We can't live for thousands upon thousands of years. For us, it's only been a little over two thousand years."

"Oh wow, I didn't realize that. So the last 7-8 hours I've spent here and the secret realm will equate to about 2 days in the real world huh?" Ning wondered. "Anyway, that means you can live for a lot more years huh?"

"We may live for a thousand or so years more, but by that time, Jha'Akim might have already left his prison. We can feel his power increasing day by day. If you can, human, please gather the best of your people to prepare for what's coming," the beasts said.

"Okay, I shall do that," Ning said. "I will come back in... 6 or so days to get back information about your children that left. Until then, take care."

Ning bid his farewell for now and walked back through the cave. He looked at the markings on the wall and finally realized what those were.

"So these are the claw marks of Jha'Akim, huh?" Ning thought as he placed his palm on top of where the marks were and saw that Jha'Akim's claws were nearly ten times as large as his hands.

'I wonder how big he is. Being a hybrid between a man and a beast, he must be really unique,' Ning thought. 'However, in the first place, how did he even get conceived? Human and a beast... that's not biologically possible.'

'Unless, it's because early men came from the beasts too, so it was possible back in those periods,' Ning thought. He tried to stop thinking about it, but his mind kept thinking about it.

Once he was ready, he flew up. Soon he came upon the ceiling of the cave, but he didn't stop. Instead, he slammed through the ceiling.

However, he didn't hit anything. Instead, he was sent back out onto the tomb above the seal.

It was a bit after the afternoon when he was out. Ning looked around and saw the gazes of the many people looking at him.

He ignored them and looked below him. He checked for his gold coin, but someone had taken it already.



'I will need to make sure someone doesn't accidentally enter the seal,' Ning thought and looked around to find the stone slab that was there previously and placed it back in the middle.

"It's him. He's the one that threatened us before," a woman shouted. Ning looked back and saw that it was the same woman who had explained to him about the fake history of this place.

Many black-skinned fighters came into the tomb. Ning just shook his head and walked out of the room. The fighters ran up to try and stop him, but no matter what they did, they couldn't stop him.

Ning casually walked outside while the fighters tried every possible ability in their arsenal to try and stop Ning.

Seeing that nothing they did could stop him, they immediately switched from attacking to begging. They begged for him to forgive them and have mercy after they realized how strong he was.

Ning shook his head and flew away without saying anything. The men were in fear and all the people there were concerned for their life now, but Ning didn't care.

Those people had nothing to do with him. "They were supposed to reach the academy 5 days later, right? Meaning I still have quite a while. Urghh! They will start asking questions if I suddenly reappear on the boat."

"I guess I will take my time going there then."

## **Chapter 334: Important Figure**

5 days after leaving the academy, the group of folks from the Five Professions academy reached the location of the competition, the Scarlet Oasis.

By now, the group of students was all tired of sitting down and were incredibly bored because of the monotonous journey through the central continent.

After Ning left, Ely had stopped using her vehicle and moved onto the boat to look after Artifact wing's students as well.

"We've arrived," Yola said to the group.

The many students were suddenly energized and immediately walked up to the front of looked down at the new scenery.

Ely too looked down at the massive oasis, always surprised how big it was. 'Can you ever call that thing an oasis?' she wondered.

The Scarlet Oasis was a massive oasis that spanned nearly a hundred kilometers in diameter. It was more of a sea than it was an oasis. The water there was fully red and the surrounding area was also fully inhabited.

No one knew why the water was red there, but they knew it was harmless and lived there without any worry.

In the middle of the oasis was a massive island that was about a dozen or so kilometers wide. That was home to the Bright Red Academy.

There were multiple ferries at the port that went to and from the academy, but most of the people coming here today didn't need one.

Ely could see hundreds of people flying towards the academy. Given how important the next couple of weeks were going to be for these young ones, there were bound to be millions upon millions of people coming over just to watch the competition.

'Not all of them should be going in,' Ely thought. 'Still, there should be hundreds of thousands of people that come in. I wonder how the folks over at the academy are going to handle these many people,' Ely wondered.

"Look at all those disciples," Yola said from the front of the boat. "It seems they've gotten the security quite strict this time."

Ely looked a bit further ahead in the sky and saw a line of people blocking the others from entering. "They must have some sort of requirements to enter this time. I wonder what that is," Ely thought.

"Let's move," Yola said and continued the boat towards the academy. The few different boats all moved towards the academy and were soon stopped by the security of the academy.

"Oh," the person said when they saw the group. "Welcome, Principal Yola. We're glad to see that you've made it. We're sorry that our principal can't come to accompany you this time. It's... just been way too hectic around here."

"Oh, it's okay. Has the Saint Alchemist arrived by now?" Yola asked.

"Yes. He arrived a few days ago, and has been settling fine," the person said.

"Oh, is Tsado looking after him?" she asked.

"Uh, no. The Saint Alchemist has gone into closed cultivation for a few days until the Alchemy competition starts," the person says.

"Oh, and even then Tasdo isn't coming here? That's weird. He used to always come by and escort us. Is he that busy this time?" Yola asked.

"Uh, yeah. I believe Principal Tsado is looking after some very important guests right now," the person said.

"Even more important than us?" Yola asked jokingly.

The person looked at her unable to immediately answer. However, in the end, he did speak and said, "I mean no disrespect senior, but yes."

Yola was surprised. The entire boat full of people was surprised as well.

"You're serious?" Yola asked with a serious face herself.

"Yes, senior," the person said.

"How important?" Yola asked. She was surprised that there was someone other than the emperor who she learned was coming later on, or the Saint Alchemist who was in closed cultivation.

"Uh..." the person deliberated for a bit and finally answered. "Perhaps... even more, important than the Saint Alchemist himself."

"What?" Yola's eyes went wide when she heard that. All the teachers and students in the boat gave a similar reaction too.

"Who is it?" Yola asked.

"I don't know, senior. They were a big group of people, and one of them was very strong. I have never seen such a high cultivation base before," the person said.

"Oh, were they from a different continent?" Yola asked.

"I believe so. But they didn't say which, so we don't know for sure," the person said.

"I see. I will ask Tsado later," Yola said. "For now, let's move. We don't want to create a pause in your work."

"Yes, please follow me," the person said and took them with him.

The disciples forgot about the giant red body of water down below them and started talking about the different people from the other continent.

'Hmm, Ning said Anya wasn't coming, so that leaves senior Hyesi and his family. But they don't have anything to do with Alchemy? Did they come here?' Ely wondered.

'However, if it wasn't them, who else could be so important to the principal?' Ely started wondering. She had visited the southern continent on her own for a few years, and she knew that continent didn't have that many strong people in it.

Even the northern continent only had a handful of people that could be considered strong, and half of that was due to Ning's influence.

The ones that were strong on their own didn't have anything to do with Alchemy as far as Ely could remember. 'So... it's senior Hyesi's group, right?' Ely thought.

'Whatever, I will find out soon,' she thought and stopped caring about it.

The person from the academy took them to the island and showed them the newly built buildings. The massive deserted island was now full of buildings and stuff.

"You guys did this in just a year huh? That's very impressive," Yola said.

"Thank you, senior," the person said.

They landed down in front of a rather large building.

"Please enter, Senior. This is the place you will be staying for the next 30 days."

## **Chapter 335: Mysterious Figure**

The people from Five Professions Academy started getting settled into their place. Their place of stay for the next month was a massive, hotel-like building with many rooms in it.

"Woah" the students walked in, very surprised at their new place of stay. Quickly, the teachers started selecting the rooms for the students.

"Alright, rest for now. The competition starts tomorrow, so you won't have much free time after that," Yola said.

The students nodded and all went to their rooms to rest. Most of the teachers also went to their rooms. Only Yola didn't go into her room.

When she turned around, she found out that Ely hadn't returned to her room either. "Teacher Ely, you're not going to rest?" Yola asked.

"Oh? What about you Yola?" she asked. "Don't you need to rest?"

"I... I will soon," Yola said.

"Alright, stop acting. I know you want to go see who is so important that Tsado isn't even giving you the time to welcome you," Ely said.

"Hah, I can't escape the eyes of someone so old, can I?" Yola said.

"Come, I'm curious too," Ely said and they both the place. Just as they walked out, they saw a ship land in front of the place on the right to theirs.

"Oh, they're here too," Yola said in surprise.

"Hey, Yola! You guys got here before us?" A man shouted from the top of the ship. He said something quietly to the people on the boat and jumped down.

When he reached the ground, Ely could see that the man was a middle-aged person with golden hair and green robes. He looked a little familiar to her, but she couldn't understand from where.

"Oh, Jivon, you arrive almost at the same time as we did," Yola said. "I would've thought you guys would leave earlier than us."

"Yeah we were going to, but Sephyr suddenly had a lot of visitors from the southern continent, so we couldn't leave in time."

"I would've assumed the same to be for you and the guys from Noetra," Jivon said. "Sigh, Urnet might be the only empire that has a relatively normal time right now."

He then turned around to Ely and quickly bowed down. "Good Afternoon, Teacher Eleonora. I see you are doing quite well," he said.

"Do I know you?" Ely asked. She still couldn't quite remember where she saw her.

"Oh, you might have forgotten me, after all, it's been so many years. I am Jivon Hegger, the current head of the Great Beginners Academy of the Sephyr empire."

"I used to study artifact in the Five Professions Academy about a millennia ago, so you might not remember me at all," Jivon said.

"Oh, right right. Now I remember. You are the kid that made the Stinkbomb and got expelled, aren't you?" she asked.

Jivon's face got a little red. "I'm surprised you remember that, teacher Eleonora. I would've expected everyone to forget about it," he said.

"That sort of thing is not something one easily forgets," Ely said with a light chuckle. "I see you're doing quite well. You must've become the head quite recently then, didn't you? I remember the head being Tymo last time."

"Unfortunately, senior Tymo passed away in closed cultivation so I had to take his place," Jivon said with a sad face.

"I see," Ely said. "Anyway, don't you want to go inside with your students. Why are you staying out here?"

"Oh right, I wanted to ask. Did Tasdo come out for you guys? He didn't even come to get me. So rude," Jivon said.

"No. His students said that he is busy with someone really strong from another continent," Yola said.

"Yeah, he said the same thing to me too. I wanted to go see who is so important that he isn't leaving at all," Jivon said.

"We were just about to go there too. Come, let's go," Yola said and flew away. Jivon flew behind her, and Ely flew at the end.

Before soon, they arrived inside the Bright Red Academy's official grounds and entered. The students there didn't dare stop the Heads of two different academies from entering at all.

"Wow, these students are so lax. They just let us enter without even saying anything," Jivon said.

"That's quite weird really," Yola said.

Soon they realized why they were so lax. A little ahead of them was a short, fat man with a half-bald head with white dress pacing outside of the door to the principal's door.

"Oi, Fren. The hell are you doing here?" Jivon asked in surprise.

"Oh, principal Yola, Jivon. You guys are here too? Are you here for the same thing?" the man named Fren asked. Fren didn't acknowledge Ely's existence as she was just a mere teacher in front of them.

"Are you not going inside?" Jivon asked.

"I tried to, but Tsado didn't let me enter," Fren said.

"Didn't let you enter?" Yola asked confusedly.

"Yeah, I knocked on his door multiple times, and he came out only to tell me to wait longer. The audacity of that man," Fren got angry. "I don't know how important that man with the purple robe could be."

"Oh, you saw who was in there?" Yola asked.

"Oh yeah. It was some guy with a purple dress and a head full of hair. Although I only saw his back, so I don't know how he looks like," Fren said.

Jivon looked at him and asked, "So you don't know which continent he is—"

The door opened.

"Thank you, senior. Your words were very enlightening to me," a hoarse voice came from inside the room.

"Oh, Tsado's out," Jivon said softly.

"Oh no, it's fine. I was just saying what I learned. You would have learned it sooner or later yourself," a young voice came from inside the room.

A dark-skinned, broad-faced, middle-aged man walked out with a young man in a purple robe behind them.

Ely and Yola looked at the young man in surprise, and the young man noticed them as well.

"Oh! hey, Ely. You guys are finally here," the young man said with a smile.

The mysterious person they were so curious to see was none other than Ning himself.

## **Chapter 336: Explanation**

Ely wanted to laugh out loud after seeing Ning there. The person she was so curious to find out about had turned out to be none other than him.

The other 2 principals looked around in confusion not knowing what was going on. Not even Jivon knew about Ning due to him being a very reserved figure in the Alchemy wing for the last hundreds of years.

Yola on the other hand didn't know what to think. She knew a little about Ning, especially the truth about him being old. But other than that, she hadn't bothered looking into much information about him.

"What are you doing here, teacher Ning?" Yola asked. "Didn't you leave for somewhere before us?"

"Ah, it seems your academy's people are here, senior," Tsado said when he saw Yola. He then looked at the rest and said, "Good to see you guys have made it here quite fast. Let me introduce you to senior Ning."

Tsado then went on to introduce him to the other 2 principals as a very important figure in the entire continent.

Yola couldn't understand how that was possible.

"Wait, I thought your disciples said you were with someone from a different continent," Jivon asked.

"Oh, that was just a misunderstanding. Senior Ning was actually with people from the northern continent, so I assumed they were together and told my disciples so," Tsado said.

"Alright, you guys continue talking. It seems my academy members are here, so I will go over now," Ning said.

"Oh, no senior. We can't let to stay in such a crowded place. Let us prepare a place especially for you," Tsado said.

"Oh no, it's not necessary. I will just go stay with the other teachers. After all, I'm a teacher too," Ning said.

"Are you sure, senior? We can easily prepare a place for you," Tsado insisted.

"It's fine. I like being with other people," Ning said. "Alright, I will see you tomorrow then."

Ning then walked up to Ely and said, "Let's go."

Ely nodded and started walking for a bit before stopping and looking back. "Yola, you're not coming?" she asked.

"I will stay with them for a while," Yola said.

"Oh, okay," Ely said and walked away with Ning.

Ely and Ning flew back to their new place of stay. Ning found himself a room and Ely walked in. "What happened to 'I will get there a little later after you'? Did you teleport here?" Ely asked.



"Oh no. I came here after I was done with my task," Ning said.

"So no teleport? Also, who did you come with? They said you were with someone from a different continent," Ely asked.

"Oh, that's because I was," Ning said. "Let's see...so after I did what I had to in the Grime oasis, I was about 2 days later than you guys. So, I planned on taking my time, flying through the sky."

"But then, on the way, I saw a few people getting attacked by giant sand vultures in the sky and saved them. When I finally saw them, I realized I recognized them," Ning said.

"You recognized them? Is it someone from Klavis, or Seven Lights city?" Ely asked.

"Oh no. Uh, I took you there but you didn't get to see them at that time," Ning said.

"Remember Deepskull Island?"

"Deepskull island? That sounds familiar," Ely thought. "Wait, was that Anya's home?"

"Yeah, that island. Remember how I told you I was there for about a year?" Ning said.

"So, I met those guys again, the people from the Purple Beasts academy."

"After I saved them and realized who they were, I showed them that I was an alumnus from their school and was allowed to come with them."

Ely listened to his story quite attentively. "So they didn't recognize you, huh? The people you knew must've already been dead by then," Ely said.

"I left that place for over 300 years before I came to Five Professions Academy. Even after that, it's been over 1800 years. Given how those people could barely reach the gold core realm, I doubt they would survive at all."

"After Anya's father died, and the two heads and the other elders that knew her died, she started getting distant from the sect too."

"She said she rarely went back to revisit them. Even then, she would just reminisce outside and never go in," Ning said.

"I see. Anyway, continue. How did you come here so fast?" Ely asked.

"Oh right. It turned out that they had an incredible flying artifact that they were gifted a few centuries ago and were using it. However, because they didn't have a Nascent Soul cultivator, they couldn't use it properly."

"I too wanted to get here just in time to meet you guys so I sped up too. However, it seems that I may have been just a little bit too fast," Ning said.

Ely got curious this time. "I would love to see what artifact could allow someone to fly this fast," she said. "Anyway, how did you get in with Tsado."

"Oh yeah that... is an embarrassing story," Ning said with an awkward face.

"Spill it," Ely said.

"Sigh, when we reached here, I saw that there were people guarding the way. I was mostly hiding my cultivation, so the people from the Purple Beasts sect were deemed weaklings and weren't allowed entry at all."

"So... I may or may not have flared my cultivation to give them a bit of a scare," Ning said with an embarrassed face.

"And that got you to Tsado?" Ely asked.

"Yeah. He had to come himself after a few of the students in charge of security fainted in mid-air after my little scare," Ning said.

Ely started chuckling when she heard that.

"Hey, stop laughing. Everyone was looking at me. It was so embarrassing," Ning said.

"Well, congratulations. Many of the people coming here now know that you are more important than the Saint Alchemist himself."

## **Chapter 337: Tournament's Start**

A day passed and it was time for the tournament.

"Do you know the schedule of the tournaments?" Ning asked Ely.

"Hmm... I'm not sure," Ely said, so she asked the same question to Yola who was starting to act weird around Ning.

"The saint alchemist has requested that the alchemy competition be the first one, so that will take place in the first 10 days, I believe."

"Followed by another 10 days of other production-based competitions. Finally, ending with last 10 days of combat-based events," Yola said.

"Oh, Alchemy is getting such a center stage huh, the Saint Alchemist's influence must be a lot," Ning said. "I wonder if it's comparable to Anya."

"Who's Anya? Either way, I doubt anyone can compare to Saint Alchemist," Yola said.

"Do you think Anya is as good as the Saint Alchemist?" Ely whispered into Ning's head.

"She's comparable to me, so she has to be better than that old man," Ning said.

"Besides, he spent the last 2100 years figuring stuff out, while Anya knew them all from the start. The advantage she got from the books I left was not small. And I kept adding onto them a few every century."

"Sigh, it's a shame she won't be coming then," Ely said.

The group soon reached the competition ground which actually had a small secret realm in the center.

"Oh, an active secret realm. I'm surprised you don't have to open this one yourself," Ning said.

"All the competition takes place in there. We can see what happens inside out here," Ely said. They all had designated seats and it seemed they didn't have to leave at all.

The desert island was filled with nothing but seats to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of people that had come to the place.

"I will go up there now. You guys go in when it's your time," Yola said to the rest of the teachers and students and turned around to leave.

Just then Tsado came over to their group and bowed. "Senior Ning, would you be so kind as to grace us with your presence in the tower?" he said.

"Oh... uhh... can Ely come?" he asked.

"Um..." Tsado looked over at Ely wondering if he should let her go up to the tower or not.

Ning saw the hesitation and said, "You do know that she's thrice as old as you, right?"

Tsado's eyes immediately went wide and he turned around to look at Ely with a new eyes of reverence. "Senior, I'm so sorry for my rude behavior. Would you please come up to the tower to watch the competition with us? It will be our honor if you did," he said.

Ely chuckled and nodded. Together, the three of them flew off to the top of a massive tower north of the secret realm entrance with Yola following behind them.

"Oh, there are quite a few people here already," Ning said, looking at the group of people in the tower already.

People of every color and culture were here, and Ning recognized quite a lot of them. He was just looking around when he noticed an old man come up behind him and immediately bowed.

"Inikaka, you're finally here," the man said.

Ning turned around and smiled. "It's good to see you again, Hijaka. I didn't know you guys had already arrived," Ning said.

Hijaka smiled and said, "We arrived late last night, so we couldn't come to meet you."

Hijaka was now an old man with a white beard and hair. Being Hyesi's eldest grandson, Ning cared for Hijaka quite a lot as well.

"Senior Ely, it's great to see you again," Hijaka said.

"Please don't call me a senior. You are my elder," Ely said. After all, Hijaka was born way earlier than Ely ever did and was just as if not stronger than her.

"No, you are Inikaka's friend, so I cannot address you as anything other than a Senior. Please do not take away this honor from me," Hijaka said.

Ely hesitated a bit. "It's fine. Let him say what he wants to," Ning said.

"Alright, let's go sit," Ely said. So, the three of them went up to their seat and sat down. More and more people arrived, and Ning talked with Hijaka for a while to pass the time.

The Saint Alchemist arrived too and got a seat for himself. Ning watched as the competition was finally starting.

The host for the competition started introducing it while Tsado gave his own small explanation for the people sitting high in the tower.

"So, per the Saint Alchemist's request, we are going to have 10 different challenges for the Alchemy part of the tournament."

"Every 3 challenges, we will weed out 80% of the contestants such that by the final day, we will only have to choose the winner from one-hundredth of the original amount," Tsado said.

Everyone nodded as they heard him. The host was explaining the same thing down below and soon nearly 50,000 contestants were gathered in front of the entrance to the secret realm.

"So young," Ning said when he saw the contestants. "Did you have some sort of requirements?"

Tsado looked at Ning and said, "Yes, senior. Since these are all here to fight for senior Saint Alchemist's inheritance, they are all required to be no older than a century old."

The other people in the room showed no reaction when they heard that. 'So everyone but me knew, huh?' he thought.

"So, what's the first challenge?" someone asked.

Tsado turned back towards the rest of the crowd and continued explaining. "So, for the first round, it will be Ingredient recognizing test. The participants will be sent into the secret realm and will have to write the name of every ingredient they see in that order."

"Based on the correct name, in the correct place, they will earn exactly one point," Tsado said.

"Oh, they started going in," someone said. Everyone looked down to see the first person go in.

"Since they just went in, we will have to wait about 9 minutes for the numbers to start popping up since they will only have 5 seconds per ingredient to recognize them without touching."

## **Chapter 338: First Phase**

The lines of participants were so long that most had to sit in their own place until their number was called. Even after droves of people went in, there seemed to be no end to the participants.

"So many contestants," someone said. "Won't it take forever to complete this?"

Tsado heard that and said, "Ah, sorry for the misunderstanding. There isn't just one set of ingredients in there. We have set about 10 sets of 100. With 10 participants going in at once, it shouldn't take that long."

"Ah, that makes more sense. With that, it should be over in about 7 hours," the first person said again.

Ning looked around, not knowing what to watch. There was nothing that could interest him her at all.

Finally, the rankings started popping out in front of them.

"Ah, it's out," someone said, pointing at the two different sets of rankings. However, both of those two had the same numbers and points on them.

"What's going on?" someone asked. They didn't know why there would possibly be two different, but same lists there.

"Oh, it's been 9 minutes, huh?" Tsado said. "Let me explain what is happening."

"The smaller ranking is the number of points each participant has acquired in the latest competition. The larger ranking is the same thing, but for all of the tournament. So, since it's only been a single competition, for now, it's like that. However, it will surely change in the upcoming days," Tsado said.

"There is also the thing that participants that don't make it to the top Ten Thousand in the first 3 competition won't get to move on, so we only have those people in the main rankings," Tsado said.

"Oh, I see."

People finally understood what was going on.

"But then, why is there number instead of names?" someone asked.

"Oh, that is to keep the privacy of some of the participants," Tsado said. "There are many that expressed their desires to remain unknown, so we decided to respect their wishes and not use a numbering system instead of names."

"Sigh, these kids. Not even a hundred years old, and already worrying about their image," someone said as they shook their head.

"Is that why there are so many wearing cloaks and such? It's because you are allowing them to keep their privacy?" another person asked.

"Yes. That is exactly it," Tsado said. "If they wish to not be seen, then I thought it was fine for them to not show their face."

"Although, you do not have to worry about any sort of cheating. I have made sure that they don't change themselves with other people, so I have given a tracking talisman to them. The moment the talisman goes more than 3 meters away from them, they will be disqualified from the competition."

"They are only allowed to have the right to privacy after agreeing to that."

"Also, I secretly recorded their aura, and if the number they have do not match their aura, they will be disqualified then as well," Tsado said.

The many people up in the tower nodded their heads in agreement thinking that was a good choice.

While the participants down below did their best, the people in the tower were simply having fun watching the competition.

"Woah, that's a 98," someone said. "That's quite high."

"The test must be hard if only one person got a 98 in the last hour," another person said.

"Ah, I should have asked my grandson what his number was."

"Those kids told me nothing about it at all."

Ning was surprised a bit too. "I didn't know there was a number system," he said.

"You would've learned if you paid attention to Yola when she spoke," Ely said. "Oh wait, you weren't even present when she explained that."

"Hehe, I'm too old to listen to children speak," Ning said.

"Stop acting like you're old. I know you spent most of those time sleeping," Ely said.

"Hey, you can't call me out like that. So what if I slept? Time still passed," Ning said.

"Did it pass for your body?" Ely asked.

"Uh...that was not the criteria to be old as far as I'm aware," Ning said.

Hijaka saw the two of them bickering and laughed.

Ning and Ely heard him and stopped talking. "Ahem, so is anyone from Klavis taking part?" Ning asked.

"Yes. There is my nephew's son that's going to take part," Hijaka said.

"Your Nephew's son? Oh, Hekti's grandson, huh? Man, he was just a child when I saw him after returning from Vilmore. I can't believe he's already a grandfather too," Ning said.

"Yes, his grandson, Yandi is taking part too, along with a few other kids from the city," Hijaka said. "Although I must say, I also didn't realize the kids were going to have numbers instead of names. Now I don't know how well they did."

"How well do they learn from the books I left?" Ning asked.

"Unfortunately, not very much," Hijaka said.

"Still, it should be okay. Right?" Ning said.

Numbers after numbers started popping up. By 5 hours mark, there were about 10 different 99, 125 different 98, and several hundreds of 97. Given how long it was going on, they were surprised there weren't many more.

"The ingredients must be quite hard then," Ning said.

They waited for some more time and another 2 99-point numbers appeared. They were all wondering how well that was when suddenly, a number with 100 points jumped up to the top of the list.

"Woah, a 100? That's awesome," someone said.

"Who did that?" another person asked.

They watched down at the entrance and saw 10 figures walk out. None of them had any intentions of hiding themselves, and they could clearly see their faces.

Unfortunately, with 10 people coming out, and none of them showing any positive faces, the group in the tower couldn't guess who it was.

Just then, another 100 popped up. This caused some more commotion in the tower as well.

"2 back-to-back 100s? There must be quite a few talented youngsters in the back half," someone said.

"Oh wow, who is it this time, can we tell?" they said and looked down once again.

They saw 9 sad faces with no sign of happiness in them, and finally, a 10th figure that was cloaked and was hiding their face.

"It seems to be the cloaked figure, right?" someone asked.

"It's quite possible," another one said.

Tsado stroked his short beard and said, "Truly amusing. Under Saint Alchemist's direct order, we set the competition to have 80 common ingredients, 16 uncommon ingredients, 3 super rare ingredients, and finally the last one that was said to be extinct before the Saint Alchemist found it."

"Which means that there are two participants out there that not only knew about the ingredient but also recognized it," Tsado said.

The competition soon ended and the result for the day was out.



Everyone was either happy, said, optimistic or doubtful in some way, shape, or form. Still, they looked forward to the next day, which arrived before they even realized it.

Tsado explained the purpose of this competition which was to go in and separate the ingredients into 8 piles, belonging to one of the 7 different elements, or a final one without elements. The points they earned were between 1 and 100 based on how well they did.

They all had exactly 5 minutes to separate and there were over 200 different places set so that the participants could take part at once.

The competition started and once more there were numbers that started popping out left and right.

People watched as the points the participants got were a little worse than last time. Still, somehow, there were over hundreds of people who got above 95 points.

They kept watching and this time, there were 3 participants that got 100 points by the time it was all over.

"That kid was there last time too," someone said.

"Yeah, so was that green-robed junior," another one said.

Since the competition for day 2 ended as well, they all went back to their place of stay once more and came back for the third day.

"Today is the final day for nearly 40,000 participants, isn't it?" someone asked.

"To think they would get rid of 80% just on the third day... that's quite something," another one said.

Tsado began explaining the third test as well. The third test was simple. A massive list of nearly 100 ingredients would appear on the screen in the air.

The participants had to write pills that contained those ingredients such that no two pills could have the same ingredient. Also, they had to use as many of the 100 pills as they could.

The time started and there were exactly 10 minutes this time.

The participants started writing and Ning looked at the lists of ingredients. The moment he saw them, his mind immediately churned out 12 different pills he could make with them without leaving a single ingredient.

The participants were done and it was time for the judges to tally the points.

"That's quite a hard task, isn't it?"

"I could only do about 93 ingredients."

"I did 94, but that was with a pill I made on my own."

"Saint Alchemist, how many can you make?"

The Saint Alchemist spoke in a raspy voice and said. "It's not fair for me to answer since I came up with the question myself, but I will say I used 14 different pills to make that question."

The Saint Alchemist had just finished speaking when the ranking board updated. The people who were talking were suddenly wide-eyed when they saw 2 different numbers with a total of 300 points.

## **Chapter 339: Finale**

3 more days had passed and 3 more days of competitions were gone too. For the past 3 days, the competition was focused on problem-solving using pills.

The participants were given questions such as what ingredient would give a certain feature to a pill, or what pill would heal which damage.

There were many such questions and each day had a maximum of 100 points assigned to them.

By the end of the 6th day, only 2000 of the original 50,000 people were left. And of them, 2 people had exactly 600 points.

The people at the tower as well as everyone around were quite surprised. They didn't think there would be 2 people that would ever do everything correctly in all the competition so far. Even the person at the third rank was at least 5 points behind.

By now, the group of people had pinpointed who the two people with 600 points were. One of them was a young man with a generic face and hair and wore white robes. Another one was a hooded figure that people couldn't recognize aside from the cloth itself.

"They really are quite talented, aren't they?" someone asked as they watched the remaining 2000 people participate in the third event that was fully shown now on the 7th day.

"Truly. Woah, that hooded figure already remembered the entire recipe? No way," another person said.

"Look, that young man stood up too," someone else said.

The two figures walked up and rewrote the entire recipe from scratch and handed it to the staff and went back for another one.

They had 10 recipes to remember in total and 5 hours in total to remember them all. Each mistake cost them a point for up to a maximum of 10 points per recipe.

The group of people watched the points for this competition go up by 10 for both of them.

"Hmm... that young man truly is quite good," Ning said.

"What about the hooded kid?" Ely asked.

"Oh, I'm not talking about alchemy," Ning said. "I'm talking about the amount of effort one had to put in to learn it all. I don't think the hooded child had to go through as much trouble to learn it all as the young man."

"Although, I do have to say they are both incredibly lucky in their own way," Ning said.

The competition continued and soon the winners were revealed to be the same 2 young people with full 100 marks.

2 more days went by and the total number of participants dropped by 80% once more as only 400 participants remained.

The people started gathering back on the tower to watch the competition unfold. The 400 different participants entered the secret realm once more and got ready for their competition.

"So, what is the challenge today?" someone asked.

The host had started explaining down below, but these people didn't care about him at all. Since Tsado was here to explain the rules of the competition, they didn't care about anyone else.

Tsado was more than happy to explain, but before he could, the Saint Alchemist stood up.

"Everyone, I would like to genuinely thank you from the bottom of my heart for indulging this old man's final wishes. I had stupidly given away my life in the pursuit of Alchemy, and I did learn a lot."

"However, I got no human connection, no relationship formed with anyone. I lived for over 3000 years long, but every second of that was lonely."

"Now, the end of my days are coming and I regret it all. However, that does not mean that I don't take pride in what I've learned. I spent my life learning Alchemy, and the knowledge I acquired will be useful to everyone."

"So, before I passed it along to just anyone, I had this little competition set up to find the perfect person to take my inheritance."

"I, Gyron Heldi once again thank you all for coming here."

The old, crooked man bowed in front of everyone, and the people immediately started explaining how it was unnecessary.

Ning watched and smiled as the old man was treated with the respect he deserved.

"The old man lived a sad life, but his sadness won't be in vain," Ning said softly.

"Don't you know more than him?" Ely asked.

"Maybe, maybe not. I don't have omniscient knowledge of Alchemy, so what I know definitely isn't everything. So, there might be places where he knows more than me," Ning said.

"I see," Ely said.

The Saint Alchemist sat back on his seat and Tsado stood back up to continue explaining since he was cut off.

"Everyone, today is the final day of the competition, so there will be a single task for the contestants to do and that is to make all 10 of the pills that they had memorized from the 7th day."

"They will be provided with all the necessary ingredients and will be given exactly one chance to make a pill."

"They have exactly 10 hours and in that 10 hours, they will have to finish all 10 pills. Depending on the grade of the pills they will make, someone here will become the Saint Alchemist's disciple and inheritor for sure," Tsado said.

The group of people, especially the ones that still had their children in the game were very much looking forward to seeing their performance.

The competition started and people could start seeing the contestants making pills inside the secret realm.

"We have to focus on just those two right?" someone asked.

"Maybe, maybe not," someone else said.

"What do you mean?" the first person said.

"Do you guys think they will make 10th-grade pills?" the second person said.

"Of course not," another person answered.

"What about 9th-grade pills? Or 8th grade?" the second person asked again.

"Hmm... I would say 6 is the highest possible, maybe 7. Definitely not 8 or 9," someone said.

"Yeah, so we don't know how their performance will be. It's very much possible that someone else will make pills that are better than theirs. In that case, there is some chance of the gap being closed," the second person.

"Well, you keep saying that, but look," another person said.

"What?!" a surprised exclamation appeared from the crowd as they looked up in the sky and saw two 8 back to back. Both of them belonged to the two people.

"While you kept on talking, both of them made 8th rank pill. Dear lord, they must be very talented to do that in under 3 minutes."

Even Ning was surprised to see them make pills that fast. 'Did two behemoths of an alchemist appear at once?' Ning wondered.

He wanted to look it up with the system, but the mystery intrigued him. He would wait for the answer to come out on its own.

'That kid though is using a really weird technique,' Ning thought silently at the young man. Ning couldn't really find anything unique about the robed figure aside from their speed.

In another 5 minutes, another two 8 points were added to both of their rankings. The crowd was shocked once again.

Not only were they good at making pills, but they were also incredibly fast which was really surprising to them all.

"I wonder where they got their skill," Ning thought.

While the others took 10 to 15 minutes to make a single pill at the fastest, the two best ones took mere 5 minutes.

Right in front of everyone's eyes, they made 8 different 8th-grade pills, gathering a total of 64 points, going head to head against each other.

However, on the 9th pill, a problem occurred. No one could tell if it was from fatigue, or from not memorizing the recipe correctly, but the young man made a mistake. A very small mistake, but one that was very much costly.

When he went to submit that pill, it turned out that it was a 7th-grade pill, compared to the robed figure who made an 8th-grade pill.

The young man felt the world crash down beside him. He would have to make a 9th-grade pill to make sure he equalized their total points again, or he would lose for sure.

The young man was devastated, but he kept his cool and got onto making his pill.

"Aish, he lost," someone said.

"Poor child. It was a good run too," another person said.

"Truly. I wonder if he was hasty," another person said.

Time slowly passed and the young man was getting close to making his pills once more. He could tell that he was definitely making a good pill, but he couldn't be confident that it was a 9th-grade pill.

The sadness was clearly visible on his face and it struck the heart of many others that watched the competition.

He finished making the final pill and brought it out to look at it. He sighed when he realized that there was no way the pill was in 9th grade.

He started feeling dejected, especially since the 2nd place didn't have anything to gain. It was all for the first place.

He was about to call it quits when suddenly he heard a round of gasps from all around him. He quickly looked up to see everyone was looking somewhere.

He turned his face in the same direction and saw that the hooded figure was done with their pill too. 'Did he get 9th rank?' he thought and got even sadder.

But then the hooded figure opened their palm and a bunch of dust dropped from their hand.

The young man looked in surprise. The hooded figure had just destroyed their last pill.

## **Chapter 340: Awards**

"Huh? What's going on? Did I see that right?"

"Did that guy just crush the pill?"

"Is this some form of pill-making technique that I don't know about?"

Many of the people watching, including the participants were confused as to what was happening. The scattered powder that was once a pill was truly something no one imagined they would get to see on the final day of the Alchemy competition.

The host who looked over the entire competition stood up and walked up to the hooded figure.

"Was that intentional?" he asked.

People could see the hooded figure simply nod.

"You do know that you won't get another set of ingredients, right?" he asked.

The hooded figure nodded once more. The host and the rest of the people came to understand that it was intentional.

"You will get 0 points for this final pill," the host said.

The hooded figure nodded and sat down.

"Very well," the host said and returned back to his spot and made the staff update the numbers.

The young man who had nearly lost was perhaps the most confused about all the people in the secret realm. He was a single step being the hooded figure and was sure that he was going to lose, and yet, somehow he was going to win.

He quickly walked up to the staff and recorded his pill and got 8 points for the pill, getting a total of 979 points in the entire competition.

The hooded figure lost with a total of 972 points, but still managed to be the 2nd.

The other contestants kept on making pills but they were sure that they had lost for sure. Still, on the off chance that the Saint Alchemist took in more than a single disciple, they tried their best.

Even then, the 3rd highest point was around 968 points, an entire 4 points lower than the 2nd person even after they lost an entire pill.

The host started setting up the award ceremony down below while Tsado started speaking up in the tower.

"Seniors, let's go below and congratulate the children. They've done truly amazing stuff in the competition today," Tsado said.

"Yes, yes, we should go," someone said.

The Saint Alchemist was the first to stand up and fly down below, while everyone else started following behind him.

"We should go too," Ning said. He was very curious about something that he had noticed some time ago, so he stood up and flew down too.

By now the participants were all outside the secret realm, and all but a single one had a sad expression on their faces.

The young man who had won it all still carried a face of disbelief as he couldn't understand why he won the way he did.

He kept looking towards the hooded figure to get some sort of answer, but the hooded figure didn't turn towards him once at all. From what he could see, the hooded figure didn't seem to have many thoughts about what they had done.

"Congratulations everyone on your performances in the competition. No matter how many points you got in this final one, you best believe that you are some of the best young alchemists that the entire world has for now," Tsado said.

"So, with that, we would like to congratulate you all for doing so well in this inter-continental competition. Truly glorious."

Everyone applauded once Tsado said that. The ones that were feeling a little sad suddenly had their spirits lifted. Tsado then called out the top 10 to start handing out awards.

One after another, he handed out awards for the 7 of the top 10. However, for the 3rd ranking alchemist, he stepped down.

The old man slowly stepped up the stage and looked at the remaining 3 people.



"Young man," he said to the 3rd ranking alchemist. "You might have come behind these 2 fellows, and that may make you feel like you're inadequate, but never forget you came ahead of 49,997 different people."

"You accomplished something that not many can hope to in their entire life, and for that, I award you this pill," the Saint Alchemist said as he handed him a pill.

"This pill is a soul-nourishing pill. It will improve your mental state and help your mind become better than it already is. As you may know by how Mind is very important for an alchemist," the Saint Alchemist said.

The young man thanked the Saint Alchemist as much as he could. The Saint Alchemist smiled and moved on to the remaining two.

"Can I ask you something, little girl? Why did you destroy the pill?" the Saint Alchemist asked.

The hooded figure remained quiet for a while before answering with a single question, "how did you know I was a girl?"

"Haha, I have a particularly strong nose that can smell the difference between the most minute of smells, and you young lady give off a lot of pheromones a lady usually gives off. It's just basic biology," the Saint Alchemist said.

The people around them were surprised that the hooded figure was a girl. Even Ning was surprised.

'The old man really is quite great, isn't he?' he thought.

"So... are you going to answer this old man?" the Saint Alchemist asked.

"Well, it's simple really. I was going to win, and I didn't want to win," she said.

"Eh?" the Saint Alchemist didn't understand what she meant. "Can you explain?"

"Yeah. I only took part because I wanted to see how good the others were. I never wanted your inheritance," she said. "I mean no disrespect, however."

"I was going to lose if others did badly, but then he started keeping up with me. After a while, I liked the competition and kept it going. But he made a small mistake and it seemed like I was going to win," the girl said.

"So, since I didn't really want to become first in the first place, I decided to give up at the last moment. I hope that explains it all."

